

**The Garden House
Lavenham
LVM 059**

Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/094

Client: Carroll Reeve

Author: Andrew Tester

June/2012

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The Garden House, Lavenham

LVM 059

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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HER Information

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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: June 2012

Approved By: *****

Position: *****

Date: *****

Signed: *****

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Summary

Monitoring and trial trenching carried out during building work at the Garden House, Lavenham identified the foundations of a timber-framed building that aligned with the neighbouring property to the west, No.7 Hall Road, which is dated to the 16th to 17th centuries. There was no evidence of flooring inside the building footprint and a substantial build up of homogenous topsoil may include redeposited soil from the footprint of the modern building. A similar date is suggested for the infilling of a probable roadside ditch identified along the street frontage.

1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during demolition and subsequent construction at Garden House Lavenham in order to fulfil an archaeological condition on planning application B/10/011. An outline Brief and Specification for the work was issued by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation team dated 13th December 2010. The project includes the removal to subsoil levels of garden soil in the front garden and further works on the site of the existing building including terracing into the rear garden area.

2. Geology and topography

The site is situated on a south facing slope at c. 65m OD. The bedrock is from the crag group of sedimentary rocks overlain by Lowestoft formation of Glacial till with mixed deposits of clay sand and gravel (British Geological Survey).

3. Archaeology and historical background

Lavenham is a medieval town, which was granted its town charter in 1257 allowing weekly market and seasonal fairs. The relative wealth of the town was based on the trade in wool with Lavenham being particularly famous for its blue dyed cloth. Evidence for this can be seen today in the scale and richness of the parish church of St Peter and St Paul that lies c.200m to the south west of the site (Fig. 1) and in the late medieval timber-framed buildings, including the magnificent Guildhall, for which Lavenham is famous. Many of these buildings date from the 16th century. No significant archaeological work has been carried out in the vicinity of Hall Street to date; the adjoining property to the west, however, is a Grade II listed building, (ref. 276696) that includes a cross-wing to the rear, and dates from the 16th-17th centuries.

