

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/063

Hill Farm Barns, Clay Hills Road, Kelsale-Cum-Carlton, Suffolk

KCC 039

HER Information

Planning Application No: C/07/0516/FUL

Dates of Fieldwork: 28 April 2009
30 April 2009
12 May 2009

Grid Reference: TM 3971 6434

Funding Body: Mr. J. Smith

Curatorial Officer: Dr. Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Rhodri Gardner / Kieron Heard (reporting)

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-75755

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

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Summary

KCC 039, Hill Farm Barns, Clay Hills Road, Kelsale-Cum-Carlton: An archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundwork associated with a barn conversion.

Generally the monitoring revealed a vertical sequence of boulder clay sealed by modern topsoil. The only archaeological feature was a post-medieval sunken barrel, presumably used as a water butt or reservoir.

1. Introduction and methodology

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at Hill Farm Barns, Clay Hills Road, Kelsale-Cum-Carlton (Fig. 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the conversion of a barn and outbuildings (planning application number: C/07/0516/FUL). It was commissioned by the architect Tim Bond on behalf of the owner, Mr. J. Smith. The Brief and Specification for the monitoring (Appendix 1) was written by Dr. Jess Tipper (SCCAS, Conservation Team).

An architectural survey of the building was carried out also, the results of which are described elsewhere (Leigh Alston, forthcoming).

Rhodri Gardner of SCCAS, Field Team visited the site on three occasions (28 April, 30 April and 12 May 2009) to inspect underpinning holes against the west, north and east sides of the barn/outbuildings. These holes, which were dug using a mechanical excavator, ranged in size from 1.20m x 0.90m to 1.25m x 1.25m and were generally about 1.4m deep. The underpinning holes (labelled a–n) are shown on Figure 2.

Archaeological features and deposits and the natural stratum were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 0002–0006. Written descriptions were made on *pro forma* context sheets. A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital images; this forms part of the SCCAS photographic archive, referenced as HAB 65–78.

