

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Archaeological Monitoring Report

2 Manor Close, Walberswick
(Planning Application C/1518/FUL)

SMR- WLB 068

SCCAS Report No. 2006/224

Oasis ID. No. suffolkc1-22225

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 2 Manor Close, Walberswick as a condition of planning application C/1518/FUL. The monitoring is funded by Mrs Prudence Ford-Crush. The site is centred on TM 1468 4566 where a small extension to the rear of the existing dwelling is to be constructed. This entails digging around 14.30 linear metres of building footings along with slight ground levelling. A single visit was made to the site during early afternoon, on December 13th 2006. During the visit, it was possible to examine all of the open trenches, and some additional disturbed ground in bright dry conditions. A quantity of the upcast soil was also available for inspection. A thorough examination of all the deposits was made under the full co-operation of the landowners and contractors. The monitoring produced only very limited evidence of archaeological features and no finds.

Site Location



Site Location in relation to existing Sites and Monuments Records (red)



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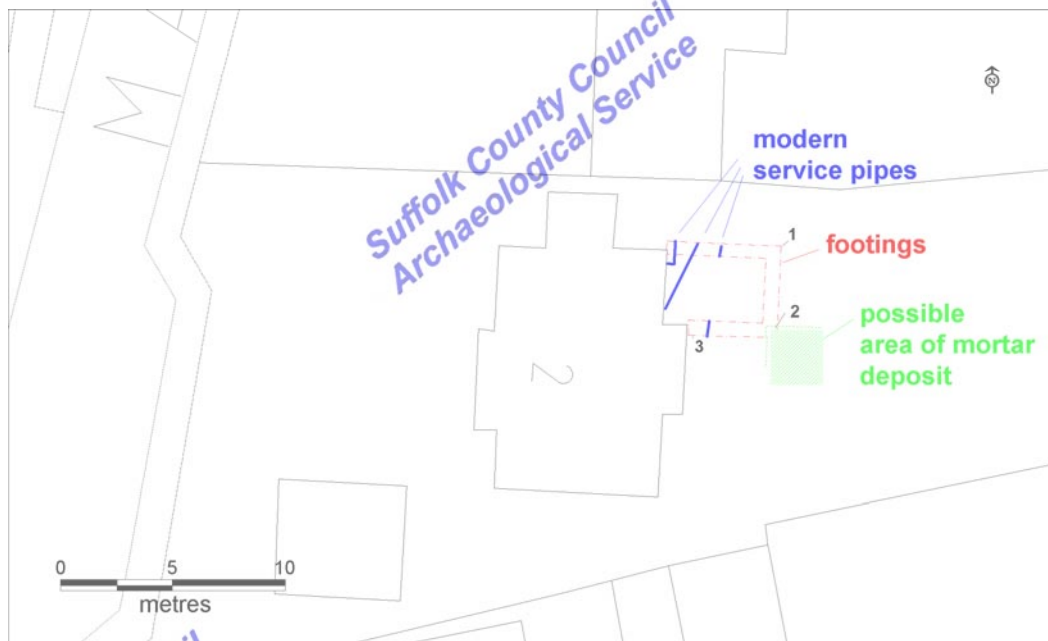
Introduction

Previous archaeological investigations in Walberswick have revealed both medieval and prehistoric (WLB 024) remains in the vicinity of Manor Close. Although considerable evidence of medieval occupation has been recorded, the extent of the settlement is still uncertain. This is the key interest in the location, as stated by the Archaeological Brief and Specification for monitoring of the groundworks at 2 Manor Close. The Brief and Specification was produced by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (dated 9-10-2006)(Wade 2006). The medieval settlement area clearly extended a considerable distance to the west, with St Andrew's Church around 400m. west of the site and the recorded location of a medieval cross, further west, constructed in 1470 at the road junction (Birch 2004:391). Sixteenth century buildings still remain along the north side of The Street including Thorpe View and The Old Corner House and evidence of extensive medieval occupation has been found to the south. In 2003, monitoring of a small extension to a house called 'Lilliput' just south of the church in Lodge Lane (WLB 061), produced a superb assemblage of four near complete imported pots and other medieval sherds dating from between the 12th to 15th centuries. The dark soil of the midden deposits, which contained the pottery, were up to 1.3m. deep and also produced iron objects, animal bone and shellfish remains. The extensive deposits suggest that this area may represent the core of the medieval settlement (Meredith 2003). The medieval common which still remains to the north-west of Manor Close also indicates the potential extent of the settlement during this period (Birch 2004:390).

Methodology

The footing trenches were excavated using a mechanical 360° tracked mini-digger with a 0.30m wide toothed bucket, supplemented with additional hand digging. A measured sketch plan was produced at the beginning of the site visit, in order to accurately record the location and extent of the footing trenches along with other areas of ground disturbance. Three localised soil profiles were also recorded within the trench run with notes of deposit depths and soil descriptions. A small amount of hand cleaning was carried out in order to define the deposits. Digital photographs were taken from all aspects of the trenched area. An examination of all of the trench faces and base of the excavation was made in order to locate any archaeological features or datable finds. A small quantity of upcast soil was also examined for any finds. The extreme edge of a possible feature was observed in the south-east corner of the footing trenches and was recorded using section sketches and digital photography.