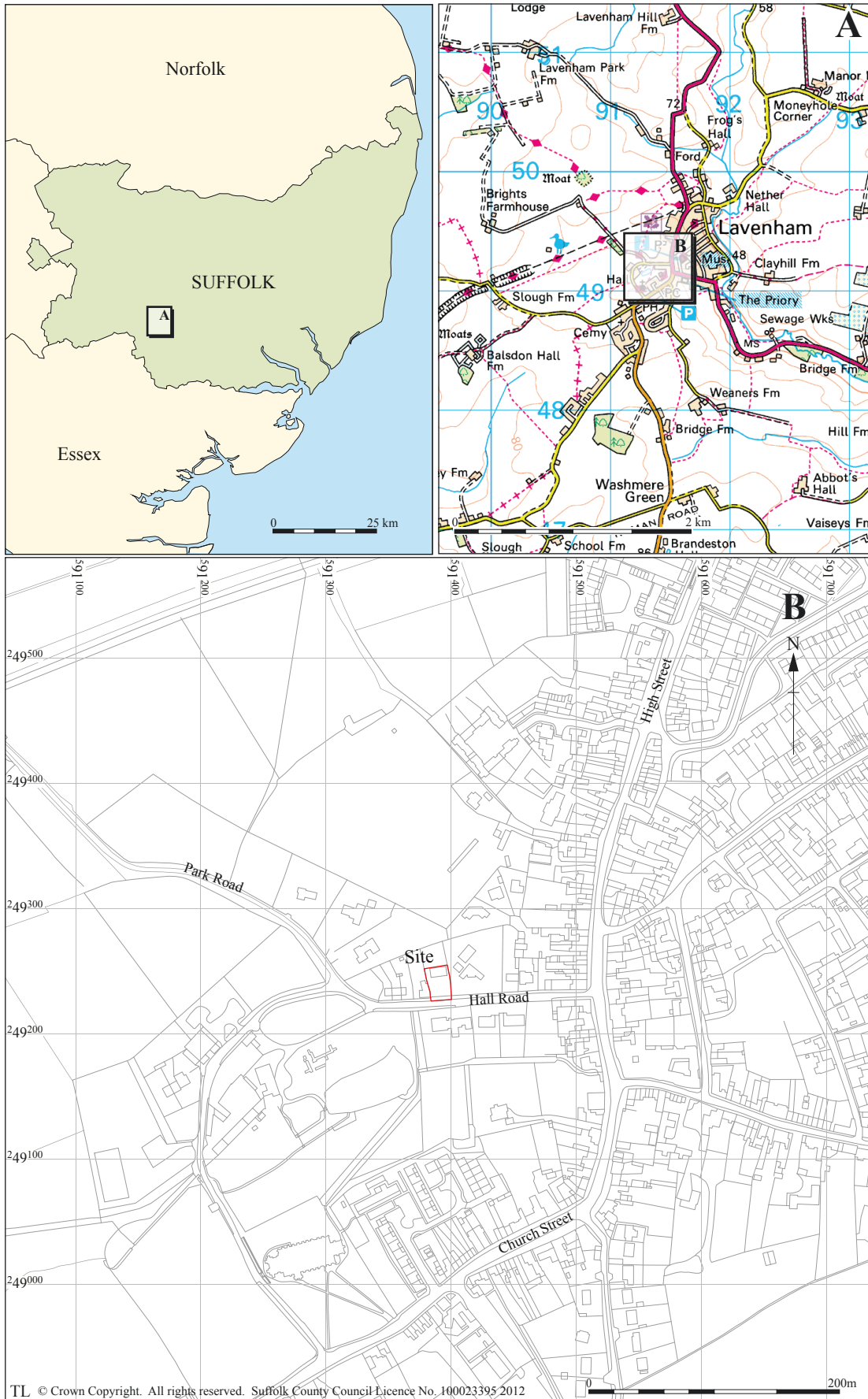


Figure 1. Location of site (red)