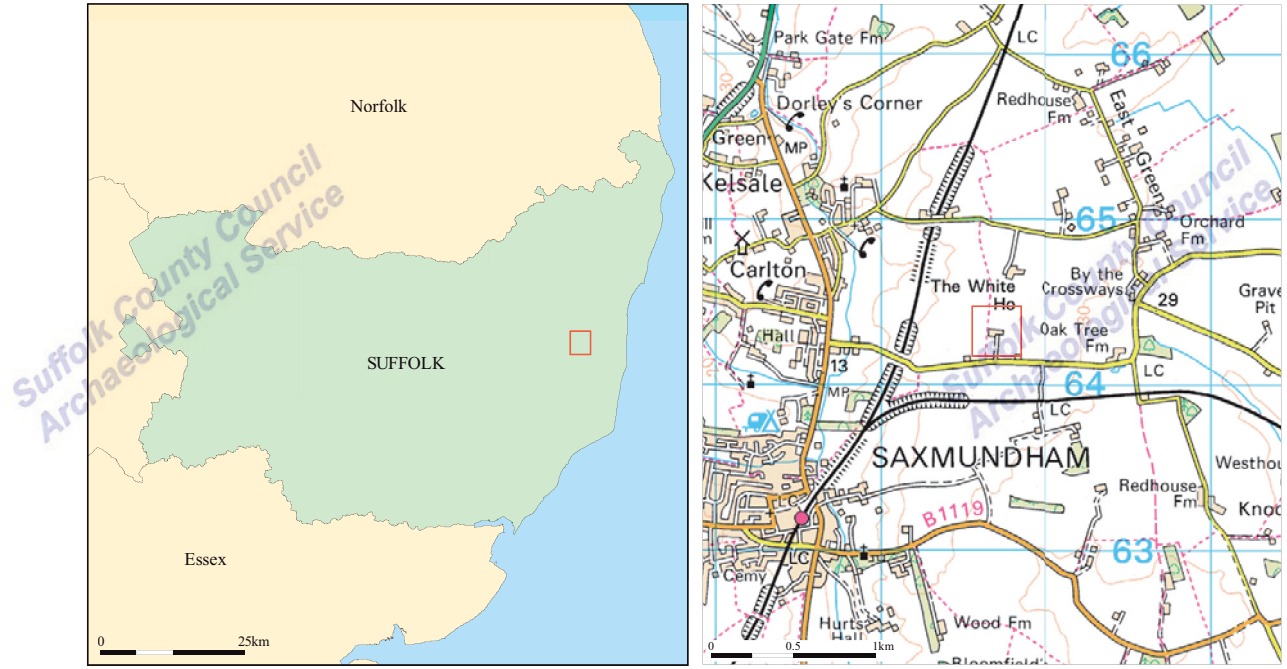


Figure 1. Site location

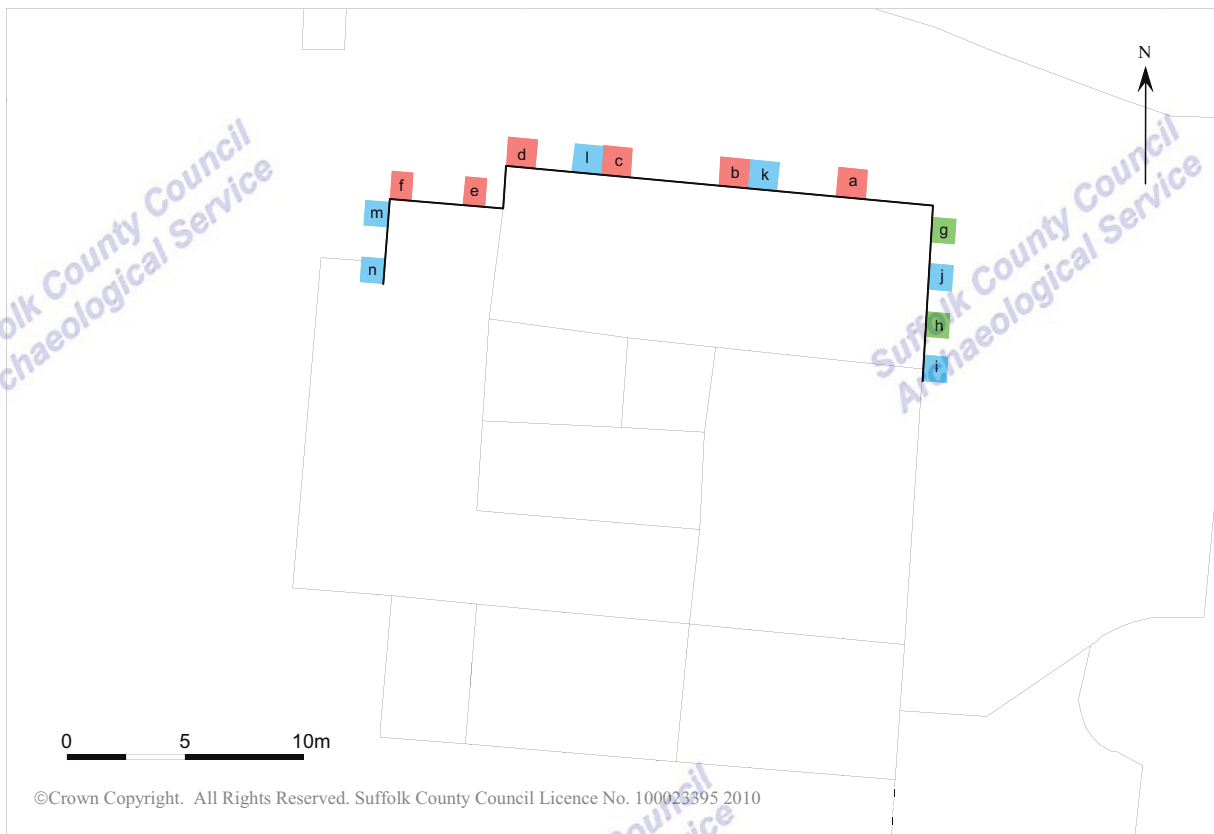


Figure 2. Plan locating the monitored underpinning holes (red = 28 April; green = 30 April; blue = 12 May)