Trench Configuration and soil profile Recording locations



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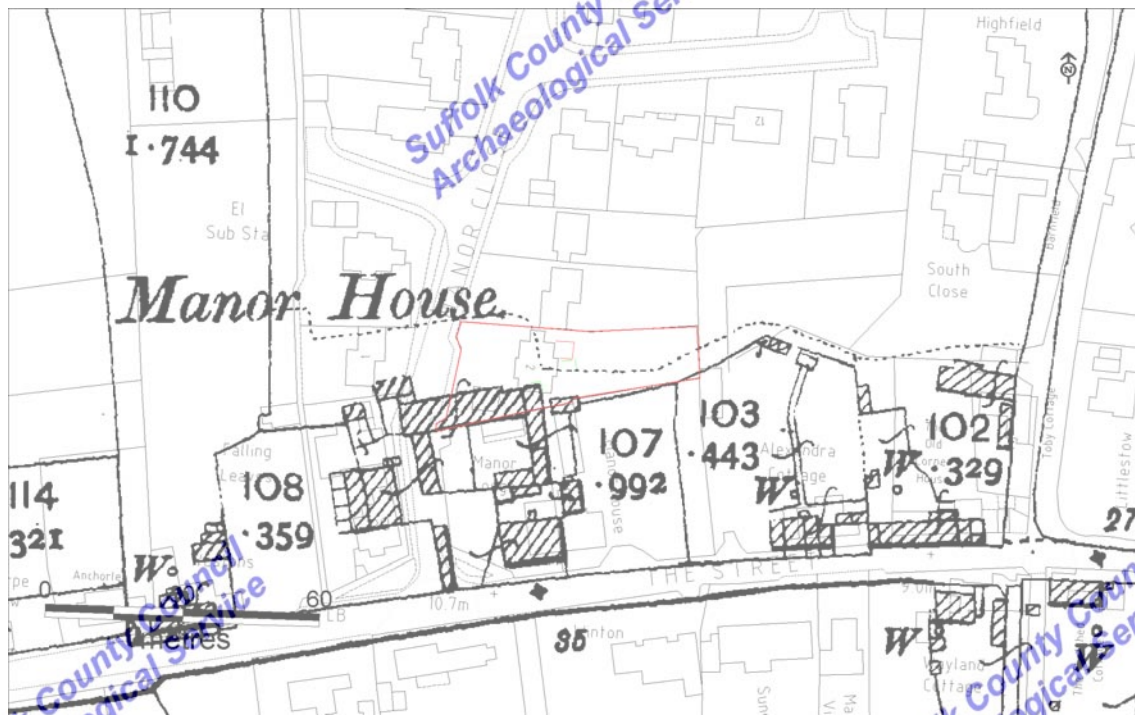
Results

The dimensions of the footings were generally consistent in terms of width, measuring on average around 0.70m.; depth varied from between 1.00-1.40m.. The topsoil was 0.55m. deep at Location 1. and 0.35m. at Location 2. (see above) and consisted of sandy garden loam, mid grey-brown in colour, with regular sub-rounded pebbles (10-20mm). The subsoil was 0.30m. deep at Location 1., 0.25m. at 2. and was of mixed dark brown to very dark brown virtually stone free silty sand; the colour variations are probably due to iron content. The natural drift deposits were revealed to a depth of 0.55m. at Location 1.,

0.50m. at Location 2. and were of yellow to orange horizontally banded sands and gravels with increasing clay content towards the base of the trenches.

The deposits within the central and western areas of the trenches were heavily disturbed by modern service pipes, and were also lowered by 0.20m.; but the south-east corner of the footings marginally revealed a possible feature. At a depth of 0.35m. below the present lawn surface was a thin spread of small pebbles and red brick fragments with adhering lime mortar, up to 0.25m. deep. The deposit appeared to lie within a shallow hollow, but only the extreme edge of this feature was revealed. No datable finds could be found and so the feature cannot be securely dated. However, it may be possible that the deposit represents the edge of a yard or floor surface or possibly demolition debris resulting from the reclamation of stone building materials. The early Ordnance Survey maps indicate that the north-east corner of Manor House once closely corresponded with the location of this feature, especially if the error in mapping alignment is taken into account. No other features or finds were observed during the monitoring.

1890 Ordnance Survey (unrectified) Relative to Site Area



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Edge of Possible Feature in South East corner



General View of the site (looking south-east)



References

Birch, M. 2004 *Suffolk's Ancient Sites and Historic Places*, Castell, Mendlesham, Suffolk.

English Heritage, 2006 'Listed Buildings Online' <http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk>

Meredith, J., 2003 'Archaeological Monitoring Report: 'Lilliput', Lodge Road, Walberswick (WLB 061)' SCCAS Report No. 2003/176, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team, Ipswich.

Wade, K., 2006 'Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring: 2 Manor Close, Walberswick' Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, Bury St Edmunds.

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