

The Old Manse, Barn Street Lavenham LVM 077

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/154
Client: Ms Kirstene Baillie

Author: Jezz Meredith

October 2012

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Report Date: October 2012

HER Information

Site Code: LVM 077

Site Name: The Old Manse, Barn Street

Report Number 2012/154

Planning Application No: B/12/00478/001

Date of Fieldwork: 13th August & 12th September 2012

Grid Reference: TL 9168 4918

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-135723

Curatorial Officer: Abby Antrobus

Project Officer: Jezz Meredith

Client/Funding Body: Kirstene Baillie

Client Reference: N/A

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: Jezz Meredith

Date: October 2012

Approved By: Dr Rhodri Gardner

Position: Head of Archaeology Contracts

Date: Signed:

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Summary

Lavenham, The Old Manse, Barn Street (TL 9168/4918; LVM 077).

Archaeological monitoring visits were made to The Old Manse, Barn Street, Lavenham, on the 13th August and the 12th September 2012. Two large pits were observed in the excavated northern section of the site. Pottery recovered from one of these features was likely to be of 15th or 16th century date. The pottery belonged to a cistern with a bung hole and was probably used to store water or other fluids, possibly associated with the wool dying industry.

Lavenham expanded after the 15th century when a culvert was built along Water Street and wool dying works were developed along its length. Barn Street was probably laid out during this period, part of a grid of streets formed with Water Street at its base. Considerable quantities of roof tile observed in the 15th/16th century pits might suggest demolition and/or construction of buildings as part of the expansion of the town during this important industrial period.

(Jezz Meredith, S.C.C.A.S., for Kirstene Baillie; report no. 2012/154)



Plate 1. View of the excavated area looking north-west. The large pit 0005 can be seen in section behind the 1m ranging rod. Pit 0008 is in the north-west corner of the area (behind the wheelbarrow)

1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring of groundworks was conducted for an extension to The Old Manse, Barn Street, Lavenham (Fig. 1; grid reference TL 9168 4918). The monitoring of these works by an archaeologist was a condition of planning consent as specified by a Brief and Specification issued by the curatorial officer, Abby Antrobus (Appendix 1).

The extension area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') was positioned on a fairly steep, south-facing slope within the north-west corner of The Old Manse garden. The underlying drift geology is glacial till of stiff sandy clay.

The site consisted of an irregular area of 20m (east to west) by a maximum of 8m (Fig. 2). The site was visited on two separate occasions (17th of August and the 12th of September 2012). During the first visit the larger, western part of the area was seen (c.13m by 8m). This consisted of a cut for a concrete raft, terraced into the hillside. On the second visit, a much smaller area of c.7m by 5m was seen towards the east of the site, after demolition of a previous structure and associated yard surfaces.

The site has been given the Lavenham reference LVM 077 within the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). The OASIS reference (the online archaeological database) for this project is suffolkc1-135723 (see Appendix 2).

2. Archaeology and historical background

The site is within the medieval and early post-medieval core of Lavenham. The main expansion of the town happened in the 15th and 16th centuries and was associated with the wool dying industry. Significant archaeological sites recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) are listed below and are shown in Figure 1.

The main areas of the earlier medieval town are to the north and west of the site. The base of a medieval market cross (LVM 043) is located 150m to the north, close to the Guildhall of Corpus Christi (LVM 005) founded in 1529. Two 14th century timber buildings are located along High Street at numbers 3 (LVM 074) and 88 (LVM 065). The imposing medieval church of St Peter and Paul (LVM 009) is located 400m to the west.

A late medieval / early post-medieval building of posthole construction (LVM 036) was identified only 20m to the west of the site. Site LVM 046 (7 Water Street), located 60m to the west, was where medieval and post-medieval pottery was recorded. The listed post-medieval grammar school (LVM 008) is positioned on the other side of Barn Street, at 30m to the east of the site.

An ancient culvert (LVM 051) runs along the south edge of Water Street 60m to the south of the site. Little is known about this impressive feature but it is thought to have its origins in the 15th or 16th centuries. A recent survey of this water course showed that it was probably built and rebuilt in a piecemeal way from the late medieval period onwards. There are 19 listed buildings of 15th and 16th century date along the south side of Water Street and many of these are thought to have been built over the culvert (Fradley 2007). Although it is now used as a storm drain it was probably originally constructed to supply water to dying works located along its length, such as the tanks and cisterns uncovered at site LVM 043 at the Lavenham Press (Meredith 2004).

