

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

2 Benton Street, Hadleigh

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: B/06/01876

National Grid Reference: TM 0281 4210

Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: HAD 081

Clare Good, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, March 2007

SCCAS Report Number: 2007/046

Oasis ID. No. - suffolkc1-24076

Summary

The construction of a garage to the rear of 2 Benton Street, Hadleigh (TM 0281 4210, HAD 081), required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site lies within Hadleigh town, a settlement of medieval origin. The new garage required a topsoil strip prior to excavation of footings, both of which were inspected after excavation. A probable 18th/19th century oven was revealed during the topsoil strip but with the exception of this, no archaeological finds or features were revealed during the monitoring.

Introduction

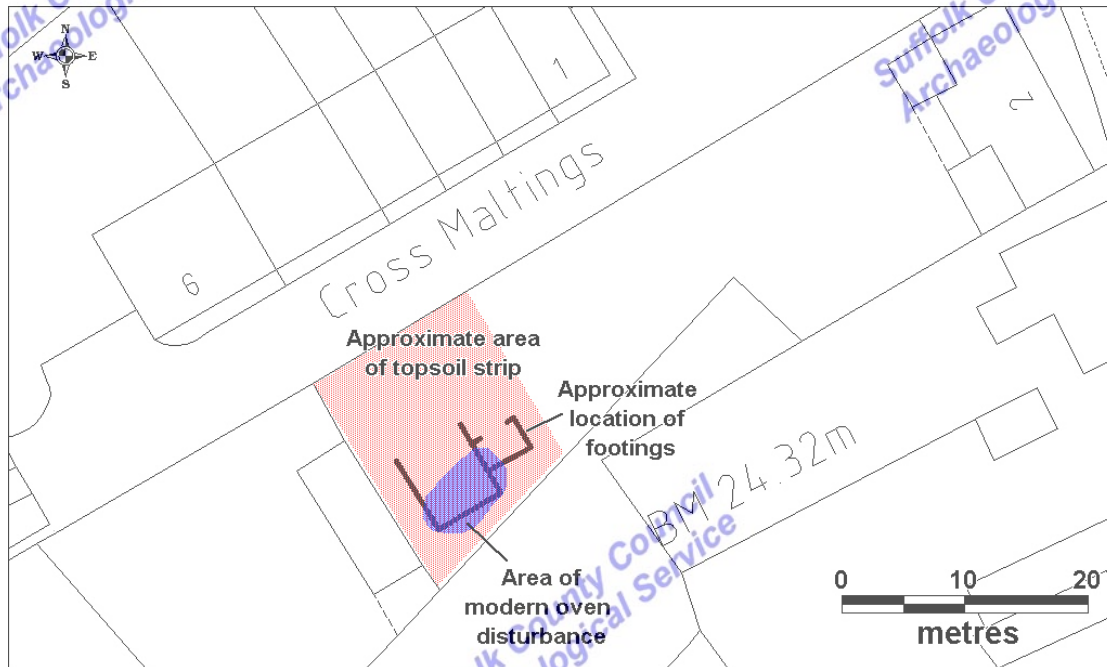
Planning consent for the construction of a new garage to the rear of 2 Benton Street required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The development required an area to be stripped to lay hard standing for a driveway, and footings to be excavated for the garage. The site is within an area of the medieval settlement of Hadleigh. Roger Balmer Design commissioned the project, on behalf of their clients, Mr and Mrs Hunt.



©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2006

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 monitoring visit during the excavation of the stripped area, and one after the excavation of the footing trenches. This was to observe the stripped area, trenches and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.



©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2006

Figure 2: Location of footings and stripped area

Results

Three visits were made to the site on 15th, 16th and 27th of February, 2007.

The northern edge of the site was stripped of topsoil to lay hard standing for a driveway, dug to a depth of c. 0.55m at the east, rising to 0.2m in the west. The excavation reached natural sand in places, a mid orange brown gravelly sand, but otherwise was through topsoil, a dark brown loam. No archaeological finds or features were noted during this topsoil strip to the north.

To the south of the site the topsoil was also stripped, revealing a probable 18th/19th century oven (Figures 3-6). This was a large brick structure, totally beneath the topsoil with no evidence of it on the surface. The form of the bricks suggest a date of 18th-19th century and its function is unknown. Approximately 5.7m (south-west – north-east) by 1.75m (south-east - north-west) of it was revealed and it is likely that it was slightly larger than this as the south-western end was not fully uncovered. It was entirely of red brick construction with a steel door on a central arched opening accessed at the base of three steps and it seems likely that the structure was subterranean in order to decrease heat loss. The area where the heat source would have been was destroyed meaning no evidence of its purpose or how it functioned was found within the structure, and it is possible it is somehow related to the maltings, just across the driveway. It was, in parts, in a reasonable state of repair but will be destroyed during the building process. No further finds or features were found within or near this oven.

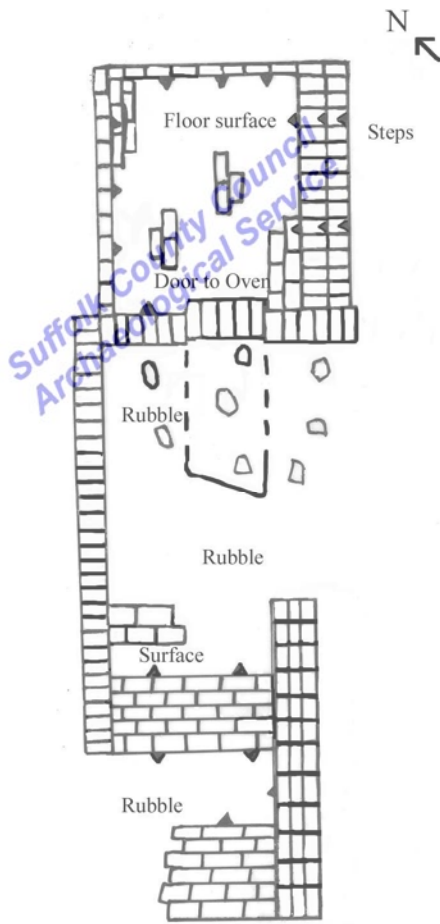


Figure 3: Sketch plan of oven, scale 1:50



Figure 4: Oven after excavation



Figure 5: Entrance to oven, door removed



Figure 6: Oven viewed from opposite end

After the oven was removed, the footings were excavated. They were excavated to a depth of c.1.1m, and consisted of c.0.3m of topsoil, a dark brown loam; c.0.1m of subsoil, a dark orange brown clayey sand, and the remainder was natural subsoil, a mid orange brown gravelly sand. Both the stripped area and the footings were observed after excavation and the upcast soil was retained on site for inspection.

Visibility within the footings was generally poor due to inclement weather conditions; rain causing some trench sides to collapse. Disturbance from the oven was also evident throughout much of the top and subsoils, and in places also into the natural subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were seen.

Despite this poor visibility, it is likely that no earlier archaeology was present as no evidence for it was found during the three visits made to site.

Clare Good

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 20th March 2007