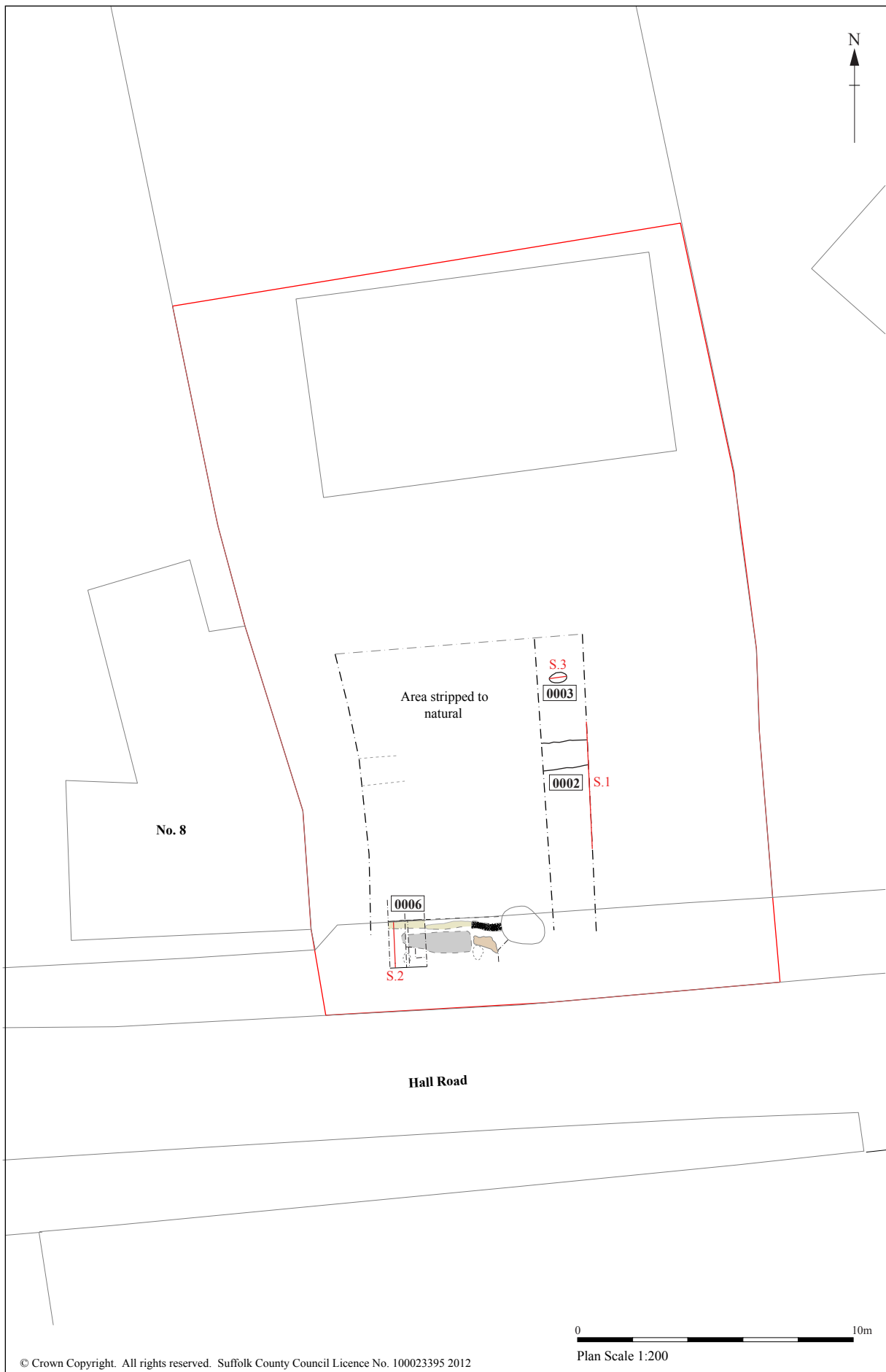


Figure 2. Trench plan

4. Methodology

The recording of area was carried out in three stages:

- A trial trench was excavated under archaeological supervision at right angles to the road and engineering trial pits were monitored.
- A supervised soil strip covering c. 90 square metres was carried out and limited cleaning and excavation towards the street frontage.
- Following on from the earlier work, and carried out after construction, a small trench was excavated towards the pavement to investigate a possible roadside ditch.

A detailed plan was made of surface remains towards the street frontage at a scale of 1:20 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. High resolution digital photographs were taken and a unique set of context numbers were issued for features and deposits under which finds were collected (HER No. LVM 059). The site archive is held in the SCCAS store and a digital copy of this report has been submitted online to the Archaeological Data Service. <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>.

5. Results

Figs. 2 and 3

5.1 Trial trench

The trial trench (Fig.2) was c. 8m long and 1.5m wide. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m but the top of natural subsoil was at c.0.6 – 0.8m. At the south end of the trench there was a layer of pegtile above the natural; otherwise the section revealed a deep fairly homogenous upper layer containing fragments of pegtile. A small pit, 0003, that measured c. 0.65 x 0.25m and 0.25m deep was identified at the bottom of the trench. It contained pegtile and included two sherds of 16th to 17th century pottery. A shallow ditch, 0002, also crossed the trench which was 1m wide and 0.25m deep. This feature was just visible following the main strip of the site running for c. 8m to the west although it had largely been removed by the machine. No finds were recovered but there were fragments of late to post-medieval pegtile and animal bone fragments within the fill.

A number of small engineering test holes were dug to the side and rear of the standing house. No archaeological features were observed in these holes with the soil profiles revealing either disturbed ground or with topsoil above gravel/silt subsoil.

