

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/219

**Lane Corner, Palmers Lane, Walberswick
WLB 075**

HER Information

Planning Application No: C/09/1851

Date of Fieldwork: December 2010

Grid Reference: TM 4909 7470

Funding Body: Mr & Mrs McGowan

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Linzi Everett

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-105588

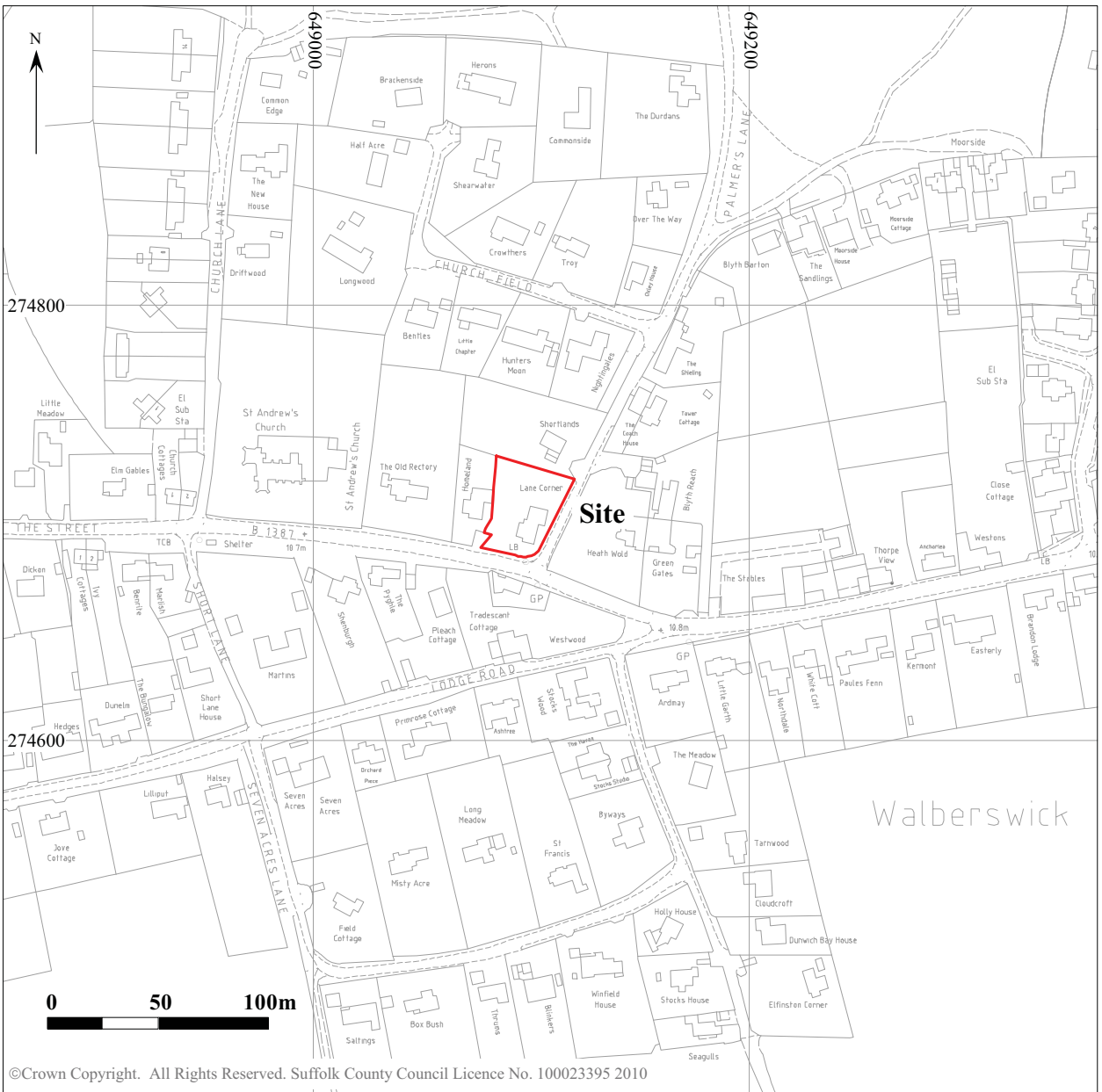
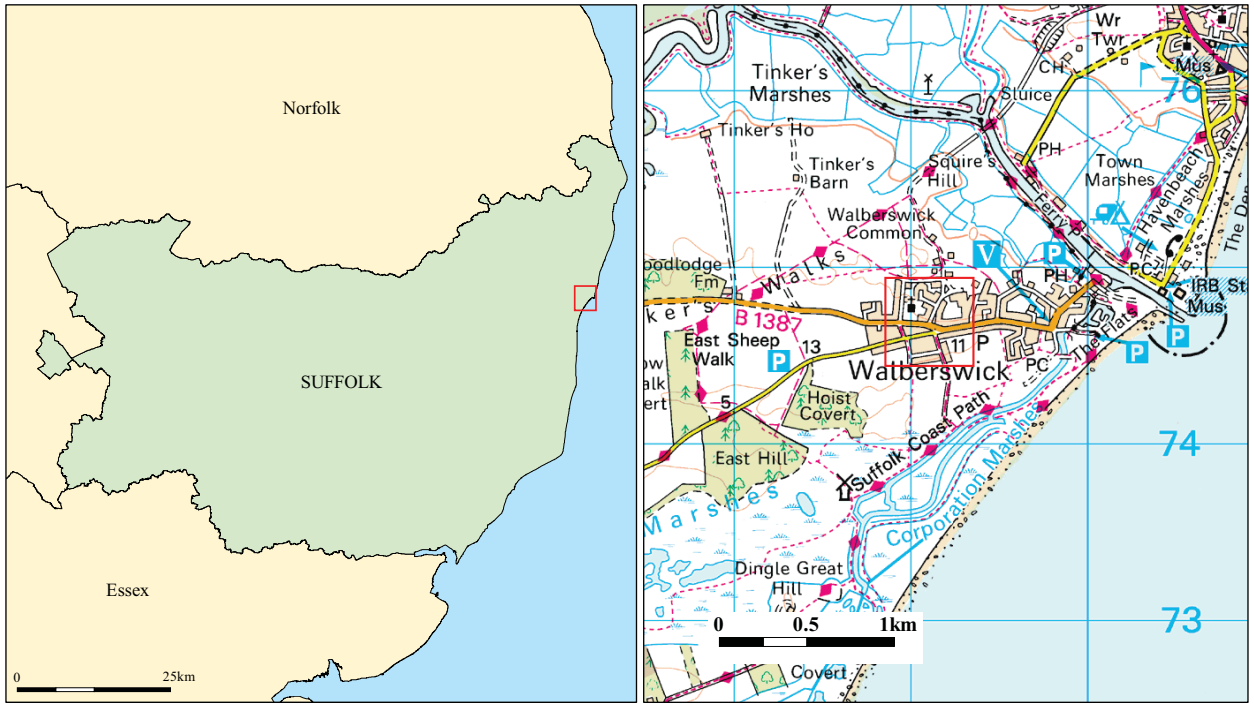
Summary

