

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

78 and 80 HIGH STREET NEWMARKET NKT 020

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS
Planning Application No's. F2003/0937 AND F/2003/0868
NGR: TL 6436 6340
OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-17098

Funded by: Carolgate Friendly Society

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/088

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of ground reductions at 78 and 80 High Street Newmarket did not expose any features of medieval or earlier origin. Footing and site strip excavations failed to penetrate deposits which were of 19th and 20th century date.

Introduction

Extensions and refurbishment to 78 and 80, High Street, Newmarket were monitored during August 2006. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on applications F/2003/0937 and F/2003/0868. The work was funded by Carolgate Friendly Society. The site is located in the centre of Newmarket at c.27m OD. Interest is generated by its location close to the centre of the medieval settlement.

Methodology and Results

The site was visited on the 2nd and 4th of August 2006 following notification from the builders. Both sites were gutted and the wide raft footings were excavated to the rear of 78 High Street. A north south trench across the concrete floor of 80 High Street was also exposed. It was agreed with the builder to excavate a test trench across the rear of 80 High Street. Excavations to maximum depth are highlighted in green on Figure 1.

The trenches within property 78 High Street and the trench within 80 High Street were examined revealing disturbed ground with footings and fills thought to be 19th century or later in date. Loose rubble beneath No. 80 High Street is suggested to be the fill of a cellar. In neither trench was there any evidence of natural subsoil.

In the light of the unpromising evidence exposed it was agreed with the building contractor to excavate a test trench to the rear of 80 High Street. This was carried out to the depth of the raft footings (Fig.1). Beneath modern surface debris and a shallow brick footing, that ran east-west across the rear of the standing building, was a homogeneous layer of, powdery, grey silt/sand. Other soil disturbances in the vicinity, although not to the depth of the trial trench support the suggestion that this material was spread beneath much of the ground to the rear of No. 80 High Street.

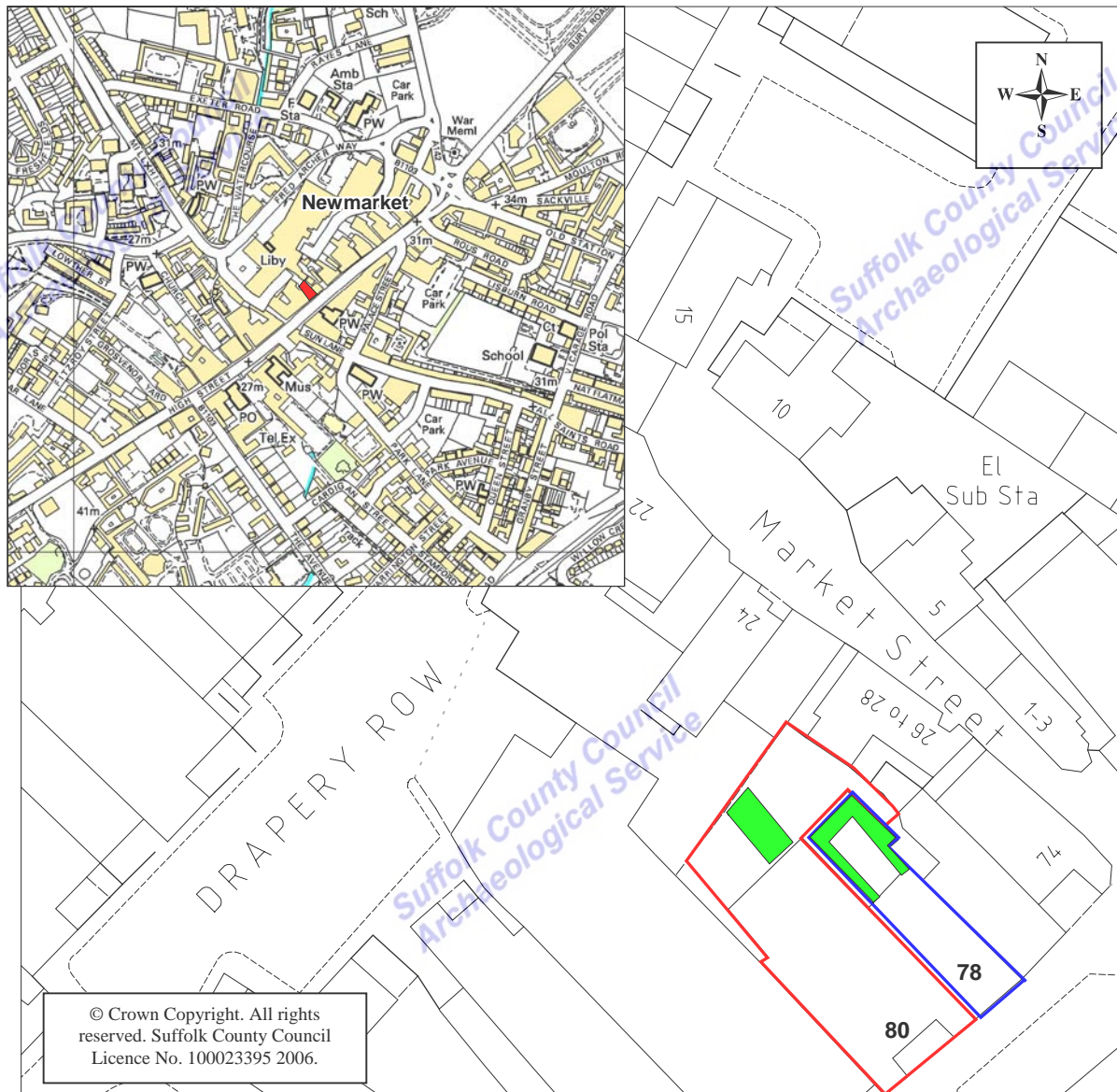


Figure 1. Site location plan

Discussion

Groundworks associated with this refurbishment and extension did not expose any natural soils or layers thought to date from before the 19th century. There is no evidence from which to judge whether earlier layers exist or existed. The grey layer recovered at the rear of No. 80 High Street has not been identified but it may be light industrial waste from previous land use. The county maps dating back to the 1880's show this area to be built up and it is uncertain whether this material was earlier than the buildings, as it remains undated. Running parallel behind High Street is Drapery Row, and it may be that it is a waste product from cloth preparation. An historical search of rentals might shed further light on this although it is beyond the scope of this report.

Andrew Tester
 Senior Project Officer
 Field Team
 Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

August 2006