

The Auction Rooms, Church Street, Clare  
CLA 072

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

SCCAS Report No. 2011/192

**Client: Michael Dyson**

Author: Andrew Tester

November 2011



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SCCAS Report No. 2011/191

Author: Andrew Tester

Contributions By: Richenda Goffin

Illustrators: Ellie Hillen & Simon Pickard

Editor: Richenda Goffin

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## HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2011/192  
**Site Name:** The Auction Rooms, Church Street, Clare  
**Planning Application No:** SE/10/1504  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 14th July 2011  
**Grid Reference:** TL 769 454  
**Client/Funding Body:** Michael Dyson  
**Curatorial Officer:** Keith Wade  
**Project Officer:** Andrew Tester  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-114155  
**Site Code:** CLA 072

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: Andrew Tester

Date: Nov 2011

Approved By: \*\*\*\*\*

Position: \*\*\*\*\*

Date: \*\*\*\*\*

Signed: \*\*\*\*\*



# Contents

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Summary

Drawing Conventions

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Geology and topography</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3. Archaeology and historical background</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4. Methodology</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Results</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. Finds</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7. Discussion</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8. Archive deposition</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>9. Bibliography</b>	<b>7</b>

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Location map	2
Figure 2. Trench plan	3

## List of Plates

Plate 1. The site facing south	5
Plate 2. Feature 0002 facing south	5

## List of Appendices

Appendix 1. Brief and specification	
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



## **Summary**




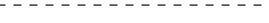







An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footings trenches at the Auction Rooms Clare. The trenching revealed that the road frontage was heavily disturbed by previous building work and any occupation levels had been removed by the existing concrete floor. There was one medieval feature dated to the late 12th century, either a small pit or ditch, and two post-medieval pits within the trenching and a fourth undated feature that may have been earlier based on the fill type running beneath the party wall on the south side.

# Drawing Conventions

## Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

## Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum  $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

## **1. Introduction**

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An archaeological monitoring was carried out on the site of the Auction Rooms, Clare as part of a planning condition on application SE/10/1504. The work was carried out according to a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team. Interest in the site is based on its location within the core of the medieval town adjoining the church of St Peter and St Paul.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site is located in an area of silt, clay and gravels with the underlying bedrock of chalk (British Geological Survey 2011). Topographically it is above the floodplain of the River Stour on the north bank at a height of c.50m OD.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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Clare has evidence of both Iron Age and Roman occupation but the present town was developed in the medieval period alongside a substantial castle and later the Augustinian priory. The wealth of the town grew with the expansion of the wool trade which was a major industry locally throughout the medieval period and was the source for much of the money, which was lavished on the very fine local church. The County HER records four sites close by: CLA 008, which is the motte and bailey castle to the south-east; CLA 023, which is the medieval church of St Peter and St Paul to the north, CLA 032, which is Sickles House, the medieval vicarage to the west and CLA 058, encompassing the medieval town which includes all of these sites.

