

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2013/090	Parish: Mildenhall
Extension to the rear of Shrubland House, Mildenhall MNL 695	Planning Application No.: F/2009/0412/FUL
	OASIS No. C1-153915
	HER Event No.: MNL 695
Address: 2, King Street, Mildenhall	Grid Reference: TL 711 747
	Number of Site visits: 2
	Date of visits: 13/14 June 2013

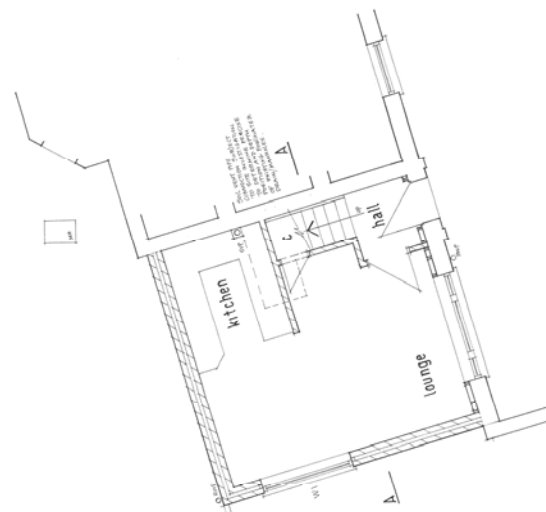
Project aims

Shrubland House is a late 18th or early 19th century house in gault brick. It is built over two storeys with attic rooms within a plain-tile gambrel roof. The main central block is flanked on both sides by symmetrical wings; each wing is 1½ stories high fronted with a Flemish parapet gable. The southern wing at present is just a façade which masked a C20th flat-roofed garage which was to be replaced with a two storey extension (Plate 1). Shrubland House is located within the core of the medieval town within 200m of the C13th church (MNL 211) and close to the medieval market place, suggesting the potential for encountering archaeological deposits. The immediate aim of the work is to record any archaeological deposits that may be damaged or destroyed by the development and to produce a permanent record for deposition with the Suffolk County HER.

Fig 1 Location Map:



Fig 1a Trench plan:



What was seen - nature of the work, condition of trenches etc.

The footing trenches for a lean-to in the angle between the gable end of Shrubland House to the north and a wing façade to the east. The site was formerly occupied by a modern garage constructed on a floor slab. At the time of the monitoring the floor slab had been removed and the site cleaned (Plate2).

Total number/length of footings and % of which seen :

100% of the groundwork excavations were observed which comprised the footings around the perimeter of the new building development and an internal partition (Fig 1a).

Results: (e.g. Spoil examined, subsoil visible, depth and nature of deposits, were you there during excavation etc.?)

Archaeological deposits probably originating from the 15-16th century were found 100-150mm below the surface beneath a shallow modern overburden. The archaeological layers lay directly over the solid chalk geology which ran close to the current surface and was encountered at a depth of only 300mm.

