

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/089

**Little Mead, Mendham
MDM 125**

HER Information

Planning Application No: MS/2989/08

Date of Fieldwork: 20th & 23rd March 2009

Grid Reference: TM 270 829

Funding Body: Nicky Rogers

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Linzi Everett

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at Little Mead, Mendham, in order to record any archaeological evidence revealed by the groundworks. The footings were excavated entirely through made up ground which contained finds of post-medieval date.

1. Introduction and methodology

Planning permission for extensions to a porch and garage at Little Mead, Mendham, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 270 829 (Fig. 1), at a height of approximately 15m OD, on the eastern edge of All Saints churchyard (MDM 008). The site is situated within an area of archaeological importance defined in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core. When Little Mead was built c.1980, flint footings were observed within the excavated footings which may be associated with a 14th century chapel which is believed to have been located within the churchyard. Human remains were also found by the entrance to the adjacent pub during drainage works in 1973 (MDM 012).

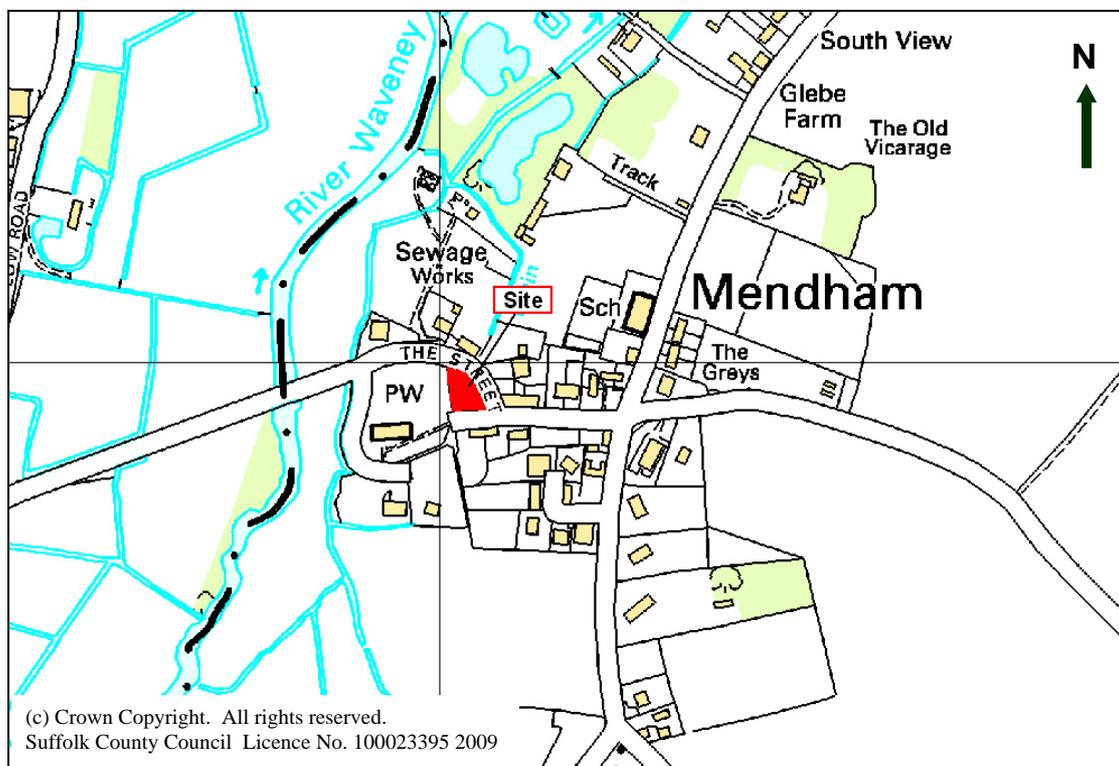


Figure 1. Site location

Monitoring of the site was carried out by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team, based on a Brief and Specification by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The fieldwork took place in March 2009 and was funded by Nicky Rogers.

Two visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the various groundworks. The site was recorded under the HER code MDM 125.

The monitoring archive is held in the county HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

2. Results

Two sets of footings were observed during the monitoring programme, marked A and B on Figure 2. Both were 0.7m deep and 0.5m wide, excavated entirely through topsoil and made up ground. This comprised dark brown sandy loam with regular flints (>120mm), fragments of CBM, pottery, shell and charcoal flecks. The base of the garage extension footings (A) comprised a compact greyish brown silty sand flecked with charcoal which may be an archaeological deposit but the footings did not extend into this matrix. No incised features were observed within the groundworks.

