

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 1-3 Priory lane Bungay Suffolk

Grid reference: TM 3359 8958
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HER no: BUN 102
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DRAFT

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Contents

1.	Summary	1
2.	1. Introduction.....	2
3.	2. Site Location and Description.....	3
4.	4. Results.....	4
5.	Contexts	7
6.	5. Discussion	8
7.	6. Conclusion	8
8.	7. Archive Deposition	8
9.	8. Acknowledgements.....	8
10.	Bibliography	9
11.	Online References	9
12.	Appendix I: Digital Images.....	10

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by trial trenching on land at 1-3 Priory lane Bungay Suffolk, on the 7th of May 2013. This was in advance of the erection of a new Maisonette and Flats. The work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Dr Abby Antrobus of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated March 2013.

A single 5m long by 1.8m wide trench was sited to cover the footprint of the proposed development and to target any potential medieval roadside activity or evidence of the castle earthworks.

The single trench revealed the foundation walls of the previous building on the site of 19th century date; no other archaeology was found.

1. Introduction

An application has been made by the client, Mr T Ingleton of OTC Contacting Ltd for the construction of a single new Maisonette and Flats at 4 1-3 Priory Lane Bungay Suffolk (TM 3359 8958). The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development begins in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010). This sets out the requirements for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made. The *Local Plan Policy B22*, while stating that there should be a presumption in favour of the preservation of nationally important archaeological features and sites, outlines the process to be followed in order that the archaeological importance of a site may be determined and mitigation strategies put in place if necessary. This is also the requirement of the Deposit Joint Replacement Structure Plan (Policy 7, June 1998). As a result of the application, and to comply with planning policy, an archaeological evaluation was commissioned from Archaeoserv – DP Archaeological Services. Research was undertaken at the Suffolk Records Office Ipswich and the Suffolk Historic Environment Record office was consulted. A copy of this report will be deposited with the Suffolk HER and an on-line report will be made available with the Archaeological Data Service/project oasis.

2. Site Location and Description

Grid Reference: TL 991 691



Ordnance Survey, licence No. 100047655

Figure 1. Location of Priory lane Bungay

1.1 Bungay, a small market town, lies in the Waveney valley, 5.5 miles (9 km) west of Beccles on the edge of The Broads, and at the neck of a meander of the River Waveney, which borders with the county of Norfolk.

1.2 The natural substratum present at the site is a glacial till lying over Liocene and Pleistocene Crag, a marine deposit of shelly sands. The soils are the wet alluvial soils, influenced by the River Waveney (Wymer, J, 1989).