Archaeological remains from earlier than the medieval period have been recorded at the adjacent area to the north and west of the site (LVM 018). Here Basil Brown (the famous pre-war Suffolk archaeologist) located a tessellated Roman pavement, although its precise location is not known.

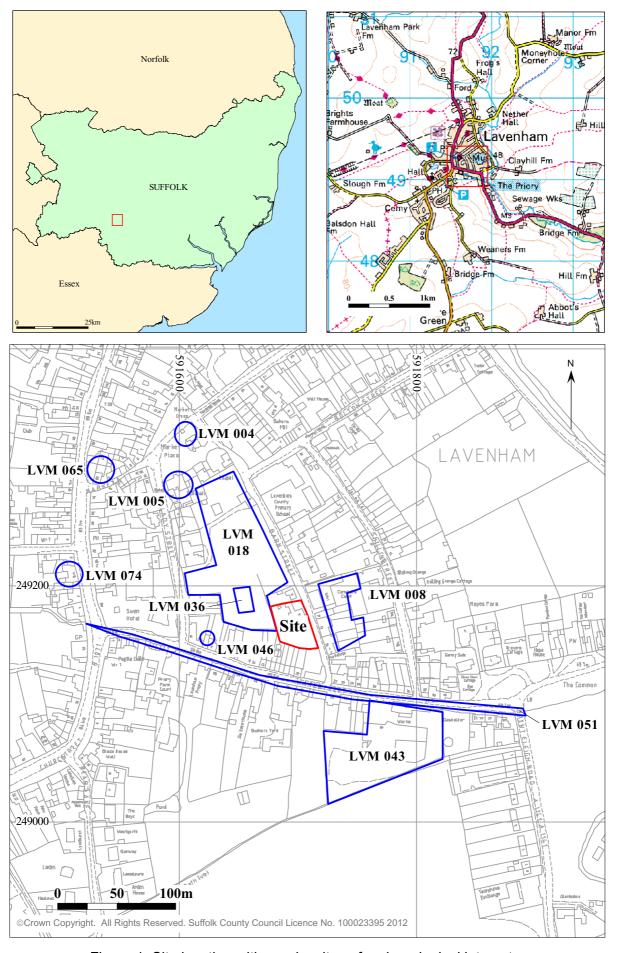


Figure 1. Site location with nearby sites of archaeological interest

3. Methodology

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring issued by Abby Antrobus (Appendix 1). The proposed extension to the north and north-east of the original 19th-century building (The Old Manse) required demolition of 20th century outbuildings and the excavation for a concrete raft, deeply terraced into the hill slope along the northern edge of the site.

A monitoring visit was made on the 17th of August 2012 after the area for the concrete raft had already been excavated. A further visit was made on the 12th of September to view the area across the north of the Old Manse building (Fig. 2).

Records were made of deposits and archaeological features, with each separate deposit or feature given an individual context number (within the range 0001 to 0009). A digital photographic record was made of high-resolution .jpg images.

Spoil from the excavated area had already been removed from site so could not be examined for finds. Finds were recovered however from archaeological deposits seen in section. The finds were bagged, clearly labelled with their context number and were examined by the SCCAS Finds Team in Bury St Edmunds. Finds have been returned to the site owners.

All elements of the archive have been labelled with the unique Suffolk Historic Environment Record code LVM 077. A digital record and copy of this report is held with the Archaeology Data Service, using the OASIS reference suffolkc1-135723.

4. Results

First monitoring visit (17th August 2012)

During the initial visit made to the site, most of the new footprint area to the north-west of the existing structure had been stripped down to natural sandy clay (deposit 0004). Two large pits (0005 and 0008) could clearly be seen within the deep section along the northern edge of the site (Plate 1). These continued below the level of the base of the stripped area. No pits or other features could be seen in the base of the trench.

The tall section along the northern edge of the site was c.1.5m in height in the east and rose to c.1.7m height in the west. A thick topsoil deposit of up to 0.9m depth lay across the top of the section (layer 0002) and probably had accumulated by colluvial / hillwash processes. Under this was a subsoil layer 0003, consisting of pale orange brown sandy clay. This layer was of 0.3m thickness and was cut by pits 0005 and 0008.