Monitoring of ground works for an extension to Lane Corner, Palmers Lane, Walberswick, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent in order to record any archaeological evidence revealed by the groundworks. Strip foundations revealed made-up ground to a depth of 1m close to the house which may be the fill of a large pit, whilst in the south of the footings layers which may relate to construction/demolition activity on or close to the site were identified. The finds from these layers are medieval to post medieval in date and floortile which is likely to have originated from the nearby St. Andrews church.

1. Introduction and methodology

Planning permission for the construction of an extension to Lane Corner, Palmers Lane, Walberswick, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 4909 7470 (Figure 1), at a height of approximately 10m OD. The site lies less than 100m east of St Andrews Church and within the area of the medieval town of Walberswick as defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

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 excavated ground works. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The fieldwork was commissioned by Hollins Architects, Surveyors and Planning Consultants on behalf of their clients Mr & Mrs McGowan. The monitoring archive is held in the County HER in Bury St. Edmunds.



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Figure 1. Site location

2. Results

The footing trenches measured 0.5m wide and 1m deep, and were excavated through topsoil in the southern and western footings or concrete and associated sub base layers in the northern footings, where there was also a significant amount of modern disturbance to the full depth of the excavated trenches. Where modern disturbance was not present or significant, the footings were excavated through broadly the same stratigraphy:

- *Topsoil* 0001 c.0.35m dark greyish brown loose humic sand, heavy root disturbance.
- *Subsoil* 0007 c.0.15m mid greyish brown mixed clay sand flecked with chalk and oyster fragments.
- *Subsoil* 0006 c.0.45m mid-dark brown sand, slightly humic, with occasional oyster fragments, animal bones and very occasional CBM fragments.
- *Natural subsoil* Dark blackish brown mineralised sand, graduating into clean, dark orange sand.

In the southernmost trench, subsoil layer 0007 was absent and instead, four thin, distinct layers were noted. The soil profile here was recorded as Figure 3 and Plate 1. 0002 sealed by the topsoil and consisted of a yellowish brown mottled clay with charcoal flecks and regular small, rounded pebbles. Fragments of oyster shell, CBM and daub were recorded. Beneath this was 0003, a homogenous mid-dark brown sand, indistinguishable from subsoil layer 0006. 0004 was a friable, blackish grey ashy layer of silty sand which sealed 0005, a pale yellowish brown friable clay with occasional CBM fragments. One pottery sherd was recovered from this layer.

