

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Monitoring Report

The Anchor Hotel, The Street, Walberswick
(Planning Application C/05/2312/FUL)

SMR- WLB 066

SCCAS Report No. 2006/135

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the Anchor Hotel, Walberswick as a condition of planning application C/05/2312/FUL; the monitoring is funded by Boudica Inns Limited. The site is centred on TM 4963 7467 where a small extension to the rear of the existing building is to be constructed. This entails digging around twenty linear metres of building footings along with some ground levelling. A single visit was made to the site on the afternoon of 19th June 2006. It was possible to examine most of the open trenches and levelled ground in bright dry conditions. A quantity of the upcast soil was also available for inspection. However, in spite of a thorough examination of all deposits with the full co-operation of the landowners and contractors the monitoring produced little evidence of archaeological features or finds.

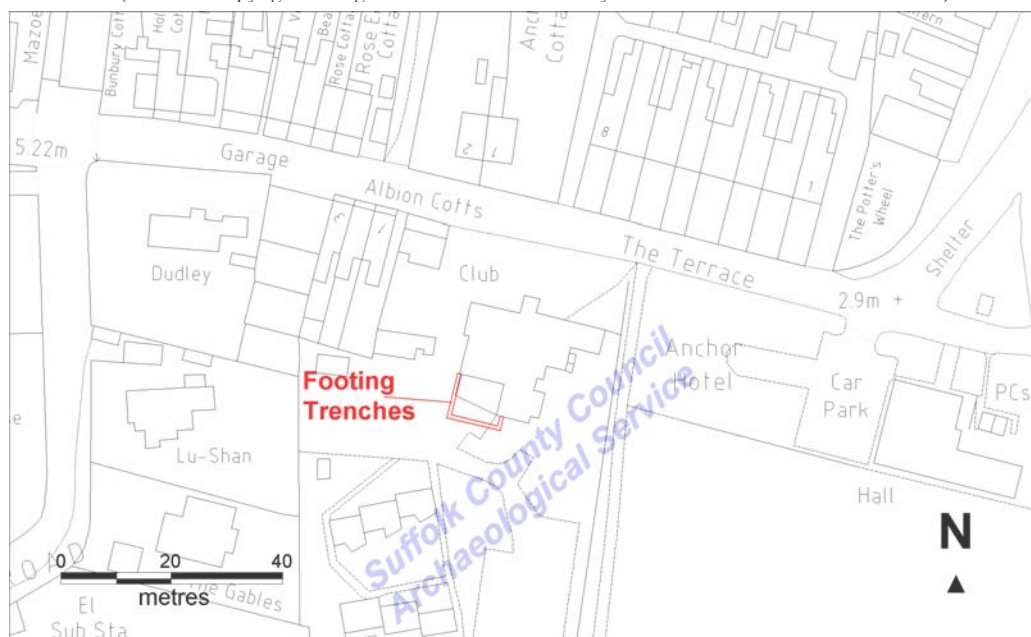
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Introduction

The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was designed and issued by Keith Wade of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (dated 14-04-2006) (Wade 2006). The proposal location lies within an area of archaeological interest in relation to the medieval village of Walberswick as defined by the County Sites and Monuments Record. Therefore, the main objective of the monitoring relates to the potential for the site to provide evidence of medieval occupation.

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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 footing trenches were examined after a small amount of hand cleaning was carried out. Details of soils and the depths of the deposits were recorded at a number of locations along the length of the trenches. A search of the trenches and also a quantity of the upcast soil was carried out in order to retrieve any available dating material.

Conclusion

The footing trenches were all approximately 0.60-0.70metres in width and 1.55-1.60m. in depth. They were dug using a tracked 360° mini-digger fitted with a 0.50m. toothed bucket. The north to south length of trench had already been filled with concrete due to rapidly collapsing trench faces in this area. The site had clearly been heavily disturbed during previous, relatively recent, adaptations to probable yard areas and outhouses. The south-east corner had also been made up and covered by modern patio foundations and slabs. The east to west run of the trench ran through very deeply disturbed deposits which at first appeared to consist of a wide east-west linear

feature, but are perhaps more likely a series of eighteenth and nineteenth century rubbish pits. These deposits reached a depth of up to 1.0metre below the modern yard and car park surfaces. They consisted of loamy dark brown silty sand with frequent fragments of eighteenth to nineteenth century ceramic domestic wares, glass and building material. The extent, or profiles of these features and deposits could not be clearly discerned against the general background of ground disturbance. There is a very slight possibility that these deposits may represent the filling of an earlier boundary ditch in order to claim more yard area, as the deepest area of the deposits does closely correspond to the rear property lines of neighbouring plots. Probable natural deposits were not encountered until a depth of 1.25-1.30m. (below the present car park surface) was reached. These deposits were of yellow-orange sand with very few stones. No archaeological features or finds were observed or retrieved during this monitoring visit.

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June 2006

References

Wade, K. 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring: The Anchor Hotel, The Street, Walberswick', SCCAS Conservation Team, Bury St Edmunds.