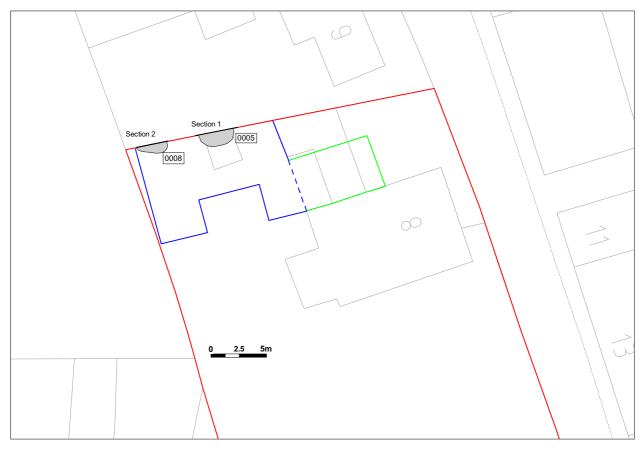


Figure 2. Areas monitored on the 17th August (blue outline) and on the 12th September (green outline). Pits 0005 and 0008 (sections 1 and 2 respectively) are also shown

Pit 0005

A large pit was seen in section (Fig. 3, Section 1), it was not bottomed and continued below the depth of the stripped area. It was sealed by the thick topsoil 0002 and cut the subsoil 0003. It had a diameter of 3.7m and a depth of over 0.7m before disappearing below the level of the trench.

Pit 0005 contained two visible fills. The upper fill was 0006 and this consisted of mixed mid to dark grey brown sandy silty clay with frequent tile fragments, mortar and charcoal flecks with lenses of tile pieces becoming abundant across the base of the deposit. Pottery of 15th to 16th century date and tile were extracted from this deposit for analysis (see section 6 below). The lower fill 0007 was partly revealed in section and this was dark grey brown silty clay and also contained frequent tile, mortar and charcoal fragments.

Pit 0008

Seen in the extreme north-west corner of the site, pit 0008 extended both beyond the limit of the trench to the west and below the level of the strip (Fig. 3, Section 2). It was under the thick topsoil 0002 and cut the subsoil 0003. It appeared to have a steep eastern edge but the western edge appeared to be more gently sloping. From what was visible of this feature, it had a single fill 0009. This was mid grey brown silty sand with moderate tile, mortar and charcoal fragments. A sample of the tile was taken from the fill for identification and analysis.

Second monitoring visit (12th September 2012)

During the second visit a small area of approximately 4m by 5m was seen along the northern side of the original building. A 20th century extension had been demolished in this area so the ground was highly disturbed and no archaeological deposits survived.

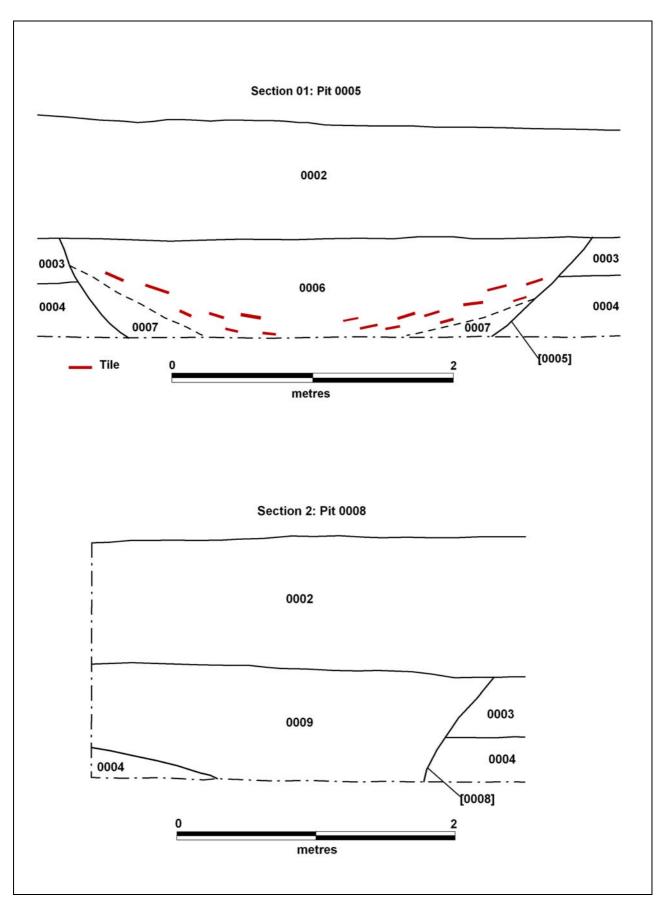


Figure 3. Detailed sections of pits 0005 and 0008

Summary of context information

The context numbers issued are summarised in the following table:

