

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

2 Crown Street, Needham Market NDM 020

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007
(Planning app. No. 1856/06)
Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-28935

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mrs. E. Bodemeaid and was monitored by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division). The fieldwork was carried out by Robert Atfield from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Summary

Planning permission to extend No. 2 Crown Street, Needham Market, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out. The development lies within the area of medieval settlement defined for Needham Market in the County Sites and Monuments Record, and was expected to involve significant ground disturbance. Three visits were made to the site in order to allow adequate archaeological monitoring to be carried out. These took place on the 14th, 15th and 20th December 2006. However, the building work was the subject of considerable further negotiations, delays and some confusion in relation to the planning conditions. Numerous additional visits were made at times when the monitoring archaeologist was in the area. Ground disturbance was finally completed during March 2007. The opportunities for observing potential archaeological deposits were very intermittent, but sufficient was probably seen in order to allow a general assessment of the site. The site deposits had clearly undergone extensive previous disturbance to depths of up to 0.65m below the existing surface levels. Below these re-deposited layers, a fragment of a possible yard or flooring surface of rammed chalk was seen at the south-west edge of the site. No other discrete features were discernible in other areas of the site, mainly because levels were not reduced beyond the re-deposited overburden. No archaeological finds were collected from the site.

SMR information

Oasis ID No.	Suffolkc1-28935
SMR No.	NDM 020
Planning application no.	1856/06
Date of fieldwork:	14, 15, 20-12-2006 to March 2007
Grid Reference:	TM 0889 5523
Funding body:	Mrs. E. Bodemeaid

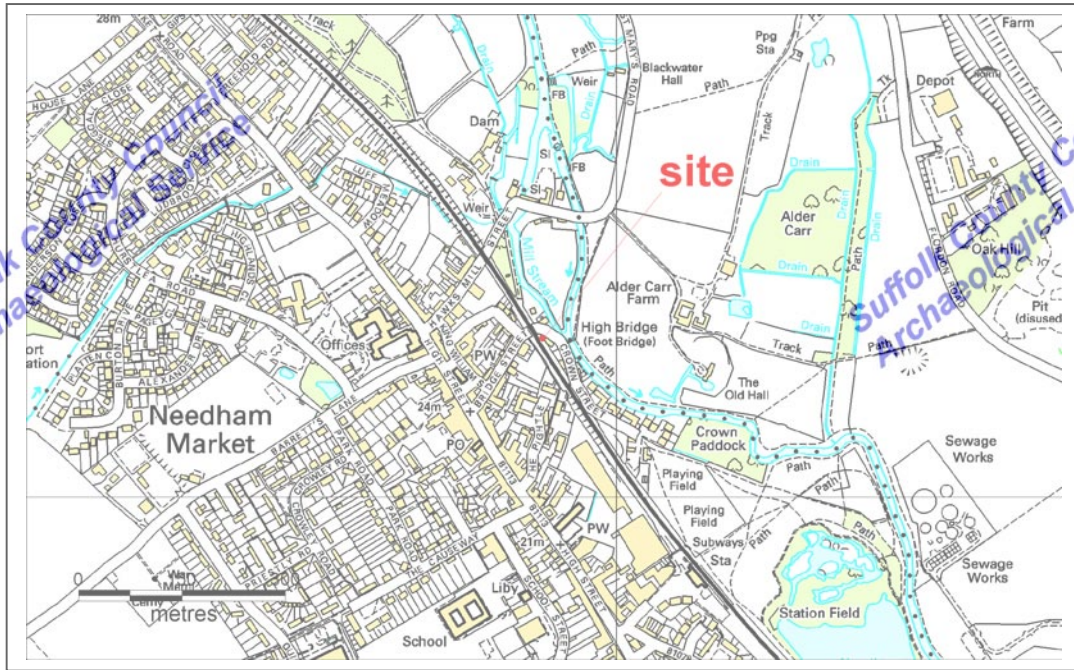


Figure 1. Location of the site

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Figure 2. Extent of the site area

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Introduction

Planning permission to extend No. 2 Crown Street, Needham Market, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out. The development lies within the area of medieval settlement defined for Needham Market in the County Sites and Monuments Record, and was expected to involve significant ground disturbance. Three visits were made to the site in order to allow adequate archaeological monitoring to be carried out. These took place on the 14th, 15th and 20th December 2006. However, the building work was the subject of considerable further negotiations and delays in relation to planning conditions. Numerous additional visits were made during periods when the monitoring archaeologist was in the area. Ground disturbance was finally completed during March 2007. The opportunities for observing potential archaeological deposits were very intermittent, but sufficient was probably seen in order to allow a general assessment of the site. The site deposits had clearly undergone extensive previous disturbance to depths of up to 0.65m below the existing surface levels. Below these re-deposited layers, fragments of possible yard or flooring materials were observed, including a possible rammed chalk deposit at the south-west edge of the site. No other discrete features were discernible in other areas of the site, mainly because levels were not reduced beyond the re-deposited overburden.