5.2 Soil strip

Following the evaluation the client stripped the topsoil from the site before building work began, which included the demolition of the modern brick wall at the front of the property, and the site was examined before machinery was driven over the site. Ditch or gully 0002 was seen to continue from the evaluation trench. The only features/deposits were concentrated towards the front of the plot along the street frontage and are illustrated in Fig. 3 and these included a spread of pegtile and brick, 0010 and a linear structure consisting of khaki/yellow mortar with flints and occasional pegtile for most of its length with sections of rounded stones in places, 0007. Rubble deposit 0010 measured 1.6m x 1.4m and included bricks that were c.19th century at the earliest, which were therefore not retained. The linear structure 0007, which extended for at least 4m continued to the west into the site edge and was truncated to the east by the later pit, which suggests that it was originally much larger. A section 0.75m wide was dug through this feature which was 0.25m wide and shallow at c.0.10m deep. Significantly the area to the north was blank whereas the area to the south contained a surface of orange sand and gravel 0008 with a distinct area of yellow clay towards the east. There was a slight southward slope on these layers and a shallow slot c.0.7m wide was excavated. This revealed a layer of compacted pegtile 0009 above a fine grey/brown silt/clay, 0005. This layer contained a jetton with a hole punched through it dated to the 16th century along with pegtile and pottery dated to the Late 15th to 16th century. Layer 0005 was only sampled but may have been the equivalent to context 0009 shown in section2.

Construction work continued and in May 2012 and following this a small investigative trench was carefully excavated with the aid of a mini-digger to attempt to establish whether deposit 0005 was the upper layer of fill slumping into a roadside ditch.

The short section was excavated in layers as far as the pavement and is shown in Section 3. It was a maximum of 1.7m long (with 0.9m of this excavated to a depth of 1.1m) and 0.45m wide. An upper fill, 0011, was c.0.5m thick and was a mixed deposit

with gravel and some clay with pegtile fragments and recent material; below this was an undisturbed layer of dark grey silt/clay with charcoal, 0012, which was c.0.4m thick and sloped down towards the road. Its full extent was not traced to the north where it continued beneath clay deposits. The fine texture of this deposit tends to suggest that it was formed from accumulated silt, rather than having been deliberately backfilled, but it included rubbish including pegtile, oyster shell and mussels and a sherd of pottery. From this small amount of material the layer is dated to between the 16th to 18th century. The lowest fill to be excavated was context 0013, which was a pale brown silt that was excavated to a thickness of 0.25m. This layer contained a small amount of pottery, pegtile, animal bone, oyster and mussel shells, was dated to the 15th to 16th centuries. The bottom of the trench could not be excavated due to rising groundwater filling the trench although the pale fill, and incoming water may be evidence that the ditch could not have been much deeper.



Plate 1. Mortar and flint foundation with gravel at the eastern end, facing east.



Plate 2. Foundation closely aligned with Grade II listed building, facing west.



Plate 3. Test trench across possible ditch, facing west.