Context no.	Type	Description
0001	finds	Unstratified finds whole site (none collected)
0002	layer	Topsoil – humic dark brown clay loam
0003	layer	Subsoil – pale orange brown sandy clay
0004	layer	Natural – pale orange sandy clay
0005	pit cut	Large pit seen in section, diameter 3.7m, cuts layer 0003
0006	pit fill	Upper fill, mixed mid to dark grey brown sandy silty clay with frequent CBM fragments, mortar & charcoal flecks, with lense of tile across base
0007	pit fill	Lower fill, dark grey brown silty clay with similar inclusions to 0006
8000	pit cut	Large pit, seen in section in NW corner of site, diameter >2.8m, cuts layer 0003
0009	pit fill	Mid grey brown clay silty sand with moderate CBM, mortar & charcoal flecks

Table 1. Summary of contexts recorded on site

5. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

Introduction

Finds were retrieved from two pits (0005 and 0008) and their respective single fills, 0006 and 0009. A breakdown of the finds can be seen in Table 2.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Spotdate
	No	Wgt/g	No	Wgt/g	
0006	3	155	1	61	15th-L16th C (?c 15th C)
0009			1	79	LMed/Post-med
Total	3	155	2	140	

Table 2. Finds quantities

The Pottery

Three sherds of Late medieval/transitional ware (LMT), dated from 15th to late 16th century, were recorded in context 0006. The sherds display no abrasion and are all part of a cistern. The bung hole which would have been situated on the lower half of the vessel is complete. A similar style of vessel can be seen in the Jennings catalogue (1981, 69; fig 491). The sherds have a thin oxidised surface with a thick blue-grey core. The fabric is made up of dense ill sorted quartz (with sparse to rare calcite) and its style suggests the sherds may be dated to the 15th century.

Ceramic building materials (CBM)

Both of the pit fills contained single fragments of roof tile. They are high-fired, fully oxidised and medium sandy with ferrous inclusions (msfe); one also contains calcite (msc). The fragments are dated from the late medieval to post-medieval period.

Discussion of material evidence

This is a small group of finds whose principle function is the provision of dating evidence for activity on the site (the lack of abrasion on the pottery indicates that it has not gone through cycles of re-deposition). The site lies within the medieval centre of Lavenham, and Barn Street itself contains numerous post-medieval buildings, these finds are therefore not unexpected. The nearby site of The Grove on Lady St also provided evidence for late medieval/post-medieval activity (LVM 036).

6. Conclusions

The Old Manse, Barn Street has revealed evidence for late medieval or early post-medieval activity of the 15th or 16th centuries. Barn Street itself is likely to have been laid out in the late medieval period and it has been suggested that the grid of lanes represented by Prentice, Bolton, Lady, Barn and Shilling Streets are fossilised remnants of a medieval field system (Fradley 2007). The main axis of expansion of the town, coinciding with the growth of the wool dying industry, was along Water Street where the conduit was built from the 15th century onwards. This was likely to have stimulated the siting of new dye works, such as that identified at the Lavenham Press site (Meredith 2004).

Two large pits were seen in section along the northern edge of the site (pits 0005 and 0008). The pottery from pit 0005 belonged to the 15th or 16th century. The fragments recovered belonged to a cistern with a prominent bung hole. It is possible that this was the kind of vessel used in the dying industry of the period. The only other category of find recovered from the pits were fragments of roof tile. As a find type, these cannot be closely dated but are broadly found throughout the late medieval and post-medieval periods. The quantity of tile observed in pit 0005 might suggest demolition and/or rebuilding during the 15th century or later.

