

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/138

Saxon House, The Street, Stowlangtoft SFT 029

HER Information

Planning Application No: 0516/10
Date of Fieldwork: 12th – 21st July 2010
Grid Reference: TL 958 651
Funding Body: Mr D D'Lima
Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper
Project Officer: John Craven
Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1-79998

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

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring, carried out at Saxon House, The Street, Stowlangtoft during groundworks for extensions at the property, identified a post-medieval well and field boundary ditch.

1. Introduction

A series of visits was made to Saxon House, Stowlangtoft in July 2010 to continuously monitor the groundworks for a new garage and extension to the property (Fig. 1). The monitoring was required to fulfill a condition on the planning application 0516/10, and was subject to a Brief and Specification, produced by Dr Jess Tipper, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team

The condition was placed as the site lay in the historic settlement core, 80m to the south-east of the medieval church (SFT 004), and there was potential for archaeological deposits relating to medieval or earlier occupation to be disturbed.

The house is situated on a north-east facing slope but the garden has been levelled, with the road frontage apparently being raised by at least a metre. Prior to monitoring an existing extension was demolished, and the area to the immediate rear of the house reduced by 0.1m. A concrete pad was also removed prior to excavation of the garage footings.

2. Results

Footings for the rear extension were 0.6m wide and ranged from 1.3m to 1.7m deep. They showed a uniform profile of 0.1m of modern deposits overlying a 0.35m thick buried soil layer of mid brown loam containing scattered modern debris. This overlaid the natural subsoil of mid orange silty clay. Two large areas of modern disturbance relating to the former extension were present in the southern trench. No archaeological deposits were seen.

Footings for the garage were 0.6m wide and 1m deep and showed 0.3m of topsoil overlying the natural orange silty clay subsoil. No archaeological deposits were seen.

The stripping of the footprint for a new driveway was also monitored. On the west side 0.4m of modern topsoil was removed, exposing the natural subsoil. To the east the formation level gradually rose so that the modern deposits were not fully removed. A 1m wide linear ditch, 0001, was seen running along the western boundary of the site and was infilled with a dark brown clay/loam containing modern debris, 0002.

The excavation of a 2.5m² soakaway pit was also monitored and showed a soil profile of 0.4m of topsoil overlying the natural subsoil. The northern part of the 2m deep pit also cut across an infilled well, 0003, which was subsequently seen in section. The central shaft measured c.0.8m in diameter, and was lined with a 0.2m thick wall of flint and brick construction, 0004. It was infilled with a dark brown clay/loam, 0005, with frequent brick and tile, which then formed a 0.2m thick layer above the structure and was finally overlaid by 0.3m of modern topsoil.

3. Discussion

The site is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1880 (Fig. 2) as being part of the open field to the south. The ditch observed in the driveway strip is clearly marking the field edge and is likely to be medieval or post-medieval in origin. The house was built some time prior to 1904, as it is shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (Fig. 3) of that year, and the well is likely to have been contemporary. Although a series of wells are marked on the 1904 map behind properties along the road frontage, including one between Saxon House and Lilac House to the east, this one is not marked and so it may be of a later 20th century date.

The two sets of footings showed that despite disturbance in the 20th century the natural subsoil were largely preserved beneath topsoil deposits although no archaeological deposits were seen.

