

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Monitoring Report

Crown Cottages, 43 South Entrance, Saxmundham
(Planning Application C/05/2208/FUL)

SMR- SXM 018

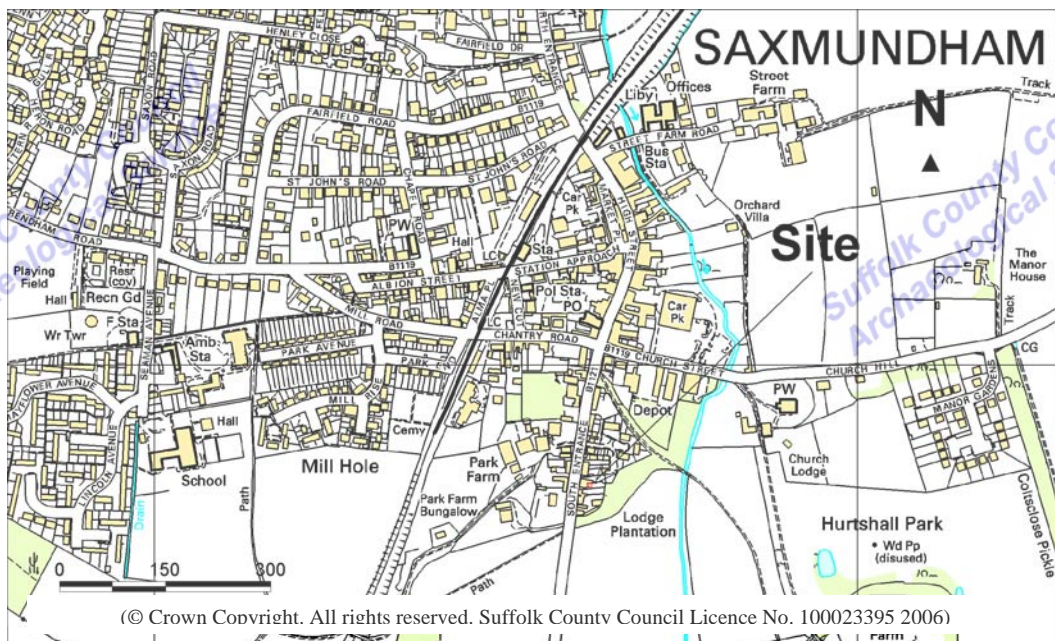
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Robert Atfield: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team (Report)
Keith Wade: SCCAS Conservation Team (Brief and Specification)
John Newman: Field Officer/Contracts Manager

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Crown Cottages, 43 South Entrance, Saxmundham as a condition of planning application C/05/2208/FUL; the monitoring is funded by Miss C. Seal. The site is centred on TM 3862 6283 where a small extension to the rear of the existing dwelling is to be constructed. This entailed the demolition of an existing single storey attached structure, ground clearance, levelling and the provision of strip foundations for the new extension. A single visit was made to the site on the afternoon of the 7th June 2006. It was possible to examine all of the cleared and levelled ground, which had also been reduced by 0.6metres. A quantity of the upcast soil was also available for inspection. However, in spite of a thorough examination of all deposits, under the full co-operation of the landowners and contractors, the monitoring failed to produce any evidence of archaeological features or finds.



Introduction

The Brief and Specification for the archaeological monitoring was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team and was dated the 21st April 2006. Crown Cottages fall within an area of archaeological importance in relation to the medieval small town of Saxmundham. The area is defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance. The main objective of the monitoring process was to attempt to locate evidence for the medieval occupation of the site. (Wade 2006) The area of ground disturbance was located immediately to the rear (east) of the existing cottage. Covering around thirty five square metres, it measured 6.40m. north to south by 5.10m. east to west (see site configuration below). The whole of this area had been lowered by around 0.60m. when the monitoring visit was made.



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Methodology

The site area was recorded using a sketch plan, which enabled the extent of the ground disturbance, localised soil profiles and any features to be plotted and identified. All faces of the exposed edge of site sections were examined after a small amount of hand cleaning was carried out. A search of the area of disturbed ground and also a large quantity of the upcast soil was also made in order to retrieve any available datable archaeological finds.

Conclusion

This site had seen extensive and deep ground disturbance, probably during the nineteenth century. The entire area of lowered ground contained over 0.60m. of re-deposited topsoil or 'garden soil'. The deposit contained few stones and consisted of mid-dark brown loamy silty sand, sticky in consistency and contained large quantities

of relatively modern building material. Inclusions consisted of large red brick rubble, tile, porcelain, glass and ferrous metal debris. A large proportion of the soil volume probably represented nineteenth domestic refuse and also the remains of lightly constructed domestic or small-scale industrial yard structures. It was not possible to locate any specific features within the homogeneous deposit. It was not considered advantageous to make a return monitoring visit in order to view the footings due to the total lack of archaeological features or finds within the upper 0.60m. of the deposit.

Robert Atfield
Archaeological Service
Suffolk County Council
June 2006

References

Wade, K., 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring: Crown Cottages, 43 South Entrance, Saxmundham', SCCAS Conservation Team, Bury St Edmunds.