Methodology

Keith Wade (SCCAS Conservation Team) produced the Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring (see Appendix 1.). During the site visits, it was possible to examine most of the development area after it had been stripped of garden features and undergrowth. An area to the north end of the site had undergone ground reduction to a depth of 0.65m. Deeper trenches adjacent to the rear of the existing property were also recorded. All ground disturbance including site clearance, levelling and the deep excavation south-west of the existing property were examined and recorded. Details of the ground disturbance and soil profiles were recorded onto a detailed site plan in addition to *pro forma* Observable Phenomena context sheets. Digital 6.0mp photographs were taken of section faces, surfaces and all general aspects of the site. All of the stripped, levelled and disturbed surfaces were searched, together with the upcast spoil, with the aim of retrieving datable archaeological finds. Site conditions were generally good in terms of visibility and moisture levels.

Results

The site had clearly been subjected to extensive previous disturbance and considerable build up of re-deposited soils and debris. The topsoil depth varied from between 0.30-0.40m and consisted of mid to dark grey-brown loamy sand, typical of established garden soil. It contained regular ceramic building materials, and occasional post-medieval domestic ceramic fragments including porcelain and clay pipe stems; extensive root disturbance was evident across much of the site. The north

end of the site held the deepest topsoil deposits and also layers of re-deposited subsoil. Directly below the topsoil was a mixed layer (0.20m deep) of re-deposited sand and loamy topsoil with concentrations of chalk lumps and flint. Below this was a thin layer of orange sand (less than 0.10m deep). Finally, at a depth of 0.65m below the existing ground level, a fragment layer of rammed chalk was recorded, lying above probable natural clay. The chalk layer may represent the remains of a floor or floor base and was around 0.20m thick, however, only a small area (0.40m wide) remained preserved within the south-west site edge section. A deeper trench of 1.10m, was excavated immediately to the rear of the existing building, but produced no archaeological features or finds. The topsoil at this end of the site was around 0.30-0.40m deep and lay directly on what appeared to be natural pale brown clay, becoming gradually more grey in colour at deeper levels. No definite archaeological features or finds were observed or retrieved from the site.

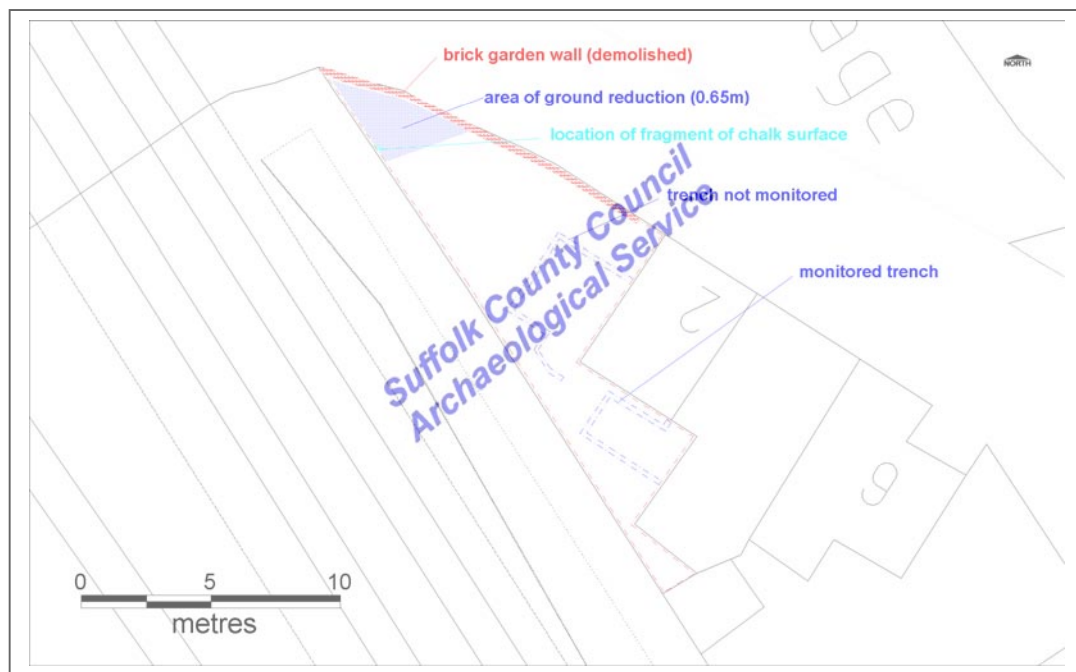


Figure 3. Principal areas of ground disturbance

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Summary and Conclusion

Few conclusions can be drawn in relation to this site due to the limited views available during the monitoring visits. The extent of previous disturbance within the upper deposits is perhaps not surprising, given the close proximity of the railway embankment and bridge to the west and the road immediately to the east. However, it would be wrong to discount the possibility of medieval archaeology surviving below the upper deposits in some areas of the site that were not trenched or monitored. The

only fragmentary feature to be observed was a small 'seam' of rammed chalk, seen in the section face at the western site limit (see Figure 3). This may be a remnant of a floor base or surface, although it is not possible to speculate in terms of dating. The only finds material to be observed on the site was contained in the mixed upper layers, and all was post-medieval in date; no earlier datable archaeological finds were retrieved from the site.

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Appendix 1.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

NO 2 CROWN STREET, NEEDHAM MARKET

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend No 2 Crown Street, Needham Market, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (1856/06). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of medieval settlement defined for Needham Market in the County Sites and Monuments Record, and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).

- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.

- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.

- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

- 4.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P L and Wiltshire, P E J, 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 4.8 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by 'Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets should be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 28 November 2006
Street

Reference: /No 2 Crown

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.