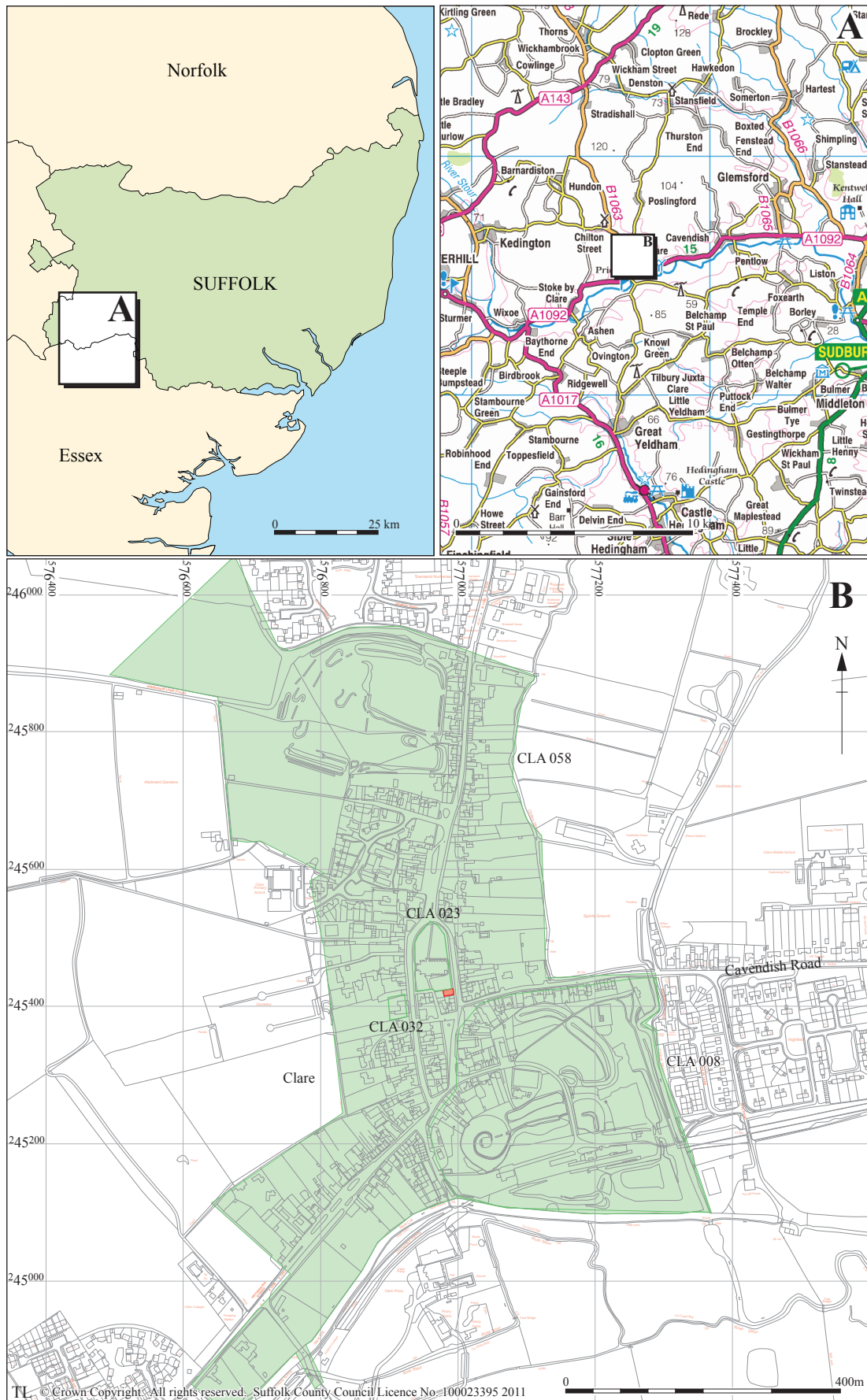


Figure 1. Location plan showing development area (red) and HER sites mentioned in the text



Figure 2. Trench plan

## 4. Methodology

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Two visits were made to the site during the excavation of footing trenches for the construction of two houses fronting onto the street. Foundation trenching was limited to a party wall and the rear house walls with the remainder based on existing wall lines. In all the trenches there was a concrete surface with a sub-base of brick rubble. A toothed bucket c. 0.5m wide was used to carry out the excavations. An annotated plan was made of the trench, which was drawn at a scale of 1:50.

## 5. Results

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The combined depth of concrete and crushed rubble was between 0.4m to 0.45m throughout the trench. The party wall which was c.8.5m long revealed two features that were cut into coarse silt and gravel; pit 0004 was nearly 2m long and 1.3m deep from the ground surface – it contained building rubble including bricks 2.5 inches wide that were c.19th century in date. Immediately to the south of this was a shallower pit or ditch 0002 that was c.0.6m deep from the concrete surface and 0.8m wide. Although there were post-medieval bricks in the upper fill, beneath this was a layer of dark brown silt that contained joining fragments of Hedingham Ware, medieval pottery. The pottery was in good condition with several joining sherds; the lack of finds dispersal could be an indicator that the pottery was not redeposited in the pit and that it probably provides an accurate date for when the rubbish collected which was late in the 12th century.

