

# Crown Inn, Westleton WLN 049

## **Archaeological Monitoring Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2011/094**

**Client: Agellus Hotels Limited**

Author: Kieron Heard

June 2011



# Crown Inn, Westleton WLN 049

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/094

Author: Kieron Heard

Illustrators: Kieron Heard & Linzi Everett

Editor: Rhodri Gardner

Report Date: June 2011



## HER Information

---

**Report Number:** 2011/094  
**Site Name:** Crown Inn, Westleton  
**Planning Application No:** C/08/1791  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 26 November – 21 December 2009  
**Grid Reference:** TM 4406 6898  
**Client/Funding Body:** Agellus Hotels Limited  
**Client Reference:** N/A  
**Curatorial Officer:** William Fletcher  
**Project Officer:** Duncan Stirk / Linzi Everett (fieldwork)  
Kieron Heard (reporting)  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-103522  
**Site Code:** WLN 049

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

### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Kieron Heard  
Date: June 2011

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner  
Position: Acting Contracts Manager  
Date: June 2011  
Signed:



## **Summary**

WLN 049, Crown Inn, Westleton: An archaeological monitoring was carried out during ground reduction for the construction of new accommodation blocks and some underground gas tanks.

It revealed a natural stratum of laminated sands overlaid by a buried soil horizon interpreted as a typical heath-land podzol. Post-medieval and modern pits truncated earlier undated features.

In the light of these limited results no further archaeological work is anticipated. This report will be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.





# 1. Introduction

---

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at the Crown Inn, Westleton (Fig. 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for three new accommodation blocks, underground gas tanks, remodelling of the car park and a new retaining wall (planning application number: C/08/1791). Agellus Projects Limited commissioned the fieldwork on behalf of their client Agellus Hotels Limited. The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was written by William Fletcher (SCCAS, Conservation Team) and is appended to this report.

The site is located in an area of archaeological importance defined in the County Historic Environment Record. It is in the core of the medieval settlement of Westleton, opposite the medieval church and within the curtilage of a Grade II listed building. The underlying geology of the site is glaciofluvial sand and gravel, overlaid generally by deep sandy soils of the Newport 4 series.