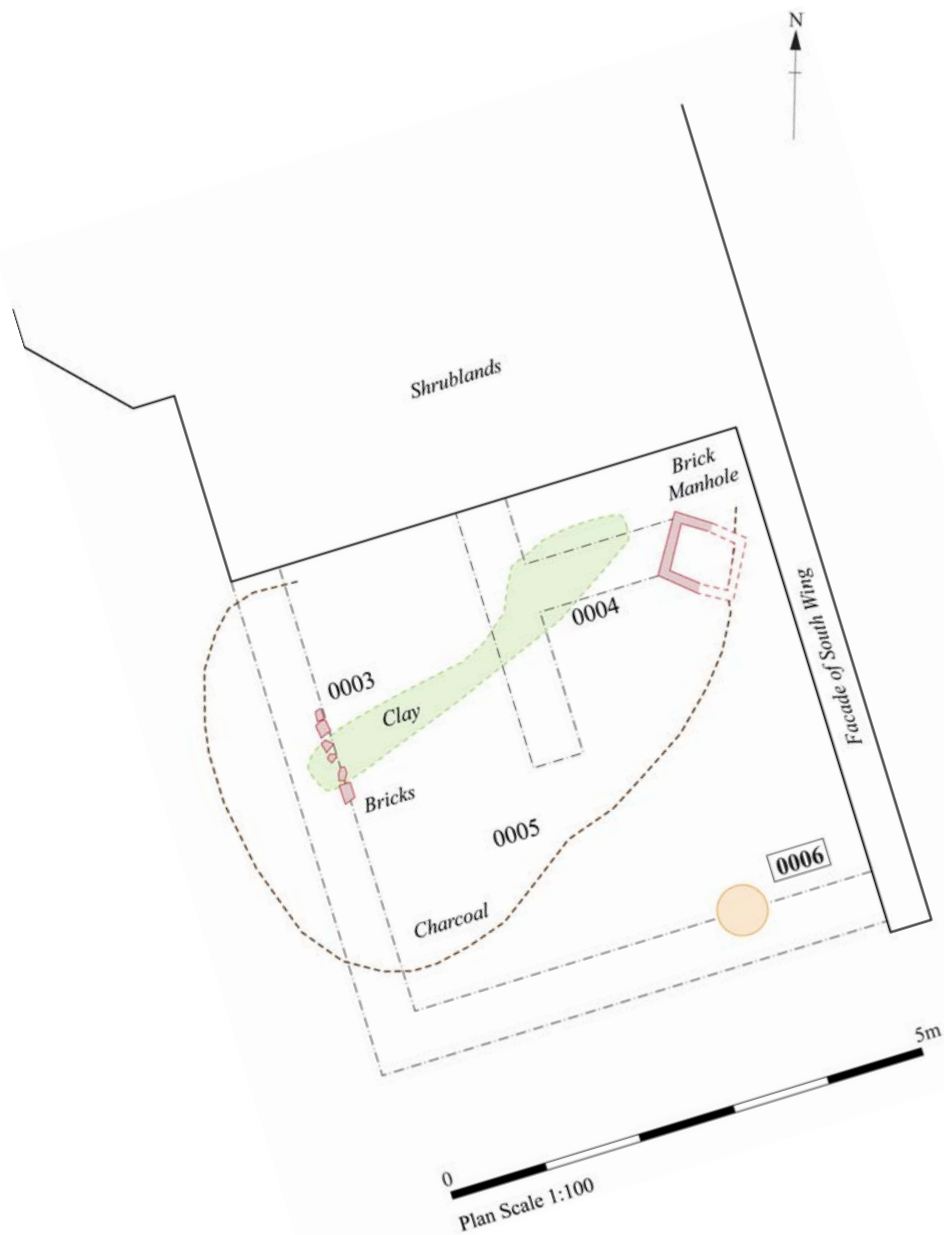
Cut features comprised only a small posthole (0002) and a narrow linear feature (0004) packed with clay but these were sealed beneath an extensive clay rubble (0006) and charcoal layers (0005) which were laid down prior to the construction of Shrubland House. Layers 0005 and 0006 were cut by the later buildings foundations which were constructed from 'Tudor' bricks salvaged from a late C15th-early C16th building (most likely its chimney); possibly a building that previously occupied the site (Plate.3).

The linear feature (0004) cut into the top of the natural chalk and ran in a narrow strip NE-SW across the site and was recorded in three of the trenches (Fig. 2). It was possibly a structural element and was filled with a 180-200mm thick layer of compacted, muddy green clay; a reworked material which was flecked with chalk, charcoal and burnt clay. At its west end the clay overlay a row of bonded broken bricks (0003) which dated to the c.16th century and abutted a deposit of clean yellow sand, possibly natural and the remains of the surface, drift geology. The clay was overlain by a layer of coarse charcoal and ash (0005), although the surface of the clay itself showed no signs of being burnt. The charcoal which spread over much of the NW half of the site was derived entirely from wood fuel and contained no coal or clinker but produced an early medieval roof tile made from estuarine clay. A 300mm depth of dark clay-rich silt overlay the chalk across the SW half of the site.

The earliest available maps of Mildenhall (Fig.3) date from the first half of the 19th century

and depict what is believed to be Shrubland House in varying guises. The archaeological deposits are strong evidence of the site's occupation prior to the construction of Shrubland House and the re-used brick, extensive charcoal layer and the high clay content with the soil, possibly the result of the inclusion of degraded building fabric (infill panels or flooring), suggest the demolition of an earlier building indeed the development area may actually be within the footprint of a previous building which would explain absence of 'backyard feature' such as rubbish pits/cut features within the sample area.

Fig.2 Site plan



Historic Map



Mildenhall Enclosure Map 1812 showing what appears to be Shrubland House already in existence (Bury RO ref 260/B/P1)



W.H. Youngs' Map of Mildenhall 1834 shows the house with additional ranges (no longer extant) attached to the front of the building (RO ref EF 505/1/82)

Finds: Medieval and early post-medieval CBM

Recorded by: David Gill

Date: 20th June 2013