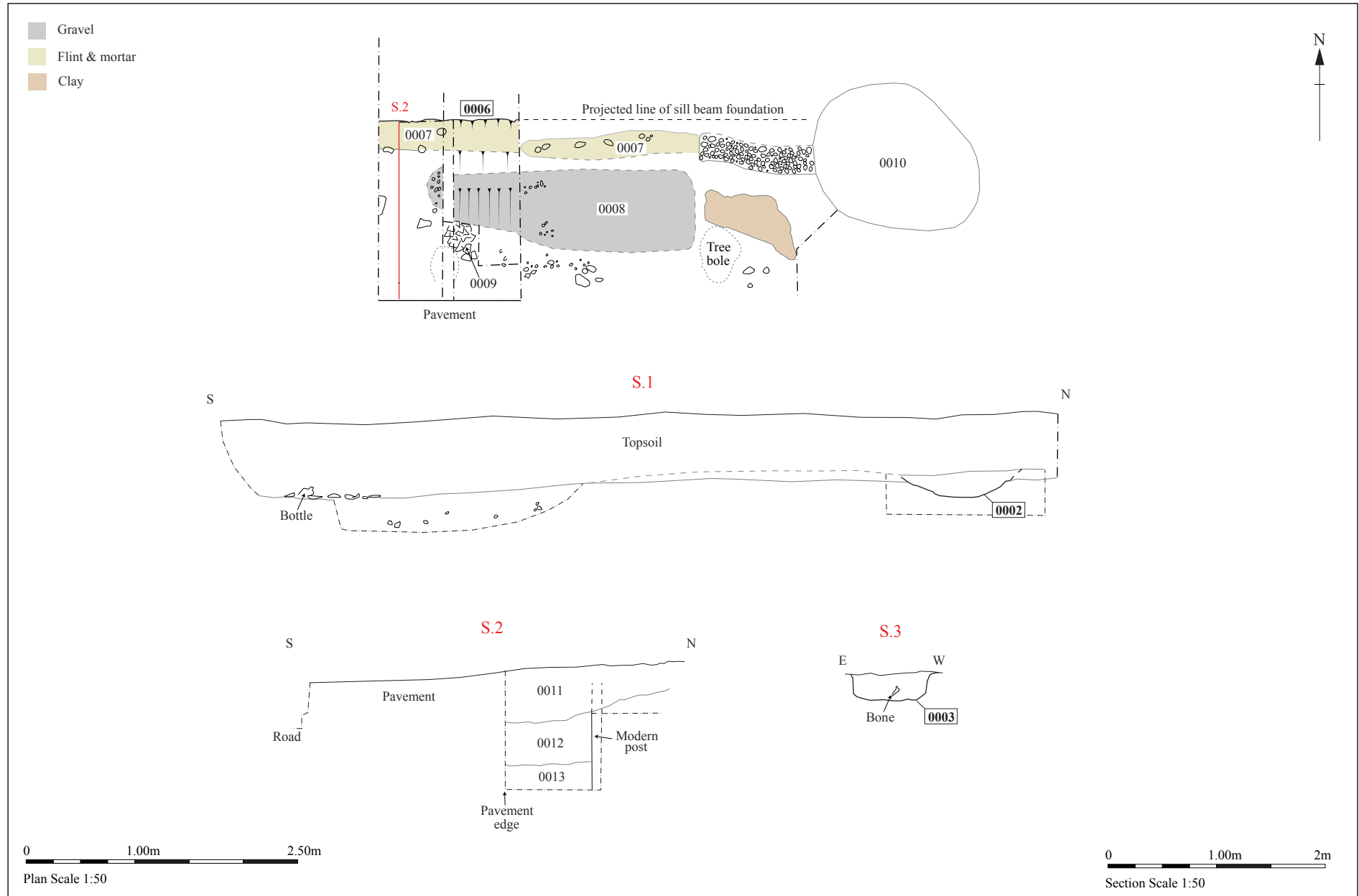


Figure 3. Detailed plan and sections

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected in each context from the monitoring. Also present is a single small find which has been recorded separately.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Date range
	No	Wgt/g	No	Wgt/g	No	Wt/g		
0003	2	42	1	108				16th-17th C
0005	10	265	6	423				Late 15th-L16th C
0012	1	5	3	612	1	20	Flint with mortar 1 @ 2g	16th-18th C
0013	3	94	2	158	1	10		15th-L16th C
Totals	16	406	12	1301	2	30		

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Pottery

Sixteen fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from four contexts from the monitoring (406g). The ceramics were fully recorded and a full breakdown by context can be seen in Appendix 3.

Two sherds of early post-medieval glazed red earthenware were present in pitfill 0003. Fragments of Late medieval and transitional wares dating to the 15th-16th century were identified in 0005 (what is this context). A single sherd of Glazed red earthenware dating to the 16th-18th century was identified in layer 0012 which also contained fully oxidised roofing tile. Layer 0013 which was immediately under layer 0012 contained three sherds of Late medieval and transitional wares of 15th-16th century date.

6.3 Small Finds

Identified by Andrew Brown

A copper alloy jetton was recorded in fill 0005 (<1g). The jetton is very worn with a circular hole punched through the centre. A fleur-de-lys design can be seen on the reverse whilst the obverse exhibits a fictitious legend. The jetton is dated to around the 16th century and is accompanied by late medieval/transitional pottery (15th to late 16th century).

