

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2006/101

SMR: BAW 156

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Laurel House, 14 The Street, Bawdsey

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring was required as part of planning application C/06/0145/FUL. The development proposal consists of an additional small extension south of the existing dwelling and a cart-lodge, centred on TM 3461 4039. A single visit was made to the site on 11th April 2006. Archaeological monitoring is to be funded by Mr. R.J. Baker. Ground disturbance consisted of digging footing trenches within an area, which measured around thirty square metres, the total length of the footing trenches was around 20m. The trench width averaged 0.65m. with variable depths between 1.0-1.20m. A much shallower trench, of around 0.50m. in depth was located to the rear of the house. A substantial quantity of the upcast soil was available for inspection, but no datable finds were found which could potentially have originated before the nineteenth century. The footing trenches also failed to reveal any archaeological features, other than some ground disturbance associated with a post-medieval well located to the south-west of the existing house.

Introduction

The site is located within an area which has previously produced a group of fifteenth to seventeenth century objects to the south (BAW 016), while to the west a large pottery scatter is recorded (BAW 024). It is suggested that the land parcel is on a medieval routeway within the early settlement core and that ground disturbance is likely to damage these archaeological deposits. The principle objective of the monitoring was therefore to try and identify whether early roadside settlement is identifiable at the site (Carr: 2006).

Methodology

A plan of the footings was prepared on site to enable the location of the trenches along with any features and specific soil variations to be plotted. The soil profile was generally consistent within all of the sections revealed by the footings, measurements were taken at two positions along the trench run (indicated overleaf). A substantial amount of upcast soil was examined for archaeological finds along with all of the

trench sides. The only feature which was observed within the footings, was an area of disturbed ground associated with a post-medieval well to the west of the main footings (see plan overleaf). This feature was recorded using a sketched plan and section.

Conclusion

The soil profiles are perhaps typical of a rural garden site, at position 1 (see plan overleaf) the topsoil consisted of a dark brown sandy loam 0.35m. deep above subsoil which was orange-brown sand 0.90m.+ in depth. At position 2 similar topsoil had a depth of 0.40m. overlying orange-brown sandy subsoil to a depth of 0.90m. The opposite side of the trench revealed an area of deep ground disturbance which is probably associated with the digging of a post medieval well. The well had been located by the developer, before the footings were dug, slightly further to the west. In section, this feature appeared as a very steep sided depression nearly the full depth of the trench (1.30m.) and around 1.20m. wide. The feature had a dark sandy loam fill, similar to the garden topsoil. Nineteenth century pottery was located approximately 0.60m. down within the fill of this feature.

The failure to locate any early features or dating material must not be considered to be conclusive when considering this site. Given the small proportion of the site which was exposed, it is not possible to discount the existence of early settlement evidence.

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References

Carr, R.D. 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring: Laurel House, 14 The Street, Bawdsey' SCCAS, Bury St Edmunds.

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