There were two features recorded in the north-south trench; 0003, which was 1.3m wide and 0.9m deep and filled silt and gravel with a band of brown silt in the base that contained a single fragment of tile which was medieval to post-medieval in date. A second feature 0005 was recorded extending beneath the party wall at the south end of the site. Very little of the fill, which was of dark brown silt, was seen and no finds were visible.



Plate 1. The site facing south.



Plate 2. Feature 0002 facing south

## **6. Finds**

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Richenda Goffin

Six fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from fill 0002 (84g). Several joining sherds of a single glazed medieval jug were identified, made in a Hedingham fineware fabric. Although only the thumbled base is present, the shape and the presence of red slip stripes indicates that it is an early rounded slipped jug dated to c1150-1200 (Cotter 85).

A single fragment of a fully oxidised roofing tile was present in fill 0003 (7g). It is made in a medium sandy fabric with occasional small flint inclusions and is late medieval to post-medieval in date.

## **7. Discussion**

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The monitoring exposed natural silt and gravel over most of the trench beneath the recent concrete and rubble. From the general lack of earlier remains at a prime location on the street frontage close to the church and the lack of a buried soil horizon below the concrete demolition rubble, we can suggest that the ground has been truncated and that only deeper cut features survived. Of these features 0002 is interpreted as early medieval from a primary deposit of pottery and may have been either a pit or a ditch. Feature 0005 that fell beneath the southern party wall may also have been of similar date but no finds were recovered. It seems likely that Church Street was an early road and that medieval buildings may have stood on the frontage with features such as bread and malting ovens and cess pits to the rear. This would explain the limited evidence for medieval archaeology in the excavated trenches, particularly if the site had been truncated.



## **8. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: Parish box. Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Current Recording Projects\Clare\ CLA 072

## **9. Bibliography**

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Cotter, J.P., 2000, *Post-Roman Pottery from Excavations in Colchester, 1971-85*. Colchester Archaeol. Rep. 7. English Heritage, London.



# **Appendix 1. Brief and specification**

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## **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

#### **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring**

##### **THE AUCTION ROOM, CHURCH STREET, CLARE**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission to create three dwellings out of The Auction Room, Church Street, Clare has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (SE/10/1504). 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 defined for Clare medieval town in the County Historic Environment Record.
- 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.

### **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 medieval and/or earlier occupation

2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing and drainage 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 archaeological detail is observed, one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean and sections drawn at a minimum scale of 1:50.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be half sectioned and then fully excavated when possible and recorded in section and plan at a minimum scale of 1:50. Trench locations should be recorded 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 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. Reporting Requirements**

- 5.1 **Reporting should be commensurate with results.**

**If significant archaeological features or finds are found:**

- 5.2 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. This should include a plan showing the proposed development with all areas observed during the monitoring clearly marked.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 A report, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must also 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).
- 5.5 A summary report should be provided, in the established format for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology* (which can be included in the project report )
- 5.6 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).
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan showing all the areas observed should be included with the report. This must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software for integration into the County HER. 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.

**When no significant features or finds are found**

- 5.9 A short report should be provided including the following information:
- Grid Ref
  - Parish
  - Address
  - Planning Application number
  - Date(s) of visit(s)
  - Methodology
  - Plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development  
(a digital vector plan as in 5.8 above when possible)
  - Depth of ground disturbance in each area
  - Depth of topsoil and its profile over natural at each location of observation
  - Observations as to land use history (truncation etc)
  - Recorder and Organisation
  - Date of report

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team

Economy, Skills and Environment Department  
9-10 The Churchyard  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 22nd March 2011

Reference: Auction Room, Clare

**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.**





# Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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**Contact:**

**Rhodri Gardner**

**Tel: 01473 581743 Fax: 01473 288221**

**[rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk)**

**[www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/)**