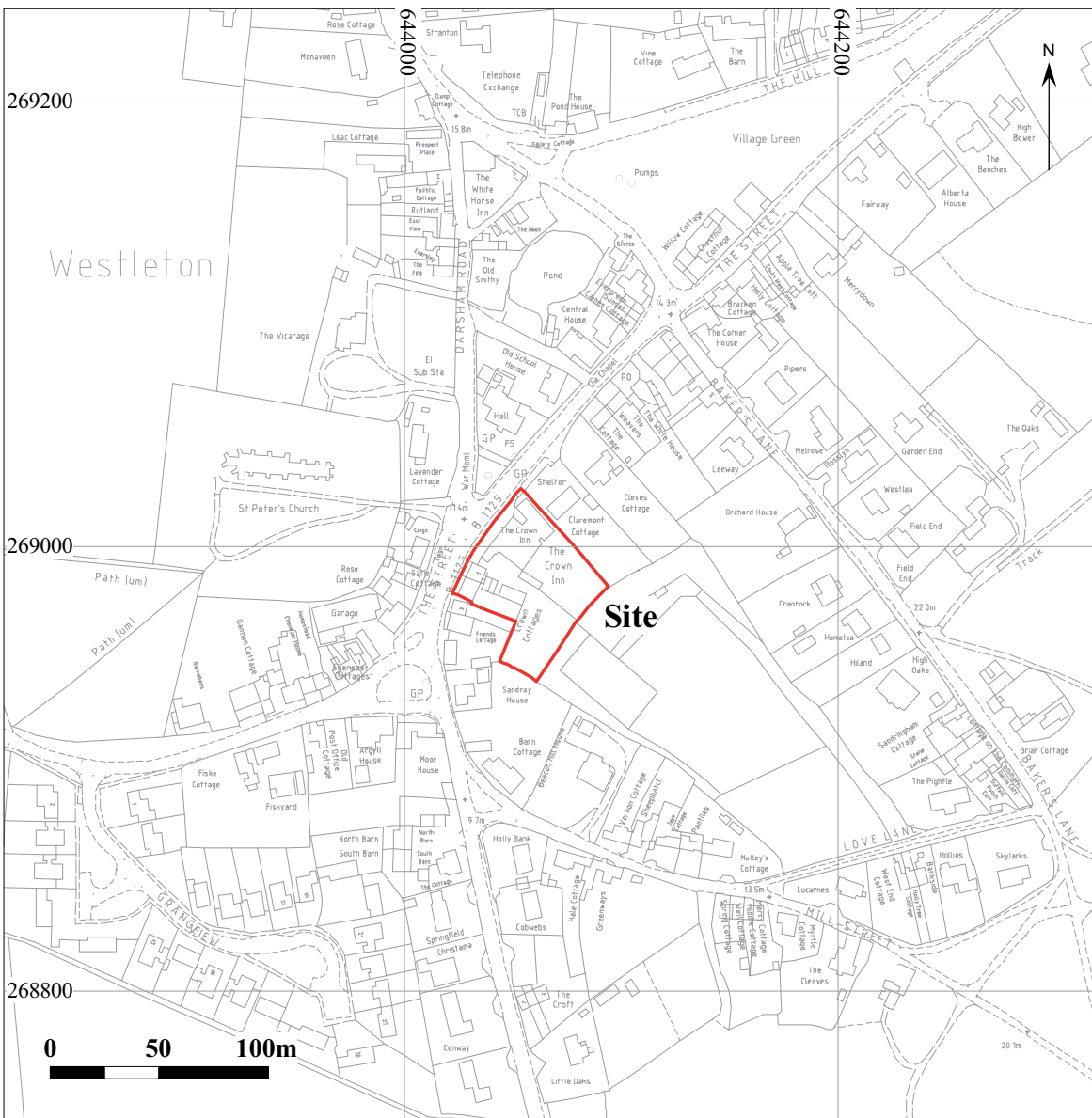
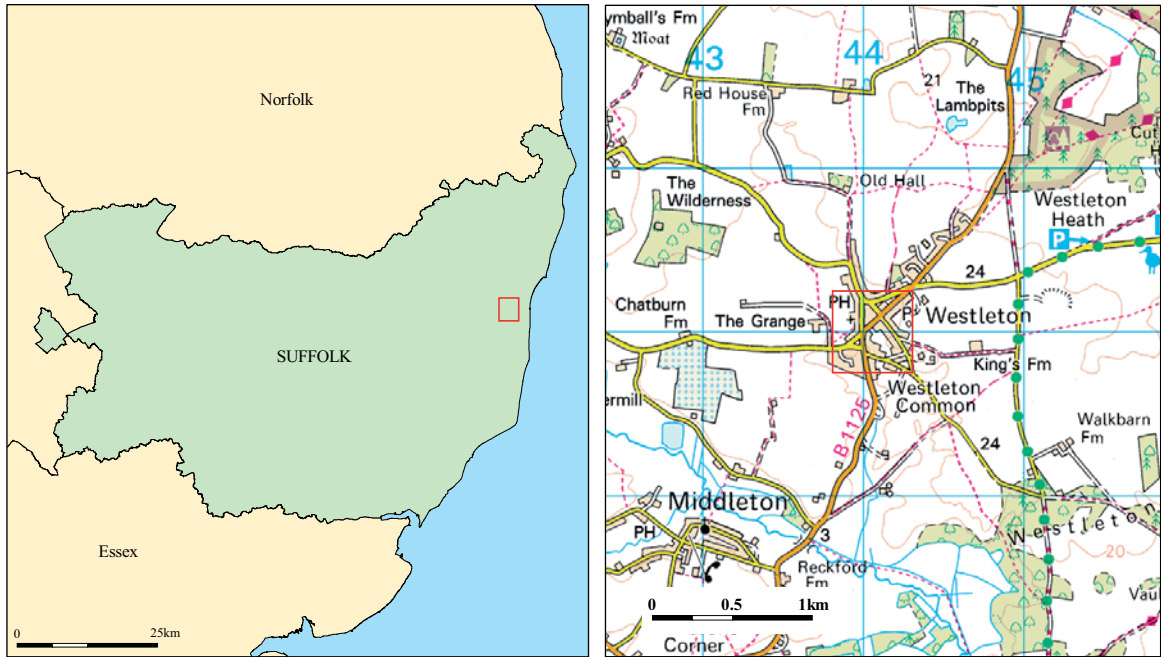
# 2. Methodology

---

The site was visited on four occasions, during or immediately following ground reduction for the underground gas tanks (Fig. 2, Trench 1) and for two of the three proposed new accommodation blocks (Fig. 2, Trenches 2 & 3).