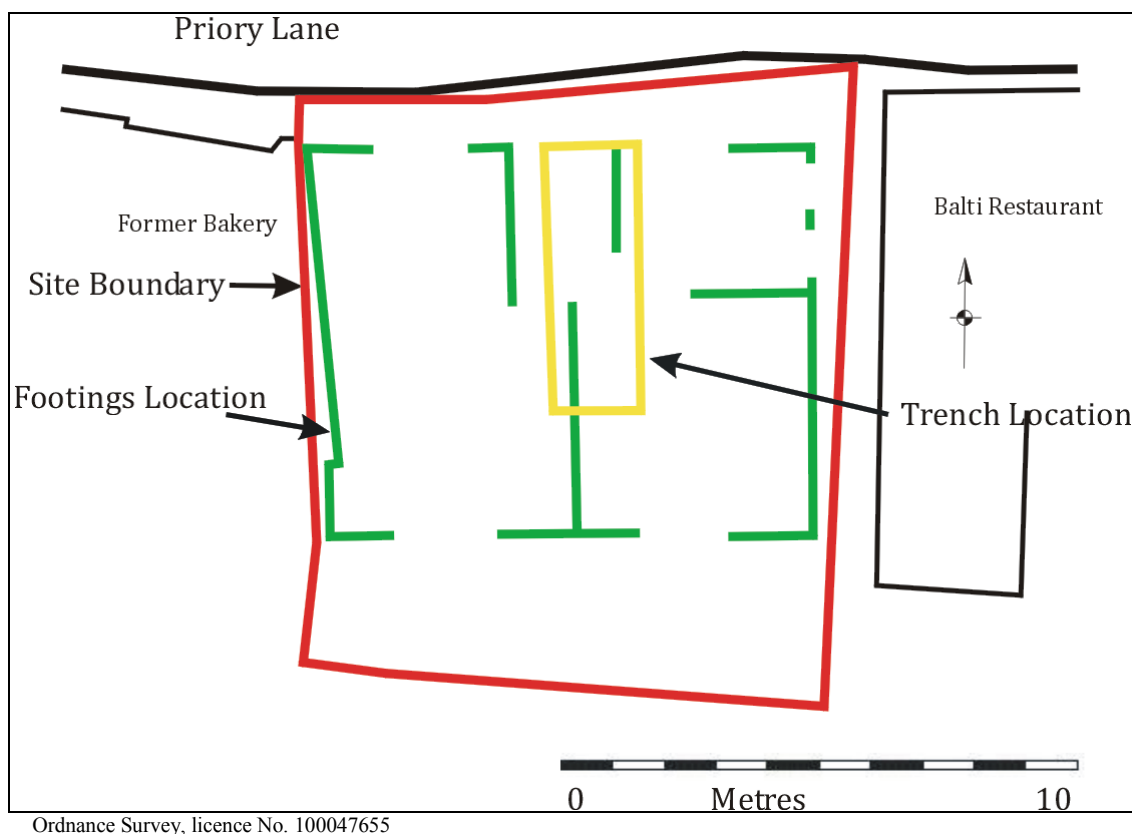


Figure2. Site and Trench Location in Back lane Badwell Ash

4. Results

4.1 Fieldwork

A plan of the trench was drawn to a scale of 1:50; sections were drawn to a scale of 1:20.

A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project.

A full photographic archive was produced consisting of colour slide, monochrome print and digital at 10 million pixels resolution, and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

Site plans and sections were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

All features were described in detail with an overall statement of the potential for further work.

Levels were taken from a TBM located on the road close to the site at 13.80 OD.

4.2 The Evaluation Trench

The single trench of 5 m by 1.8 m width was opened to reveal two brick foundation walls [06], [03] belonging to a house that stood on the site up until 1988. The house was demolished by the present owner and dated to c.1850. No other archaeological features were located within the evaluation trench.

The deposit model was as follows: a modern layer of compacted gravel (01) to a depth of 0.10m formed the surface, below this a demolition spread (02), at a depth of 0.38m consisted of a blackish-brown top soil with crushed building material; a subsoil (09) consisting mainly of an orangey-brown, silty agricultural soil, and was at a depth of 1.15m; the total depth of the trench was 1.73m, except where overcut in the trench, into the natural (010), to the north end to 2m.