J. A. Craven

July 2010

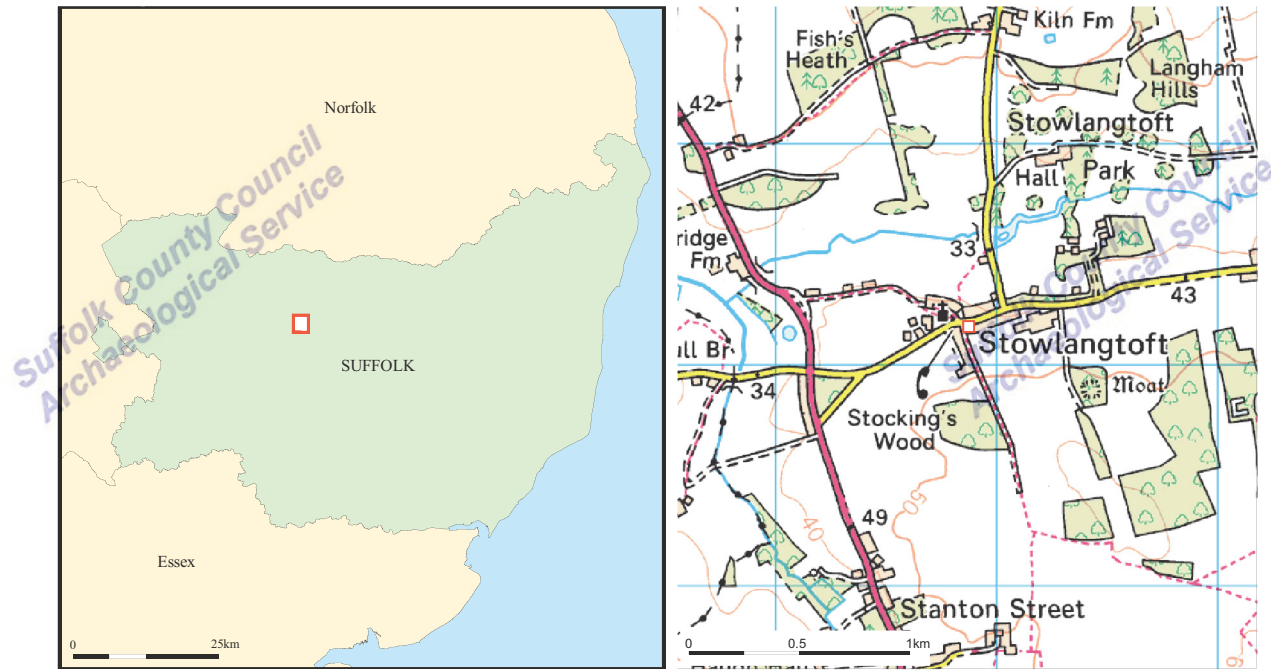


Figure 1. Site plan and location

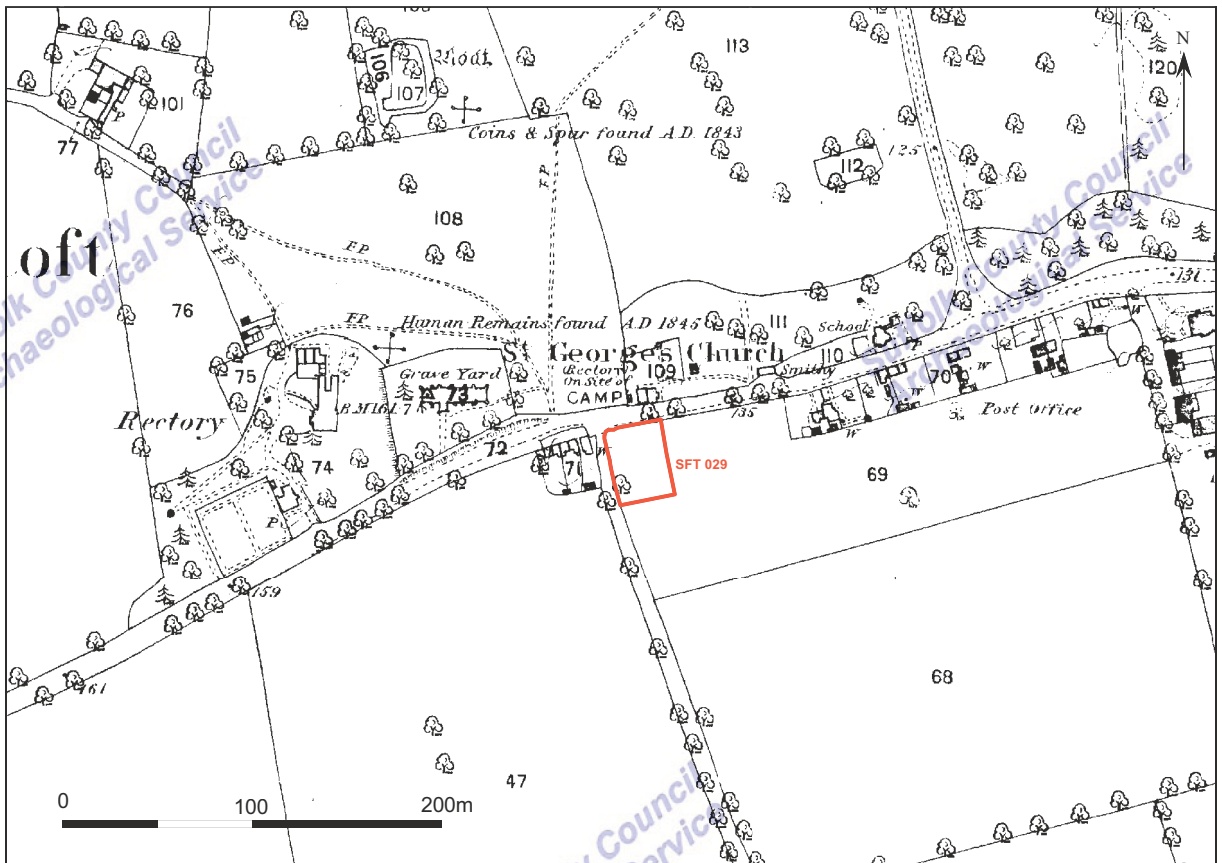


Figure 2. Site on First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1880.

