

# Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2006/051

SMR –ORF 115

Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-13808 (1)

The Cottage, Broad Street, Orford

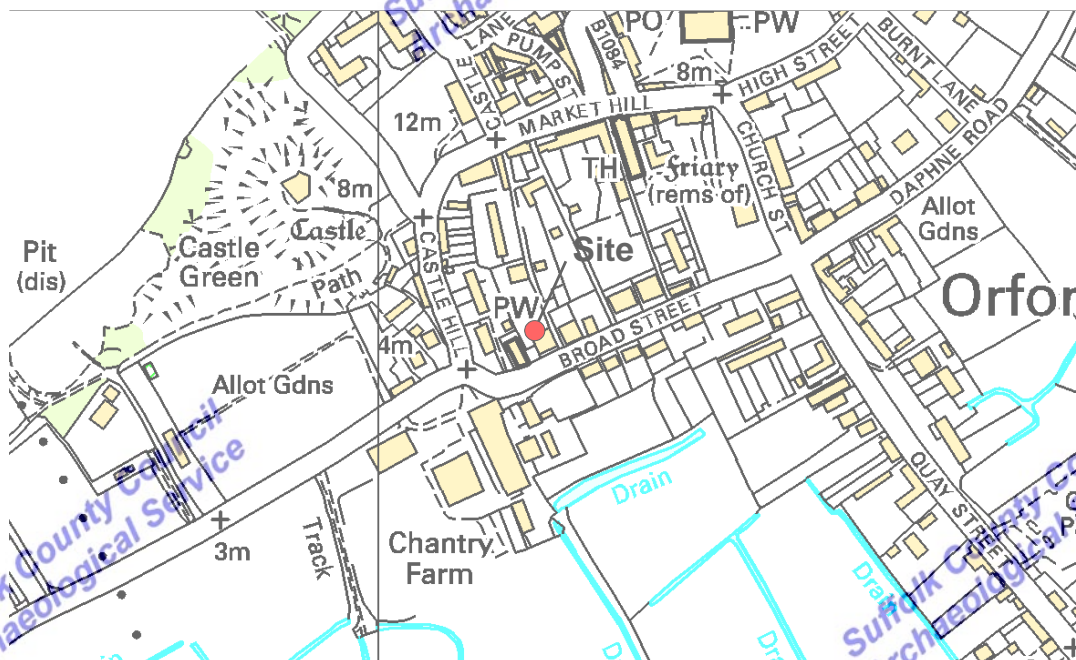
Robert Atfield: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Report)

Keith Wade: Senior Archaeological Officer (Conservation Team) (Brief and Spec.)

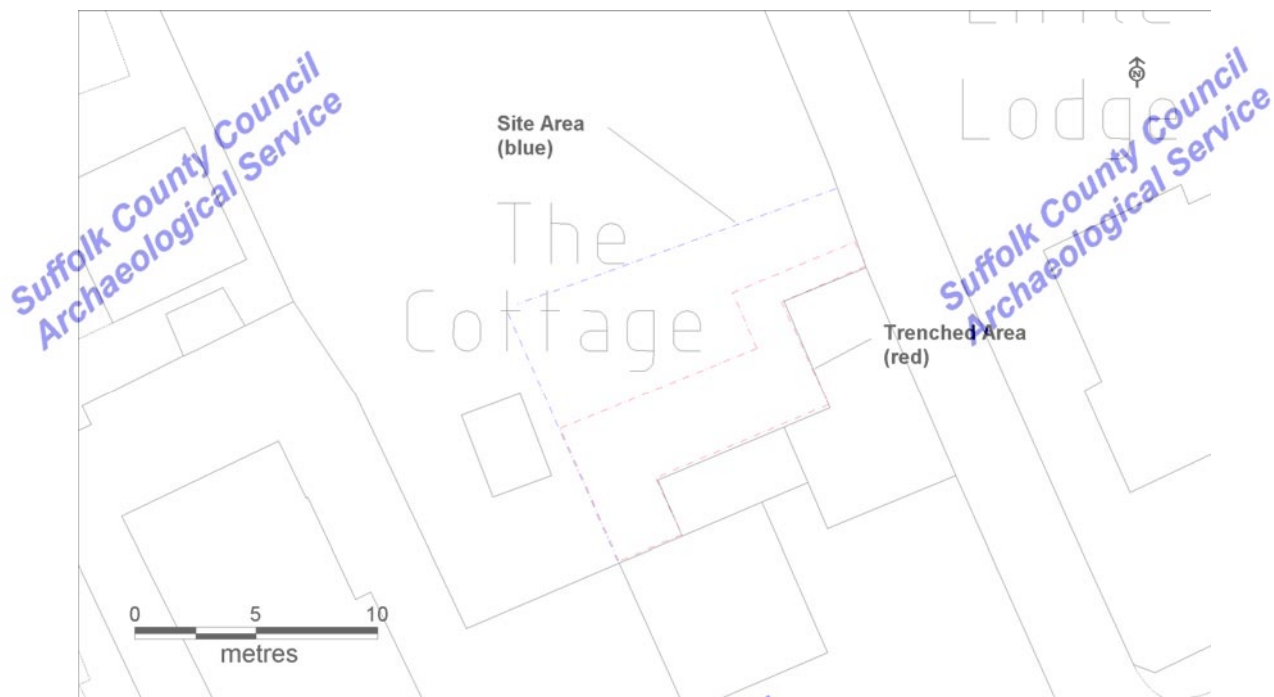
John Newman: Field Officer/Contracts Manager

## Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out as a condition of planning application (C/05/1826) at the above address centred on TM 4210 4977. Funding for the monitoring is to be provided by the developers Mr and Mrs J.R. King. The proposed development consists of a small extension to the rear of the property including the demolition and rebuilding of two existing single storey structures. The area of ground disturbance measured approximately 21m.x 12m.. Within this area, a series of strip foundations were dug, along with more general ground lowering (see plan overleaf).



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## Introduction

A single visit was made to the site on the afternoon of 31<sup>st</sup> March when it was possible to examine most of the strip foundation trenches and also the surrounding area of lowered ground. A large quantity of upcast soil also remained on site to enable a search for any datable finds.

The site lies within the area of the medieval small town of Orford, defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance. Excavations in 2001 on the corner of Castle Hill and Broad Street revealed extensive medieval occupation evidence, including ovens (Everett: 2001)(Wade: 2005). At the other end of Broad Street lie the remains of an Augustinian friary founded in 1295. The remains of substantial walls which are thought to be part of the friary complex were located at 71 Broad Street in 2000 and 2003 (Meredith: 2000; Sommers: 2003).

## Methodology

The site area was recorded using a sketch plan, which enabled the extent of the ground disturbance and localised soil profiles to be identified. The area marked in red on the site plan (overleaf) outlines the extent of general ground lowering. Within this area a number of deeper strip foundation trenches were also dug. This work was carried out using a mini-digger equipped with a 0.3m. toothed bucket. A close examination of the trench sides, bases and general area of lowered ground was made along with the upcast soil.

## Conclusion

The general ground lowering operation removed soil to a depth of between 0.50-0.60m. which failed to reveal any observable archaeological features. This is because the area to the rear of the cottage appears to have been substantially raised through the dumping of soil within relatively recent times. The topsoil was between 0.20-0.30m. in depth and consisted of mid-brown to grey sandy garden loam. Below this was another sandy loam deposit, slightly darker in tone, which ranged between 0.40-0.50m. in depth. This layer contained pockets of ash and coal residue along with very fragmented nineteenth and twentieth century domestic ceramic materials. The strip foundation trenches ranged in depth from between 0.80-0.90m., but only just managed to cut through the heavily disturbed upper layers. The deepest sections of trench began to expose probable natural deposits of orange sand, although even this is far from certain. The spoil heaps, as would perhaps be expected, reflected what was observed within the trench area and contained only late finds material. It remains possible that similar features to those found within the adjacent site towards the south-west may lie beneath the made up ground of the cottage; however, this cannot be known due to the limited extent to which the deep upper deposits were removed on this site.

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Archaeological Service  
Suffolk County Council  
April 2006

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## References

- Everett, L. 2001 'Land at Castle Hill, Orford, Archaeological Excavation Report No. 2001/32' SCCAS, Ipswich.
- Meredith, J., 2000 '71 Broad Street, Orford: Archaeological Evaluation Report No. 2000/52' SCCAS, Ipswich.
- Sommers, M., 2003 'No. 71, Broad Street, Orford: Archaeological Monitoring Report No. 2003/67' SCCAS, Ipswich.
- Wade, K., 2005 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring: The Cottage, Broad Street, Orford'. SCCAS, Bury St Edmunds.