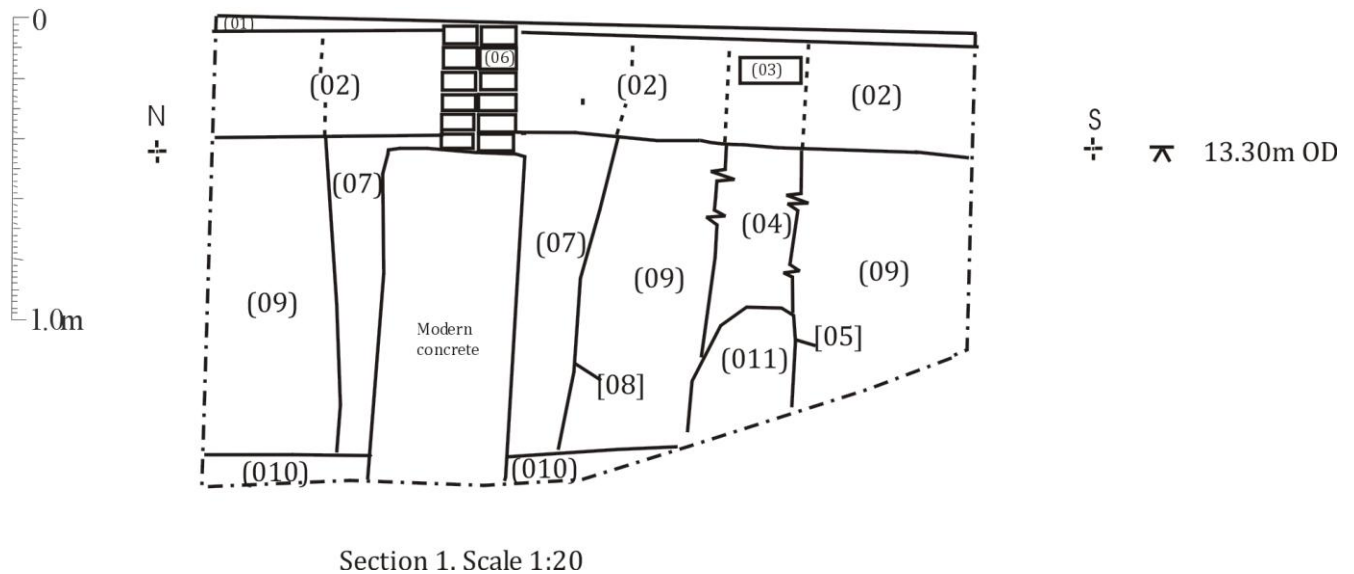


Figure 3. Trench Sample section showing position of walls and wall Cuts

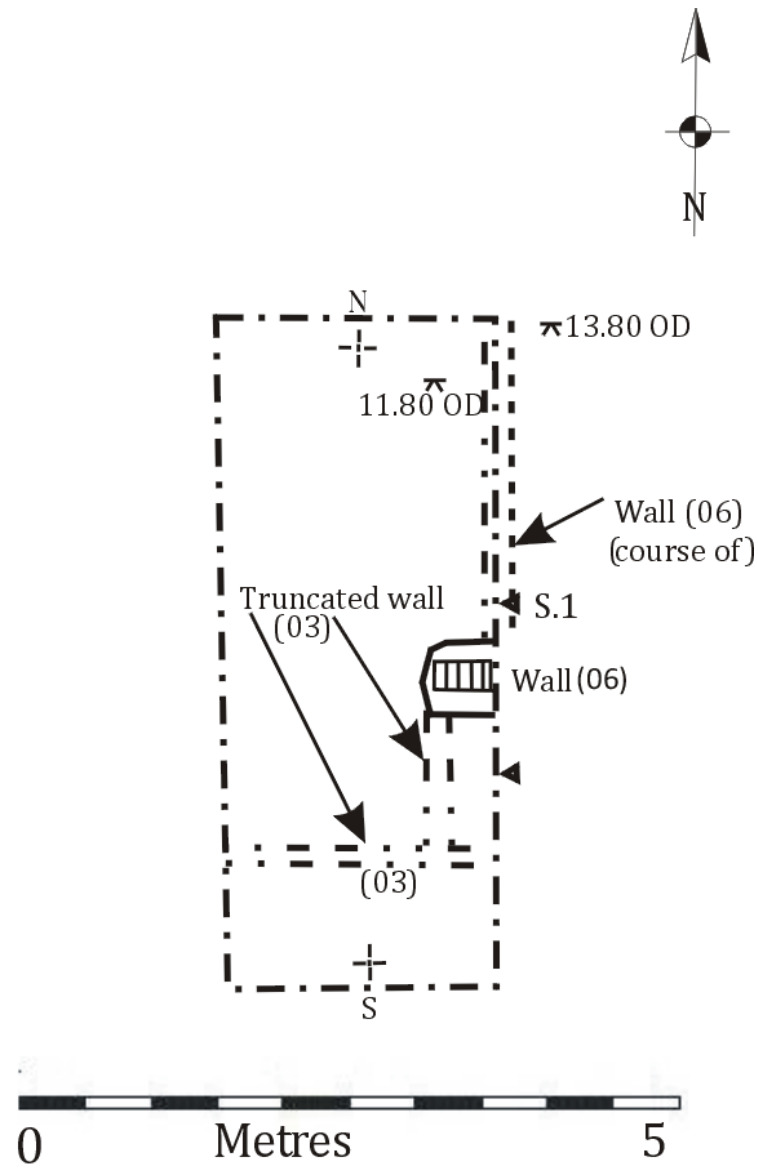


Figure 4. Plan of Trench

Contexts

Table 1. Context Descriptions

Context	Type	Description/Dimensions	Interpretation	Find Types /comments
(01)	Layer	Gravel surface; depth, 0.08m (max)	Gravelled driveway	Modern
(02)	Layer	Topsoil; depth, 0.38m (max); width 2m	Demolition layer	Topsoil mixed with crushed building material
(03)	Brick course	Red unfrogged brick of 18 th -19 th century date; 2m width (exposed)	Foundation wall of house	n/a
(04)	Fill	Light brown, silty clay; depth, 0.38m; width	Back-fill of wall cut	n/a
[05]	Cut	Vertical cut for wall trench; width, 0.25m; depth 1.30m	Foundation wall trench of house	n/a
(06)	Brick course with concrete foundation	Brick foundations; depth, 1.80m; width, 0.50m (of foundation)	Modern foundation wall with steel reinforcement	n/a
(07)	Fill	Light orangey-brown silty sand; depth, 1.18m; width, 1.08m, total	Back-fill of foundation wall	n/a
[08]	Cut	Angular wall cut with straight sides; depth, 1.18m; width, 1.08m	Foundation wall trench of house	n/a
(09)	Layer	Mid=orangey-brown silty clay; width, 2m – of section; depth, 1.20m	Agricultural subsoil	n/a
(10)	Layer	Orangey brown clay	Natural drift geology	n/a
(011)	Fill	Light yellowish-grey clay; depth 0.40m; width 0.38m	Re-deposited clay – back-fill of wall trench [08]	n/a

5. Discussion

The only finds made within the evaluation trench were the foundation walls of a 19th century house, seen on the 2nd edition ordnance survey map (fig. 7 of the Specification). The owner of the site owned the land when the house was still standing, which was demolished in 1988 after the storm of 1987, which blew down one gable end wall, the house was dated to c. 1850, as stated by the landowner.