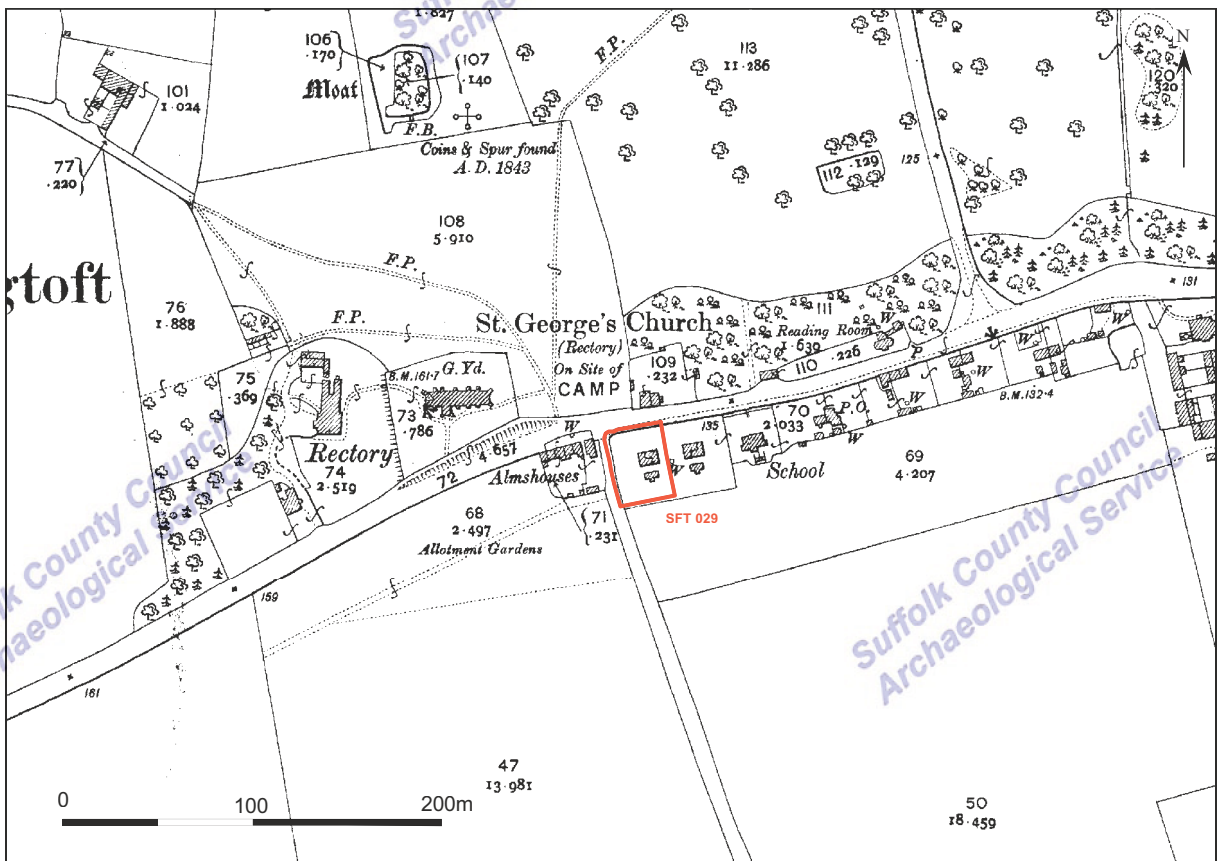


Figure 3. Site on Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1904.

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Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

SAXON HOUSE, THE STREET, STOWLANGTOFT, SUFFOLK (0516/10)

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 to erect a rear extension and new detached double garage (following demolition of existing) at Saxon House, The Street, Stowlangtoft (TL 958 681), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 0516/10). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**

1.2 This application lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, to the south-east of the medieval church (HER no. SFT 004) and it is within the historic settlement core. The proposed development would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.3 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological recording during all groundworks.

1.4 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. 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. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology* Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>).

1.5 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the fieldwork, a

post-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.9 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.10 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

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 significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the planning permission. Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

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 SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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 this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

- 3.4 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. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring 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 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.

- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.

- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.

- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental 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 Helen Chappell, 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.

- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).

- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment 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 Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.

- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record 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.

- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

- 5.4 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.5 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.6 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.7 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.8 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).
- 5.9 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.10 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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 Historic Environment Record. 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.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Date: 23 April 2010

Reference: /SaxonHouse-Stowlangtoft2010

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.

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