Archaeological deposits and features were observed in all three trenches. These were recorded on *pro forma* SCCAS Watching Brief Record sheets and (where appropriate) by means of a measured sketch plan drawn at 1:50 on gridded drawing film. The plan and one recorded vertical section have been reproduced digitally for inclusion in this report. A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital images: this forms part of the SCCAS photographic archive, referenced as HIB 68–79. Only limited hand-excavation was carried out on selected features. No artefacts were retained and no soil samples were taken.

The results of the fieldwork have been given the county Historic Environment Record number WLN 049. The site archive (paper and digital) is located currently at the SCCAS office at St Edmund House, Rope Walk, Ipswich.



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2011

Figure 1. Site location

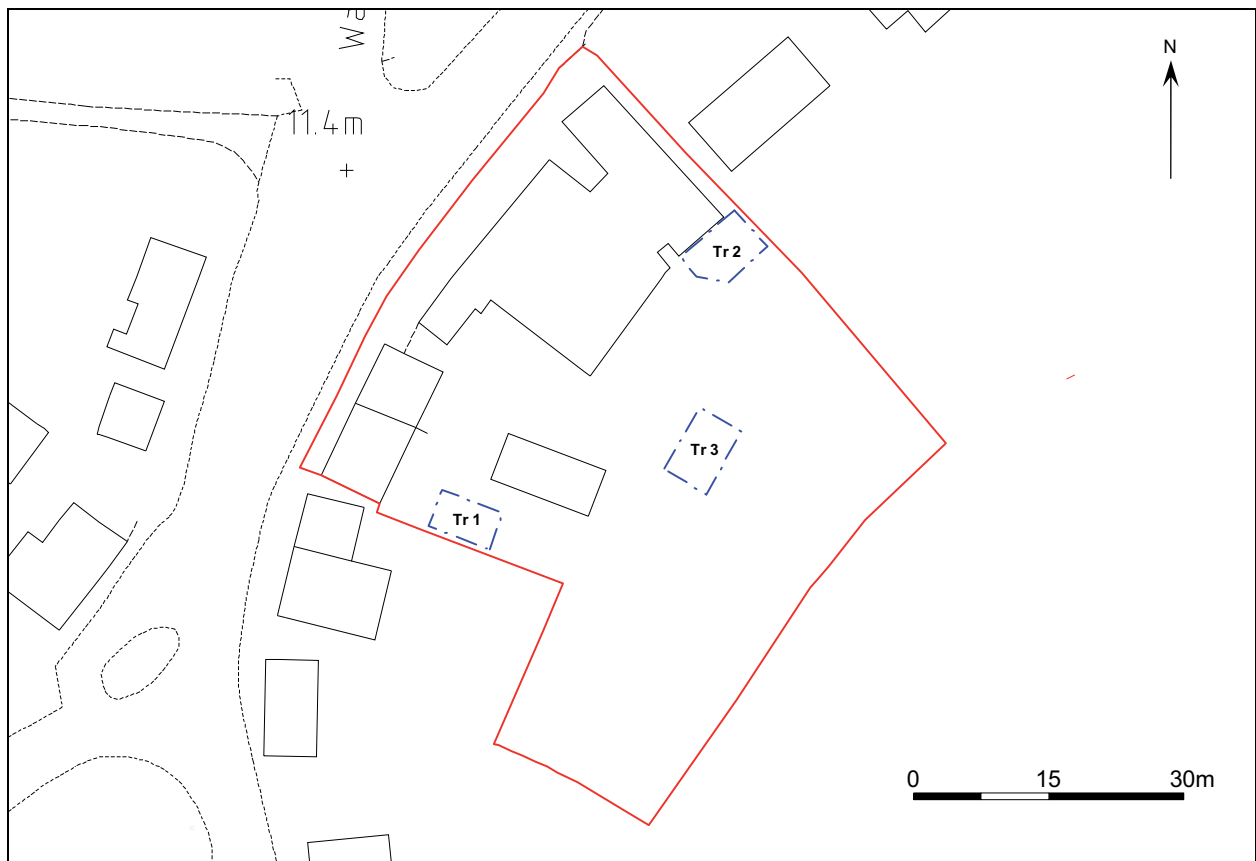


Figure 2. Trench locations

### 3. Results

#### Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the area of the proposed underground gas tanks (Fig. 2). It measured 7.25 northwest–southeast x 4.3m southwest–northeast and was up to 1.00m deep.

Several archaeological and modern features were identified following the mechanical excavation of extensive topsoil and subsoil deposits. The features were all cutting natural sand and were presumably truncated during the ground reduction. They are described in Table 1 and illustrated on Figure 3.

