

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

The Old Forge, St James' Street, Dunwich

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: C/06/0973

National Grid Reference: TM 4760 7058

Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: DUN 091

Clare Good, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, October 2006

SCCAS Report Number: 2006/209

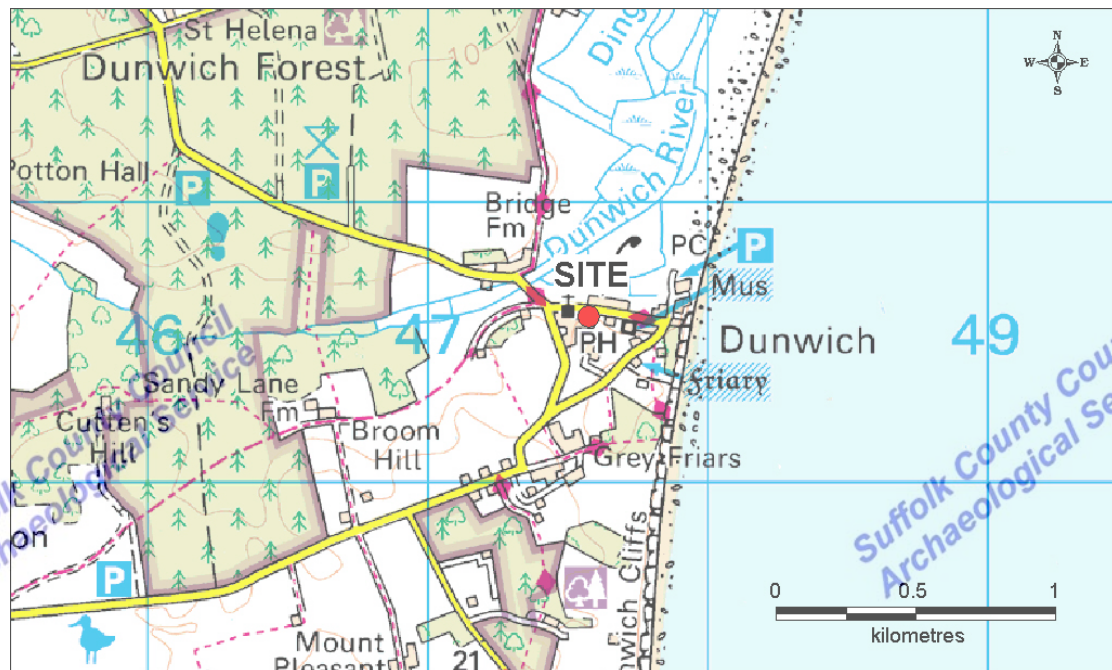
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Summary

The construction of three small-scale extensions to The Old Forge, St James' Street, Dunwich (TM 4760 7058, DUN 091), required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site lies within the medieval town of Dunwich. The extension required footings that were inspected during and after excavation. No archaeological features were revealed during the monitoring.

Introduction

Planning consent for the construction of three small-scale extensions to The Old Forge, St James' Street, Dunwich, required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. Strip foundations were hand-dug for the extensions, and were monitored during and after excavation. The site lies within the medieval town of Dunwich, on its western outskirts and The Old Forge itself is thought to date from early 1800's. Mr and Mrs Abell funded the work.



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Figure 1: Site location

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Keith Wade of the Conservation Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), who requested a series of monitoring visits during and after the excavation of the foundation trenches. This was to observe the trenches and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.

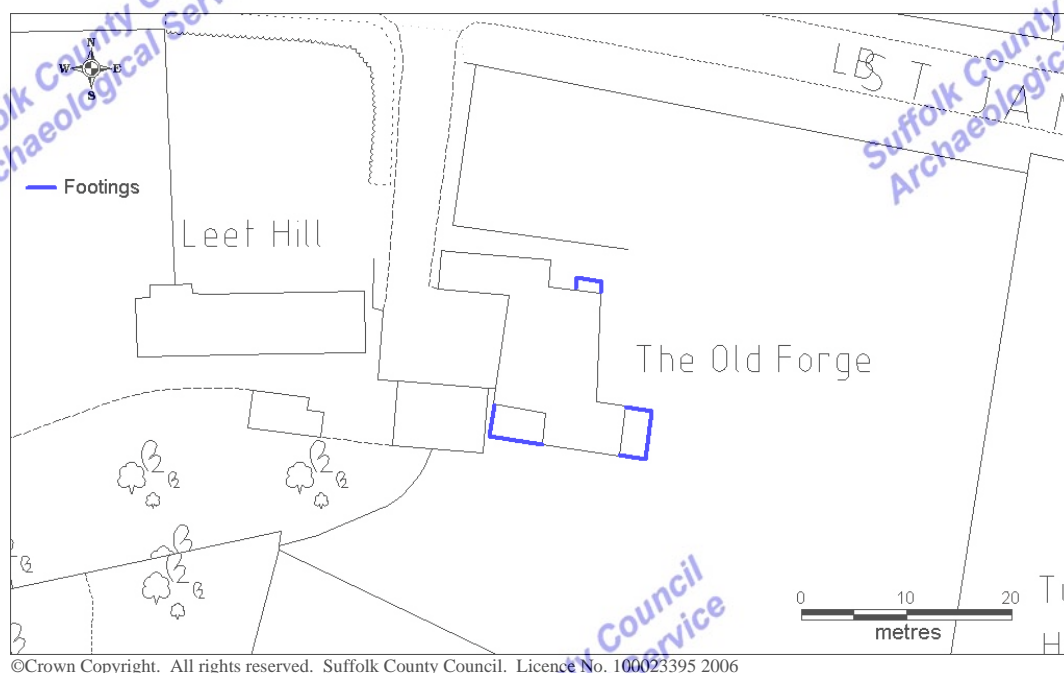


Figure 2: Location of footings

Results

The majority of the footings were seen during and after excavation. They were excavated within the garden of the property, and were all previously beneath concrete slabs.

The extension to the north of the property, for a bay window, was c.1m deep. It was dug through c.1m of made up ground, a dark brown strong smelling wet clay sand mixed with brick rubble towards the surface. A single fragment of unstratified pottery was recovered from this footing. It is a large fragment from a post-medieval Glazed red earthenware jar, dating from the 16th-18th century (Richenda Goffin, Pers. Comm.)

The extension to the east, for an additional room, was also c.1m deep. The footing was fairly heavily disturbed with modern drainage pipes, brick rubble and such like for c0.8m, which lay on a bright yellow natural sand. Sherds of 20th century pottery and glass fragments were found throughout the upper part of this footing.

The extension to the south, for a room extension, was also c.1m deep. Again, there was heavy disturbance including a former brick wall and probable brick dump for c.0.5m, which also lay on a bright yellow natural sand.

Despite the clean excavation of the footings, no archaeological features were found within the trenches. The sherd of pottery dates from around the earliest phase of the Old Forge but was found unstratified within the made up ground.