

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

8 HIGH STREET, NEEDHAM MARKET (SMR ref. NDM 023)

A report on the archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to 8 High Street, Needham Market
Planning application number: 0516/07

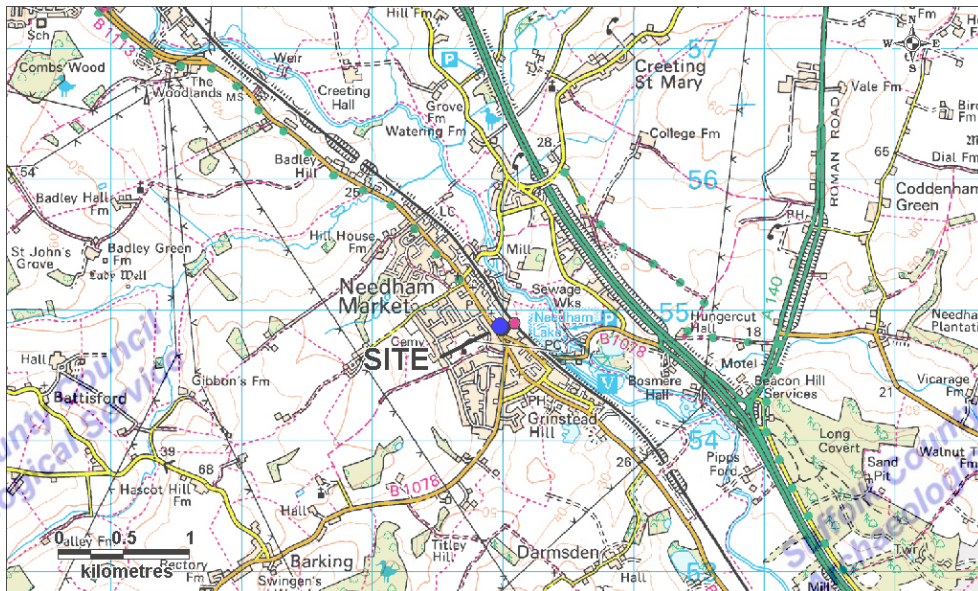
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report Number: 2007/100
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Summary

A single storey extension to the back of 8 High Street, Needham Market (TL0898 5486, NDM 023), required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The property is adjacent to a listed building of the late 16th century and lies on the medieval road frontage within the early settlement core of the town. The extension required footings that were inspected after excavation. No archaeological finds or features were revealed during the monitoring

Introduction

Planning consent for the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of 8 High Street, Needham Market, required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The development required footings that were machine excavated. The property is adjacent to a listed building of the late 16th century (LBS 436936) and lies on the medieval road frontage within the early settlement core of the town. The dwelling is also partially timber framed itself, suggesting a late medieval/early post medieval origin. Mr C Bullock commissioned the project.

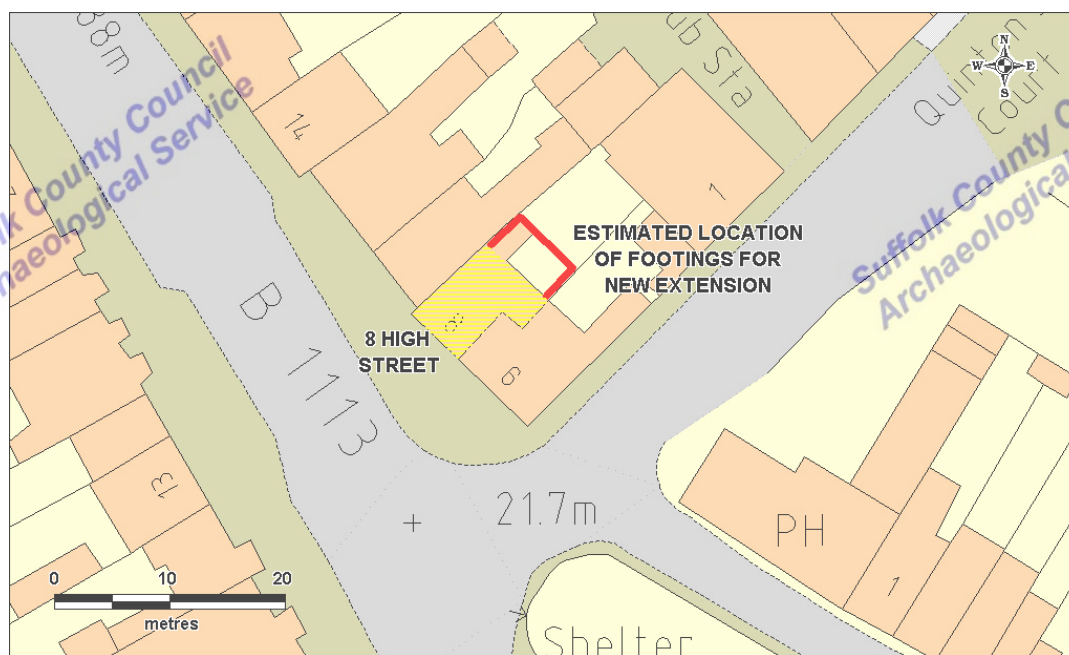


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Figure 1: Site location

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Bob Carr of the Conservation Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), who requested continuous monitoring during excavation of the footings.

This was to observe the trenches and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.



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Figure 2: Approximate location of footings

Results

The footings were machine excavated using a mini digger to a depth of c.1.2m. They were, on average 0.6m wide and consisted of c.0.2m of brick rubble, c.0.5m of topsoil, a mid brown soft sand, and the remainder was a natural mid orange brown soft sand with occasional stones. The topsoil was relatively clean to the north-western side with little evidence of modern disturbance.

To the south-east side, immediately adjacent to the house, a layer of dark brown compacted sand with charcoal flecks and chalk lumps was evident. This was below a layer of brick and mortar mixed with sand, which was probably part of the make up of the adjacent flint and brick wall and the rear of the house. The dark brown layer did not appear to form a discreet feature, and was likely to be associated with the construction of this wall, or the house.

The footings were excavated fairly cleanly and visibility was reasonable during the archaeological monitoring.

The property itself is partly timber framed in origin and so could date from the late medieval/early post medieval period. It was in a poor state of repair and, at the time of visiting, had been almost completely stripped back to the timber frame, exposing the timbers, brickwork and in places, wattle and daub (plates 2-4). This was to be retained and restored where possible and replaced sympathetically where not. No obvious dating features were evident within the framework of the building but later editions were obvious, such as Georgian fireplaces and an newer (?19th century) cellar. A late medieval/early post medieval origin is presumed for this part of the building.

The building was said to have originally been two parts (Harper, pers. Comm. 2007) with the older section adjacent to the listed building at numbers 10 and 12, and a later

edition adjacent to number 6. This is evident in the building, with timber framing and old brickwork only present in the part adjacent to number 10. It is probable that the row of terraces ended here, and the south-eastern side, adjacent to number 6, is a later edition. This older section would have been very small, a two-up/two-down construction, immediately adjacent, and perhaps once part of, the listed building next door.

Despite the obvious medieval presence within the building itself, no archaeological finds or features were seen during the monitoring in the footings or the upcast soil.



Plate 1: A section of excavated footing



Plate 2: Stripped timber framing of property



Plate 3: Stripped wall showing rough Herringbone nogging



Plate 4: Stripped timber framing of property

Clare Good

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 15th May 2007