2. Results

The natural stratum (context 0003) was glacial boulder clay, described as firm, light brown (with bluish grey patches) clay/silt containing moderate poorly-sorted flecks and small fragments of chalk. This was sealed by modern topsoil 0002, described as friable, dark grey clayey loam containing occasional fragments of brick, tile and glass; the topsoil was about 0.25m thick (Plate 1).

The only archaeological feature was part of a sunken barrel in the west side of underpinning hole F (Plate 2). Less than half of the circumference of the barrel survived, the rest having been removed during the mechanical excavation of the underpinning hole.

The barrel (context 0005) had a maximum surviving height of 0.40m and a projected diameter at the base of 0.84m. The bottom of the barrel was at approximately 1.0m

below ground level. It was set in a circular cut with vertical edges and a flat base (context 0006).

Seven staves survived and these, together with other elements, were lifted and retained for assessment by ancient woodworking specialist Richard Darrah.

The staves measured 60–80mm wide x <10mm thick and were made of imported softwood (Plate 3). The crows groove at the base of the staves was well preserved but the head of the barrel had obviously been removed in antiquity. The head hoop was an iron band approximately 40mm wide. The bilge hoop and quarter hoop were each 140mm wide and comprised of four lengths of split round-wood approximately 32mm in diameter (Plate 4).

The primary fill of the barrel (context 0004) was a thin (<10mm) deposit of soft, mid brownish grey silty clayey sand containing occasional small fragments of wood but no cultural material. There was insufficient material to allow sampling for environmental analysis. The rest of the barrel was filled with a deposit of dark greyish brown soil that was removed entirely by the site contractors and was not seen *in situ* by the monitoring archaeologist. The deposit was examined by the archaeologist but no cultural material was recovered.



Plate 1. West-facing section of underpinning hole A, showing the typical sequence of deposits (1m scale)

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Plate 2. General view of barrel 0005 in underpinning hole F, looking west (1m scale)



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Plate 3. Detail of barrel 0005, showing the vertical staves

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Plate 4. Detail of barrel 0005 after removal of the staves, showing the corroded iron head hoop and softwood bilge and quarter hoops

3. Discussion

The barrel was located adjacent to the northwest corner of the barn. Although there was insufficient stratigraphic evidence to show its relationship with the building it is unlikely that the insertion of the barrel pre-dated the construction of the barn.

The use of imported softwood for the staves and the use of an iron head hoop indicate that the barrel was of post-medieval date; it cannot be dated more precisely on stylistic grounds and there was no associated artefactual evidence. It is likely that the barrel was reused in this fashion to serve as a water butt or reservoir.

4. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The monitoring has had limited archaeological results, revealing a post-medieval sunken barrel.

In the light of these limited results no further fieldwork will be required on this site in relation to the current development. This document will be disseminated as a 'grey literature' report *via* the OASIS on-line archaeological database and a summary will appear in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

Kieron Heard

Project Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

April 2010

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Appendix 1: Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Recording and Monitoring of Development

HILL FARM BARN, CLAY HILLS ROAD, KESALE CUM CARLTON, SUFFOLK

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 for the Conversion of a barn and outbuildings at Hill Farm Barn, Clay Hills Road, Kelsale cum Carlton (TM 3971 6434), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application C/07/0516/FUL). The local planning authority have been advised that the building is important and will need to be recorded before development. In addition, areas of ground disturbance will be recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 This application concerns the conversion of a historic farm building. A recent policy statement on historic farm buildings by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency, endorsed by English Nature and the Rural Development Service (*Living buildings in a living landscape: finding a future for traditional farm buildings*, 2006 – available at www.helm/org.uk) advises that recording of such structures before conversion works is desirable. The buildings will retain important archaeological information concerning the construction, character, date, context and use.
- 1.3 Any groundworks associated with the conversion would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any below-ground archaeological deposit that exists. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.4 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. Detailed standards, information and guidance to supplement this brief are to be found in *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006) and *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). Technical standards, applicable to detailed survey, are covered by *Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage* (English Heritage 2000). Written Scheme of Investigation (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 WSI as satisfactory. The 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.