Context	Type	Description
0101	Topsoil	Dark grey, sandy silt overlaid by turf. 0.44m thick. Extended trench-wide.
0102	Subsoil	Mid to dark grey sandy silt containing moderate brick and tile (CBM) and some chalk and charcoal fragments. 0.50m thick. Extended trench-wide below topsoil 0101.
0103	Fill of 0104	Very dark grey sandy silt containing frequent charcoal fragments and moderate CBM.
0104	Pit/Trench	Rectangular cut measuring >2.75m long x 0.60m wide x 0.10m deep.
0105	Fill of 0106	Mottled mid brownish grey and grey sandy silt. No cultural material.
0106	Pit?	Possible pit measuring >1.40m x >0.60m x depth unknown. Truncated by 0104 to the south.
0107	Fill of 0108	Mottled mid brownish grey and grey sandy silt. No cultural material.
0108	Pit	Oval(?) pit measuring >1.20m x >0.85m x depth unknown. Truncated by 0104 to the north. Possibly equated to feature 0106.
0109	Fill of 0110	Dark grey soil with frequent glass bottle fragments (Victorian).
0110	Pit	Circular pit, diameter 0.75m, depth unknown. Truncated earlier pit 0108.
0111	Fill and cut	Dark grey sandy silt filling a narrow linear feature. No cultural material. Truncated by 0104 to the north.
0112	Fill of 0113	Dark grey sandy silt containing moderate CBM and charcoal fragments.
0113	Pit	Oval pit measuring 1.08m x 0.74m x depth unknown.
0114	Fill of 0115	Dark grey sandy silt containing frequent charcoal fragments and moderate CBM.
0115	Pit	Oval pit measuring 1.60m x >0.50m x depth unknown.
0116	Fill of 0117	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. No cultural material.
0117	Pit	Circular pit, diameter 0.58m, depth unknown.
0118	Fill and cut	Dark greyish brown sandy silt containing modern material. Fills a rectangular cut measuring >3.30m long x 1.00m wide x depth unknown.
0119	Fill and cut	Very dark grey sandy silt containing some Victorian china. Fills a rectangular pit measuring 21.0m long x 0.76m wide x depth unknown.
0120	Fill and P/H	Dark grey sandy silt containing modern material. Fills a square posthole measuring 0.42m wide x depth unknown.