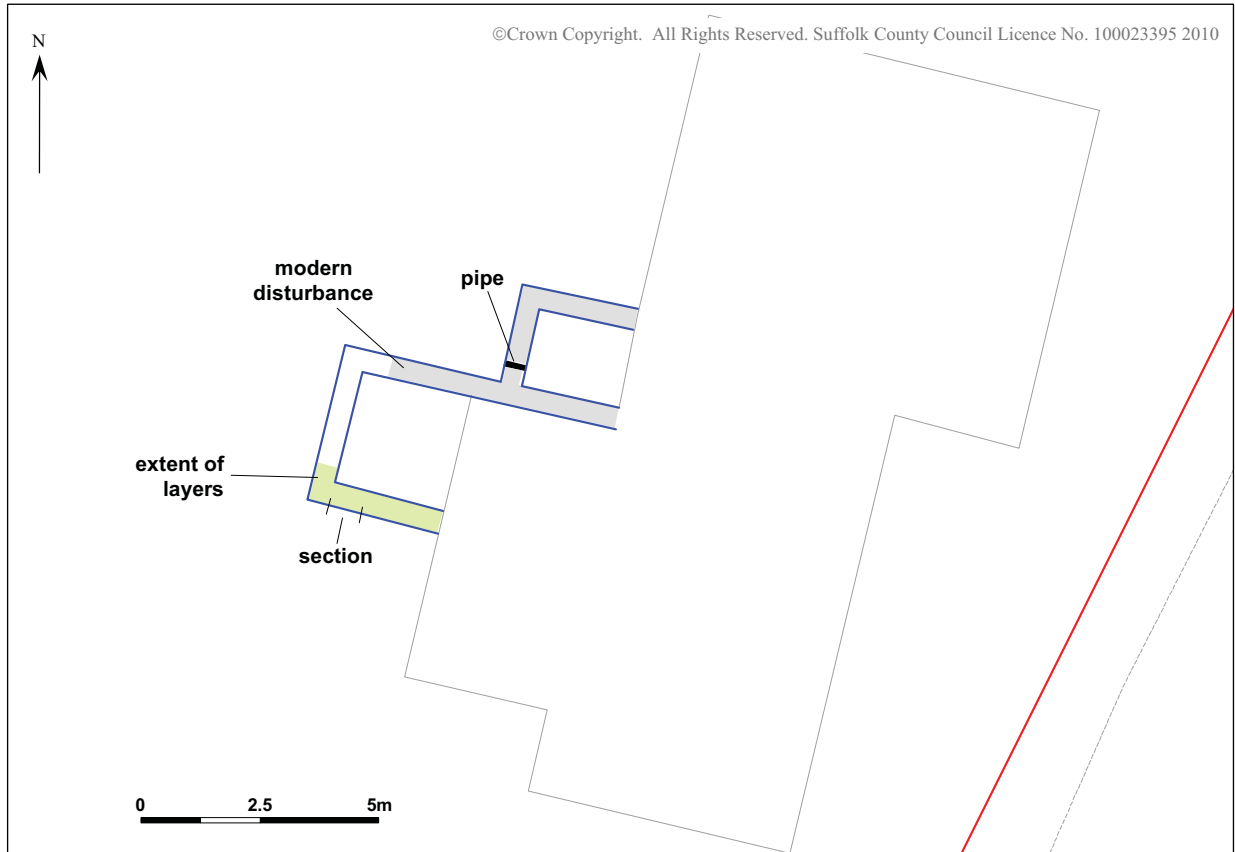


Figure 2. Location of monitored footings

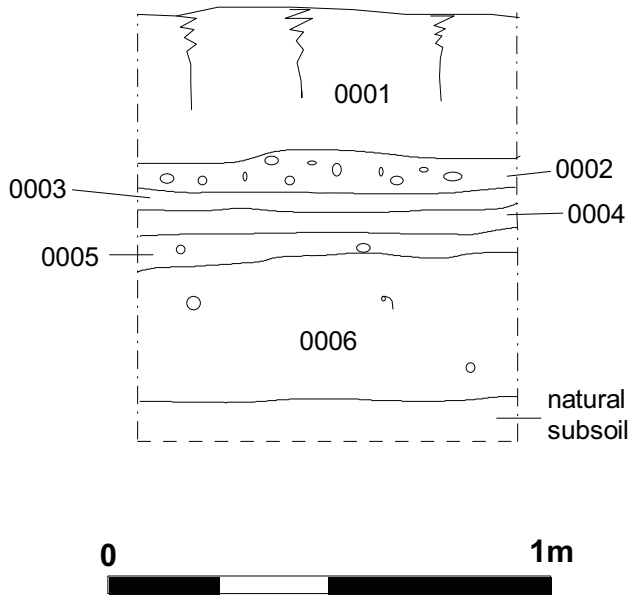


Figure 3. Section through E-W footing



Plate 1. Section through E-W footing

3. Finds evidence

Introduction

Finds were collected from two contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0002	1	18	3	292	16th-18th C
0005	1	13	2	50	15th-16th C
Total	2	31	5	342	

Table 1. Finds quantities

Pottery

Two fragments of pottery were recovered from the monitoring (31g). A fragment of a Late medieval and transitional ware was present in clay deposit 0005 dating to the 15th-16th century, and a sherd of Glazed red earthenware found in deposit 0002 dates to the 16th-18th century.

Ceramic building material

Five fragments of ceramic building material were collected from two contexts (342g). Two abraded fragments of an overfired, hard fine fabric with occasional voids from deposit 0005 could not be fully identified but are likely to date to the late medieval - early post-medieval period. The remains of a medieval glazed floortile was present in deposit 0002. The fabric has purple and buff streaks and bands, and an upper surface which has a dark green lustrous glaze, although with no underlying slip. The overall height of the tile (30mm) and its unsanded base suggests that it is likely to be English rather than Flemish (Drury 165). Two additional very abraded fragments from this context may also be from floortiles. They are made in a fine pink fabric containing frequent small voids and sparse red grog inclusions, and they are likely to be Flemish in origin.

4. Discussion

Although the footings exposed significant modern disturbance in part of the extension footprint, archaeological deposits were present in the south of the site. It is difficult to interpret the layers observed from the sections alone it seems likely that they are associated with phases of construction/demolition on or close to the site. The finds from these layers suggest a late medieval - post medieval date and

include a small quantity of residual medieval finds. The floortile is likely to have originally been associated with the church nearby.

Linzi Everett
July 2011

References

Drury, P., 1993, 'Ceramic Building Materials', in Margeson, S., *Norwich Households*. East Anglian Archaeology 58, Norwich Survey.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

LANE CORNER, PALMERS LANE, WALBERSIWCK

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend Lane Corner, Palmers Lane, Walberswick has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/09/1851). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for Walberswick medieval village in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the medieval and early post medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the up-cast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 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 paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 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 the 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.
- 4.8 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

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 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER 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.

- 5.3 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. 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).
- 5.4 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

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

Date: 22nd March 2010

Reference: Lane Corner

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.