7. Discussion

The evidence from the monitoring has identified a former wall line, 0007, corresponding with the front of the adjoining property to the west. This simple structure is likely to have been the foundation for a timber sill beam, which suggests that a 16th or 17th century building formerly occupied the site. The evidence for a standing building would explain the lack of features to the north of the foundation because this area was covered by the superstructure. Ditch 0012 was parallel to foundation 0007 and set approximately 5m back and it may have been a drip gully to take water from the roof. The gully also aligns slightly to the rear of where a cross wing is attached to the back of the neighbouring property, which is supporting evidence for this interpretation.

There is a drop of c. 0.5m between wall foundation, 0007, and the surface of the modern road, which might be evidence of a slightly sunken way where Hall Road may have eroded away over time, particularly if the road surface has been built up with hardcore and tarmac; on balance, however, it seems more likely that there was an open ditch alongside the road that became infilled in the (?)15th to 16th centuries. The ground was eventually consolidated towards the surface with gravel and, in places, clay, but concentrations of pegtile below the consolidated surface might be the remains of a collapsed roof or simply the deliberate dumping of tile to consolidate the top of the ditch. The antiquity of the probable front ditch has not been established because it is likely to have been maintained by digging out until rubbish and silt began to accumulate in the 15th to 16th centuries.

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\ (to be added)

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

9. Acknowledgements

The management, fieldwork and report production was carried out by Andrew Tester. Finds processing and analysis was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians and Andy Fawcett with additional advice from Richenda Goffin. The report illustrations were created by Crane Begg and Gemma Adams and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

THE GARDEN HOUSE, HALL ROAD, LAVENHAM

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a replacement dwelling at The Garden House, Hall road, Lavenham has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/10/01165/FUL). 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 medieval Lavenham in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve extensive 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.

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 occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing and service 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 fully excavated and 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 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: 13th December 2010

Reference: The Garden House

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.

Appendix 2 - Context List

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0002		Gully	Ditch or gully cut into natural filled with green/brown silt with odd stones. Bone in fill	No		No	
0003		Pit	Small, subrectangular pit parallel to gully (0002) with bone fragments in fill no	No		No	
0005		Layer Layer	layer of dark silt below tiles 0009, from first phase of works, equivalent layer to 0012 from section excavation. upper fill of ditch.	No		No	
0006		Ditch Cut	Cut of of small trench. Excavated in a shallow section dug through surface deposits. Small trench for mortar and flint	No		No	
0007		Linear Other	Foundation. Mortar and flints in situ only c.0.1m thick and replaced with packed pebbles at the eastern end. Suggest sill beam sat on this Base for sill beam?	No		No	
0008		Layer Layer	Layer of orange sand and small gravel, pressed into surface of layer 0005/0012 possibly part of old pavement fronting on to house?	No		No	
0009		Layer deposit	Tile beneath gravel - compressed. Layer beneath orange gravel. Post or late med?	No		No	
0010		Pit?	Spread of pegtile and brick - hole infilled. Not investigated. Need not be very deep?	No		No	
0011		Layer Layer	Mixed gravel above 0012. suggest disturbed by building work and earlier digging so containing backfilled material.	No		No	
0012		Layer	Dark grey silt/clay with animal bone, oyster shell, mussels, charcoal, tile and pot Cut by edge of pavement, below 0011 and 0013	No		No	
0013		layer	Light brown silt Contains charcoal etc Cut by edge of pavement, below 0012	No		No	

Appendix 3. Pottery catalogue

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	No	EVE	Wgt/g	State	Comments	Fabric date range	Context date
0003	?DUTR	Body	1	0	8	Sli		16th-17th C	16th-17th C
0003	GRE	Body	1	0	24	Sli		16th-18th C	
0005	LMT	Base	1	0	68	Sli	0.07. Reduced	16th-17th C	L15th-L16th C
0005	LMT	Pancheon	7	0.13	187	Sli	Most belong to same vessel, like Jennings 1981, 63; fig 24. With a reduced core	15th-L16th C	
0005	LMT	Body	2	0	11	Sli		15th-L16th C	
0012	GRE	Body	1	0	5	Sli		16th-18th C	16th-18th C
0013	LMT	Body	3	0	94	Sli	Three different sherds	15th-L16th C	15th--L16th C

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www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/