1.5 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 (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

1.6 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.

2. **Brief for Archaeological Recording**

2.1 Historic building and archaeological recording, as specified in Sections 3 and 4, is to be carried out prior to and during conversion.

2.2 The objective will be to compile a descriptive record (English Heritage Level 2) of the building before conversion takes place.

2.3 Any ground works have the potential to disturb below-ground archaeological remains and these are to be observed during stripping and after they have been excavated. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

2.4 The academic objective will be to provide a detailed understanding of the nature and development of the building, and to provide the historical context, development and significance of the building complex. There is also the potential to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.

3. **Specification for Archaeological Recording**

The survey methodology will form part of the WSI and is to be agreed in detail before the project commences; defined minimum criteria in this outline are to be met or exceeded. Any variation from these standards can only be made by agreement with SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.

3.1 English Heritage Level 2 recording will cover both the interior and exterior of the building. Both the exterior and interior will be viewed, described and photographed.

3.2 A block plan should be produced of the site, to locate the building within the courtyard group. The main components of the complex shall be numbered for reference in the report.

3.3 A historical document search (documentary, cartographic and pictorial) should be undertaken to situate the history of the farm building within the immediate local context.

3.4 The record will present conclusions regarding the location, form, date, development and use of the building.

4. **Specification for Monitoring of Groundworks**

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted 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 In the case of footing and main service trenches unimpeded access 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. In the case of the topsoil stripping and levelling unimpeded access of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin.
- 4.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.
- 4.5 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.6 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.9 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

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 HER within six months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.3 The project manager should consult the County HER officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.4 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER Officer 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.
- 5.5 The project manager should consult the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.6 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).

- 5.7 Two hard copies, as well as a digital copy, of the report must be presented to SCCAS/CT and a single copy to the Suffolk Coastal District Council Conservation Officer for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.10 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. 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

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Date: 11 March 2008

Reference: /HillFarmBarn-KelsalecumCarlton2007

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.

Appendix 2: Digital images

Code	Description	Date
HAB-65	Underpinning hole A, looking east	28/04/2009
HAB-66	Underpinning hole B, looking west	28/04/2009
HAB-67	Barrel 0005 in underpinning hole F. Near vertical from east side	28/04/2009
HAB-68	Barrel 0005 in underpinning hole F. Detail of staves, looking west	28/04/2009
HAB-69	Barrel 0005 in underpinning hole F. Near vertical from east side (wider view)	28/04/2009
HAB-70	Underpinning hole E, looking SE	28/04/2009
HAB-71	General view of site, looking SE towards NW corner of barn	28/04/2009
HAB-72	Barrel 0005 in underpinning hole F. Detail of staves (with labels), looking west	28/04/2009
HAB-73	Barrel 0005 in underpinning hole F. Detail of staves (with labels), looking west	28/04/2009
HAB-74	Barrel 0005 in underpinning hole F. Detail of staves (with labels), looking west	28/04/2009
HAB-75	Barrel 0005 in underpinning hole F. Detail of hoops	28/04/2009
HAB-76	Barrel 0005 in underpinning hole F. Detail of hoops	28/04/2009
HAB-77	Underpinning hole M, looking north	28/04/2009
HAB-78	Underpinning hole M, looking east	12/05/2009
HAB-79	Underpinning hole L, looking west	12/05/2009
HAB-80	Underpinning hole K, looking south	12/05/2009
HAB-81	Underpinning hole J, looking north	12/05/2009
HAB-82	Underpinning hole I, looking south	12/05/2009