The depth of the agricultural subsoil (1.20m) was significant at this location, which demonstrates that the site of the development had seen no development prior to the 19th century and must have been open ground, orchards or waste ground up until this period. Indeed, Priory Lane, although very close to Castle Hills, part of the castle earthworks, does not contain any structures before the 19th century and probably was little developed, or not at all, during earlier periods of the town.

6. Conclusion

The evaluation was successful in showing that no archaeology will be compromised by the current development proposal. and further archaeological work here is unlikely to produce additional archaeological evidence.

7. Archive Deposition

The paper and photographic archive will be held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at The Historic Environment Record office, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds and online at:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>.

8. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr T Ingleton of OTC Contracts Ltd who commissioned and funded the archaeological work.

This report for archaeological evaluation was written by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) (Archaeoserv), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work.

The author would like to thank Tim Schofield of Britannia Archaeology who assisted with the field element of this project.

Bibliography

British .Geological. Survey. 1990; sheets 207/208/225

ONLINE REFERENCES

PastScapes <http://www.pastscape.org/homepage/index.htm>

Appendix I: Digital Images



Plate 1. The opened trench from the south-east



Plate2. Sample section showing deposit model and wall (06)



Plate 3. Section of trench facing east



Plate 4. Post Excavation of Trench, looking north