No other archaeological finds or features were identified although most of the footprint area for the new buildings had been excavated before the Archaeological Service had been notified. After such deep excavations along the north edge of the site (where up to 0.5m of natural had been removed) only the deepest of features (such as pits 0005 and 0008) would have survived in the base of the excavated strip. No other features could be seen in the area of the new footprint. The spoil from the excavation had been offsited and could not be checked for finds. No evidence for earlier periods was observed.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

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

Archive\Lavenham\LVM 077 Old Manse Barn St

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\

Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HQA-HQZ\HQN 30-38

Finds archive: returned to owner

8. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Jezz Meredith. Project management was undertaken by Rhodri Gardner who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The specialist finds report was produced by Andrew Fawcett.

The location and site plans were created by Linzi Everett and Jezz Meredith produced the section illustrations. The report was edited by Mark Sommers.

9. Bibliography

Fradley, M., 2007 Water Street, Lavenham, Suffolk: a desk-based assessment of a brick culvert. English Heritage research department report series no. 7/2007

Jennings, S., 1981, Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich, EAA Report No 13

Meredith, J., 2004, *An Archaeological Evaluation of Lavenham Press, Water Street, Lavenham LVM 045*, SCCAS report no. 2004/65



Appendix 1. Brief and specification

The Archaeological Service

Economy, Skills and Environment 9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1RX

Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording

AT

THE OLD MANSE, BARN STREET, LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Babergh District Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: B/12/00478/FUL

SHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be arranged

GRID REFERENCE: TL 96 491

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Erection of an extension and associated

works

AREA: small

CURRENT LAND USE: Residential

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Abby Antrobus

Assistant Archaeological Officer

Conservation Team
Tel.: 01284 741231

E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 22 June 2012

Summary

1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition relating to archaeological investigation:

'No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'

1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.

- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 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.

Archaeological Background

2.1 The proposed development lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for the medieval town of Lavenham in the County Historic Environment Record (LWM 053). Roman and medieval finds have been recorded nearby (LVM 018 and LVM 036).

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Requirement for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks.
- 4.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 4.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.

- 4.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 4.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.2 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER 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.
- An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).
- 6.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE*, must be provided. 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 and 24, 1997, 2000 and 2011).
- 6.7 An unbound hardcopy of the 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. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.
- 6.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER.
- 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. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded where positive results have been obtained.
- 6.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.11 When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: grid ref., parish, address, planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development, depth of ground disturbance in each area, depth of topsoil and its profile over natural in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.
- 6.12 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

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.

The Institute for 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.

Notes

The Institute of Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

Appendix 2. OASIS summary

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-135723

Project details

Project name LVM 077 The Old Manse, Barn St, Lavenham

Short description of the project

Archaeological monitoring visits were made to The Old Manse, Barn Street, Lavenham, on the 13th of August and the 12th of September 2012. Two large pits were observed in the excavated northern section of the site. Pottery recovered from one of these features was of likely 15th or 16th century date. The pottery belonged to a cistern with a bung hole and was probably used to store water or other fluids, possibly associated with the wool dying industry. Lavenham expanded after the 15th century when a culvert was built along Water Street and wool dying works were developed along its length. Barn Street was probably laid out during this period, part of a grid of streets formed with Water Street at its base. Considerable quantities of roof tile observed in the 15th/16th century pits might suggest demolition and/or construction of buildings as part of the expansion of the town during this important industrial

period.

Project dates Start: 13-08-2012 End: 12-09-2012

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference

codes

LVM 077 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes

B/12/00478/FUL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds TILE Post Medieval Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority – PPS

Project location

Country England

Site location SUFFOLK BABERGH LAVENHAM LVM 077, The Old Manse, Barn St

Study area 120.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 9168 4918 52 0 52 06 25 N 000 47 57 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Abby Antrobus

Project director/manager Rhodri Gardner

Project supervisor Jezz Meredith

Type of sponsor/funding

body

Land owner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Landowner
Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Suffolk County SMR

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County SMR
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","other"

Paper Media available "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Moitoring Report: The Old Manse, Barn St, Lavenham

Author(s)/Editor(s) Meredith, J.

Other bibliographic details SCCAS rpt no 2012/154

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher SCCAS

Place of issue or publication

ue or Ipswich

Description Extended monitoring report with historical context, plans and section

drawings

Entered by Jezz Meredith (jezz.meredith@suffolk.gov.uk)

Entered on 17 October 2012



Archaeological services Field Projects Team

Delivering a full range of archaeological services

- · Desk-based assessments and advice
- Site investigation
- Outreach and educational resources
- Historic Building Recording
- Environmental processing
- Finds analysis and photography
- Graphics design and illustration

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