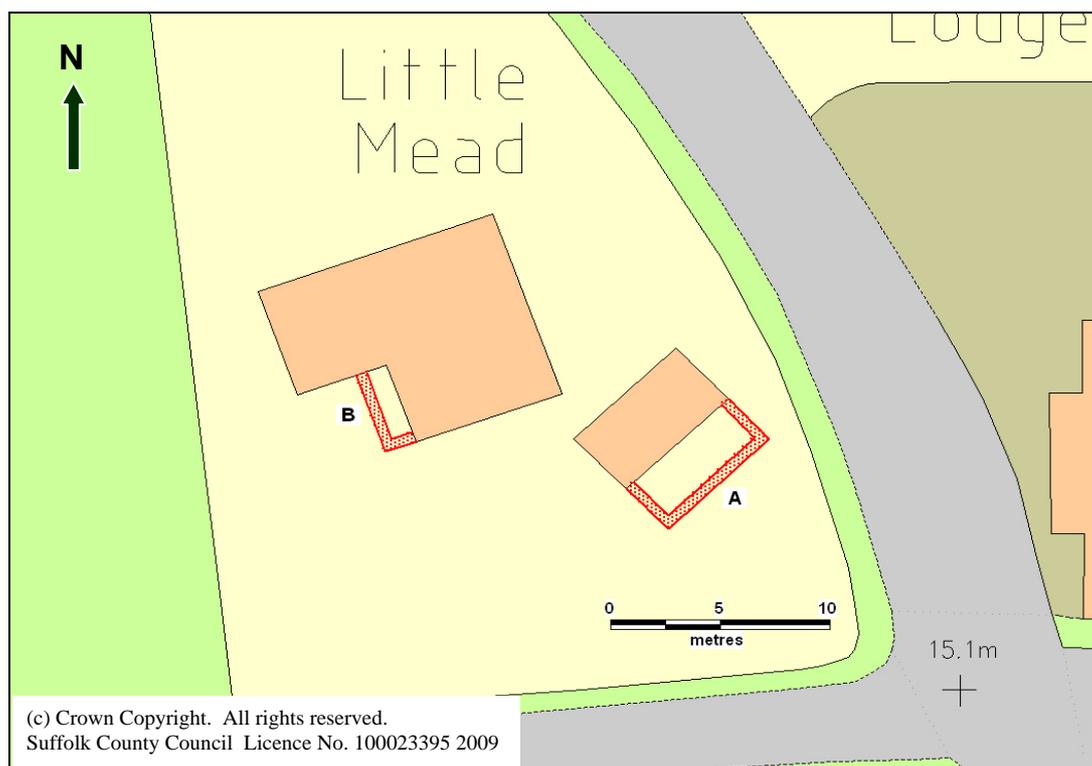


Figure 2. Location of monitored groundworks

3. The finds

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		Clay tobacco pipe		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	3	39	1	13	1	10	1 frag iron @ 49g	Unstrat, 17th C
Total	3	39	1	13	1	10		

Pottery

Three fragments of unstratified pottery were recovered (39g). A single sherd of Glazed red earthenware of 16th-18th century date was present, together with a fragment of a Late Post-medieval red earthenware jar with splashes of lead glaze internally which is of a similar date, and a hard wheelthrown greyware, which is also likely to be post-medieval.

Clay tobacco pipe

A single fragment of a clay tobacco pipe was present as an unstratified find. It has a bulbous bowl with a lined rim and dates to the later part of the seventeenth century c.1660-80 (Oswald 37).

Metalwork

The remains of the small iron strip, probably the shoe from a pony or donkey, or perhaps a heel iron, was collected.

Animal bone

The fragmentary remnant of an unidentifiable piece of bone was recovered.

Discussion

Finds dating to the post-medieval period were identified, but no earlier artefacts were recovered.

4. Conclusion

The footings were excavated through a thick layer of made up ground with finds of post-medieval date distributed throughout it. Archaeological levels were just revealed within the base of trench A but were not disturbed by the building work.

Linzi Everett

September 2009

Reference

Oswald, A., 1975, Clay pipes for the Archaeologist, BAR 14

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
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Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

LITTLE MEAD, CHURCH LANE, MENDHAM, 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 erection of a front porch/sunroom extension and garage extension at Little Mead, Church Lane, Mendham, IP20 0NH (TM 270 829), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (2989/08).
- 1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
- 1.3 This application lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core and close to the medieval church (MDM 008). The proposal is also close to the location of an undated burial (MDM 012). There is high potential for medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 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. A 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 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.

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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 new porch extension, which measures 3.95m x 1.20m in area, and also the garage extension, which measures 5.95 x 2.90m in area. Any ground works (foundation/service trenches and ground reduction), 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 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.
- 4.7 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.
- 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 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also 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.
- 5.5 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>).
- 5.6 The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record 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.
- 5.7 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).

- 5.8 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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.
- 5.13 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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Reference: /LittleMead-Mendham2008

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.