Table 1. Summary of archaeological deposits and features in Trench 1

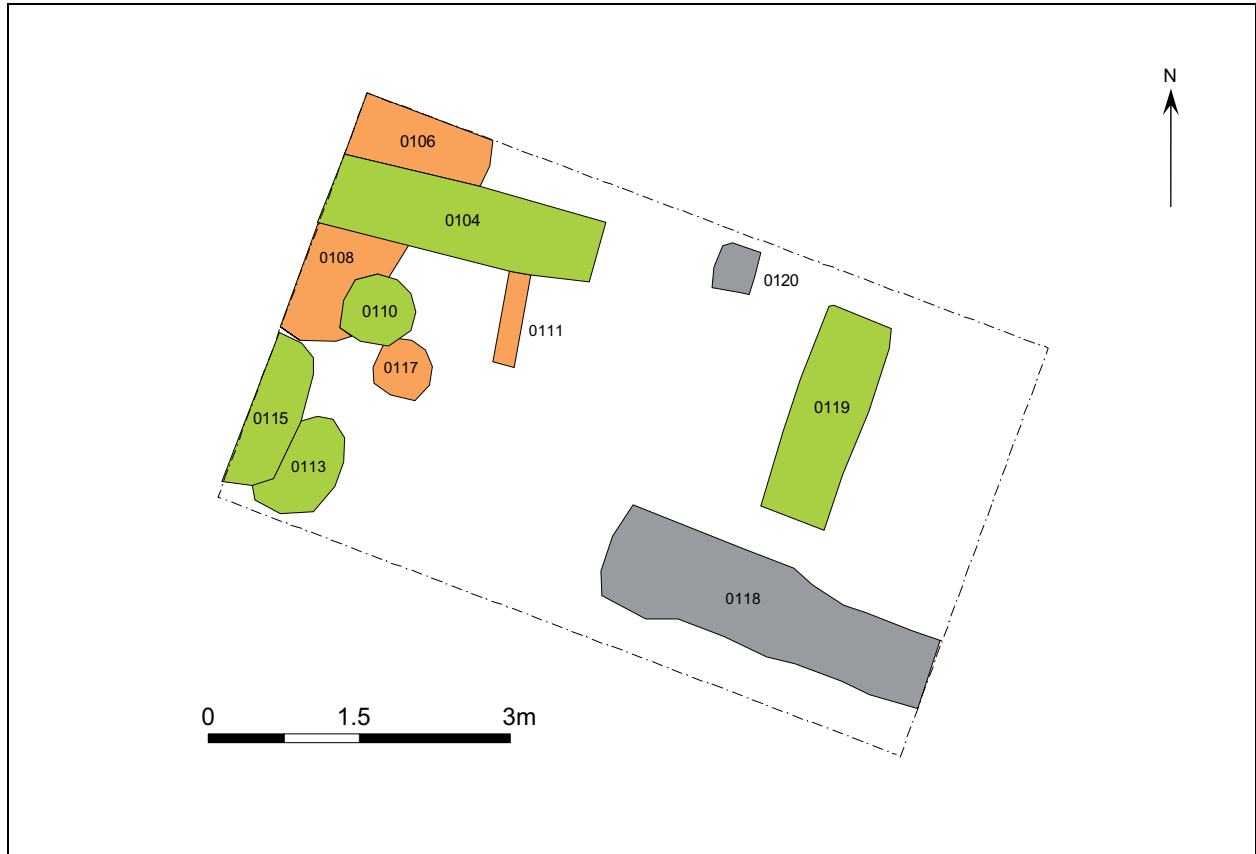


Figure 3. Archaeological and modern features in Trench 1 (orange = undated; green = post-medieval; grey = modern)

## Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the area of a proposed new accommodation block adjacent to the northeast corner of the existing building (Fig. 2). It measured 7.8m southwest–northeast x 5.4m northwest–southeast and was approximately 2.0m deep.

Most of this area of the site was truncated to below the surface of the natural sand during previous terracing of the site. A narrow strip about 1.3m wide at the northeast end of Trench 2 was outside the truncated area and was machine-excavated during the current development. In the course of this ground reduction two archaeological features were identified in section at the end of the trench, cutting deposits of natural sand and clayey sand. They are described in Table 2 and illustrated on Figure 4.

Context	Type	Description
0121	Fill of 0122	Dark greyish brown sandy silt. No cultural material.
0122	Pit?	Recorded only in section. 0.90m wide x 0.45m deep, with steep sides and a concave base.
0123	Fill of 0124	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. No cultural material.
0124	Pit?	Recorded only in section. 1.00m wide x 1.10m deep, with steep sides and a concave base.

Table 2. Summary of archaeological deposits and features in Trench 2

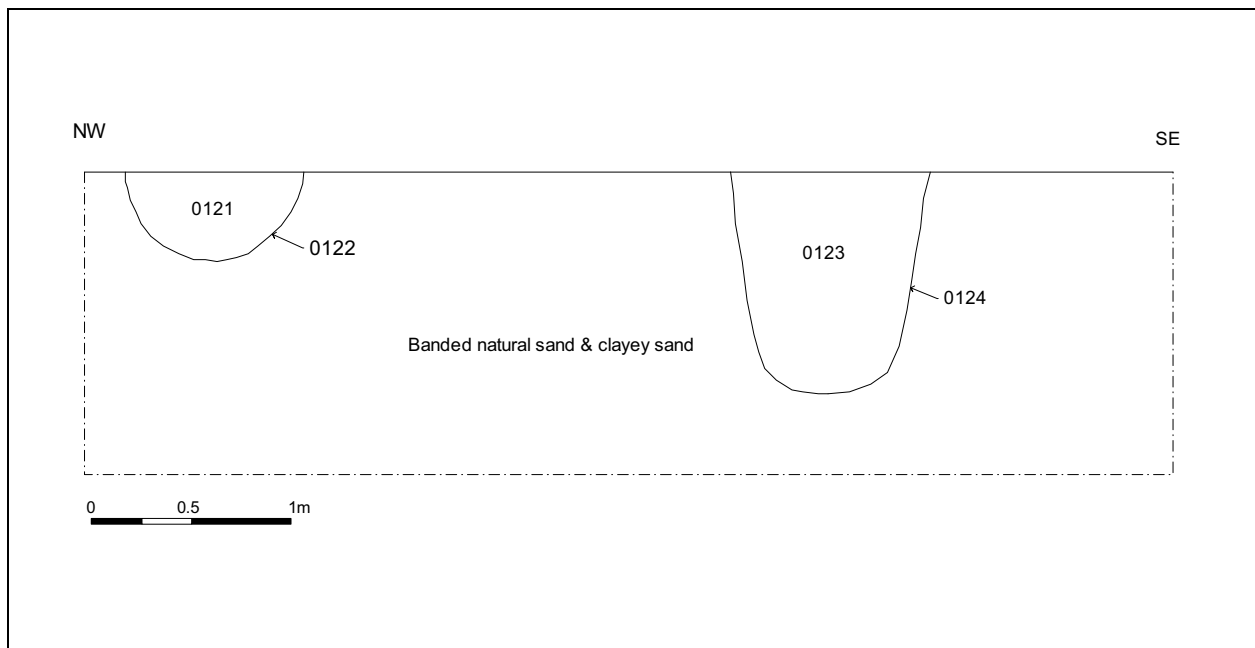


Figure 4. Section S.1, showing pits at the northeast end of Trench 2

### Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in the area of a proposed new accommodation block to the rear of the existing building (Fig. 2). It measured 7.9m southwest–northeast x 5.5m northwest–southeast and was at least 1.10m deep.

Most of this area of the site was truncated to below the surface of the natural sand, presumably during previous terracing of the site, and was backfilled with soil containing modern material. A narrow strip about 1.75m wide along the southeast side of the trench was outside that area of truncation. Here a vertical sequence of deposits was recorded, as described in Table 3.

Context	Type	Description
0125	Topsoil	Layer of dark brown loamy sand, heavily rooted and containing occasional fragments of Victorian or later pottery. 0.60m thick.
0126	Subsoil	Layer of pale greyish brown sand with occasional pebbles but no cultural material. 0.35m thick.
0127	Soil horizon	Dark blackish brown sand. Interpreted as mineralised natural soil horizon (podzol). No cultural material. 0.15m thick.
0128	Nat. strata	Banded layers of greyish brown silty sand and orange sand.

Table 3. Summary of archaeological deposits in Trench 3

## 4. Discussion

---

The monitored trenches were located in what was formerly an open area to the rear of the Crown, a late 18th-century coaching inn that might have had medieval origins. It is likely that this area of the site was used as gardens and paddocks in the post-medieval period.

The natural stratum of laminated sands was sealed in Trench 3 by a buried soil horizon that is interpreted as a typical heath-land podzol. Elsewhere this deposit was removed by recent and previous ground reduction / terracing.

Trench 1 was in an area of dense pitting. Most of the pits were of post-medieval or modern date, although there were some underlying features that could not be dated. The functions of most of the features are unknown although some of them, particularly the longer ‘trenches’, might have been horticultural.

Trenches 2 and 3 were in areas that had been truncated partially during previous terracing of the site and consequently little archaeological evidence survived. Two undated pits were recorded in section in Trench 2 and a sequence of horizontal soil deposits was noted along the south-eastern edge of Trench 3. The latter included a considerable depth of modern topsoil (0.60m) over former soil horizons, suggesting that the ground level to the east of the trench had been deliberately raised.

## **5. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

---

The monitoring revealed evidence for post-medieval and modern land use, as well as a number of undated features. These results have little archaeological significance.

In the light of the limited results from Trenches 1–3, and following discussions with the Curatorial Officer, no further archaeological fieldwork was carried out in relation to the proposed development of the site.

It is recommended that this monitoring report should be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.





# Appendix 1. Brief and specification

---

## Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

### CROWN INN, WESTLETON, 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 three new accommodation areas, underground gas tanks, remodelling of the car park and new retaining wall on land to the rear of the Crown Inn, Westleton, Suffolk (TM 440 689), has been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council. Planning permission is conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/08/1791).
- 1.2 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by an archaeological monitoring.
- 1.3 The application lies in an area of archaeological importance, defined in the County Historic Environment Record. It is in the core of the medieval settlement of Westleton, opposite the medieval church, and is within the curtilage of a listed building. There is high potential for medieval deposits to be disturbed by this development; these deposits are thought to relate to the potential for medieval structures along the street frontage and deposits situated to the rear of the medieval street. 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 three new accommodations blocks to the rear and located in the grounds of the property. In addition four gas tanks are to be buried in the garden area, and the car park is to be remodelled which includes a new retaining wall to the rear of the property. Any ground works undertaken by the building contractor, including the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by an archaeologist. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits uncovered during the 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).

Specification by: William Fletcher

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel.: 01284 352199  
E-mail: [william.fletcher@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:william.fletcher@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk)  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009  
Reference: /CrownInn\_Westleton2009

**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.**