

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

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Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

## 76 High Street, Lavenham LVM 052

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007  
(Planning app. no. B/06/0999)  
Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-29204

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Robert Atfield  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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## List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

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## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mr. and Mrs. R. Whitworth and Mr. and Mrs. H. Seddon. The project 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 76 High Street, Lavenham, was granted on the condition that an acceptable programme of archaeological work was carried out. The site lies within an area of Lavenham defined within the County Sites and Monuments Record as forming part of the medieval settlement area, an archaeological site of regional importance. A single visit was made to the site on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007, when it was possible to examine a deep footing trench dug in the area of garden at the south-east corner of the existing house. Unfortunately, a combination of factors created considerable problems in terms of archaeological visibility. Weather conditions were severe, with drifting snow and poor light, while within the actual trench an extensive period of previous drain leakage had caused a general staining of the ground deposits, obscuring any potential definition of archaeological features. No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of the monitoring.*

## SMR information

Planning application no.	B/06/0999
Date of fieldwork:	8-02-2007
Grid Reference:	TL 9155 4940
Oasis ID No.	Suffolkc1-29204
SMR No.	LVM 052
Funding body:	Mr. and Mrs. R. Whitworth and Mr. and Mrs. H. Seddon

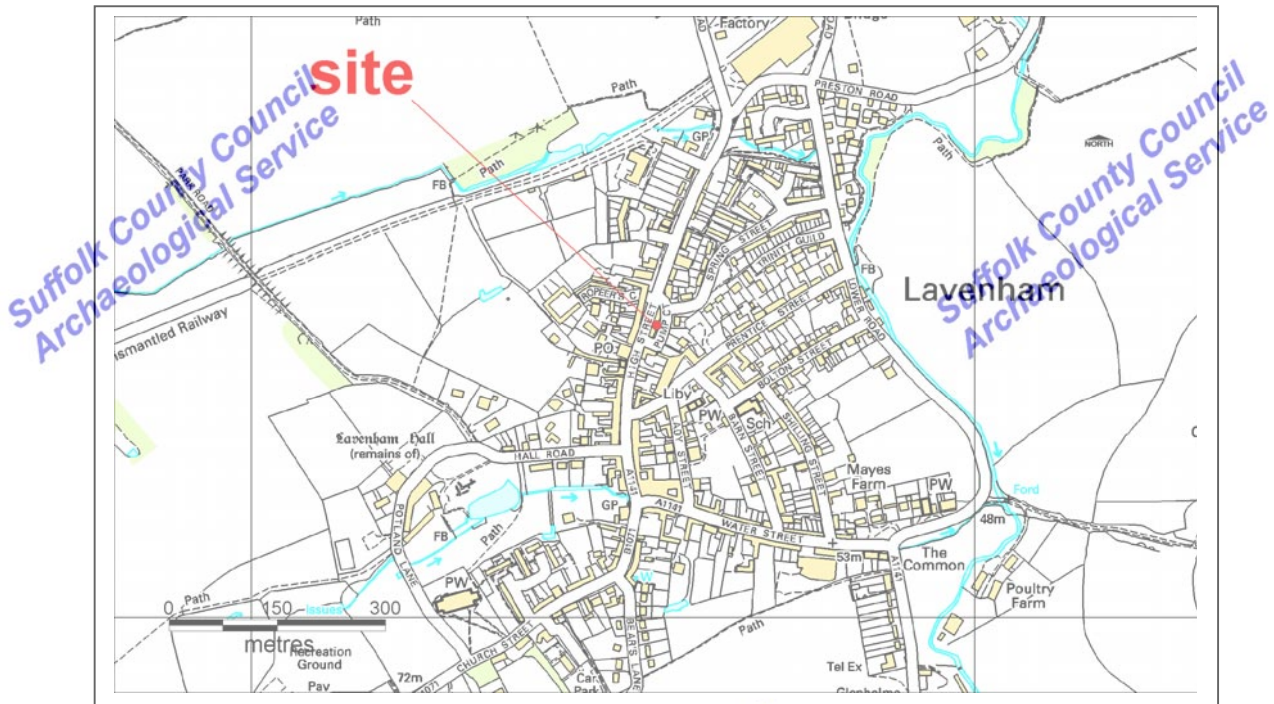


Figure 1. Location of the site

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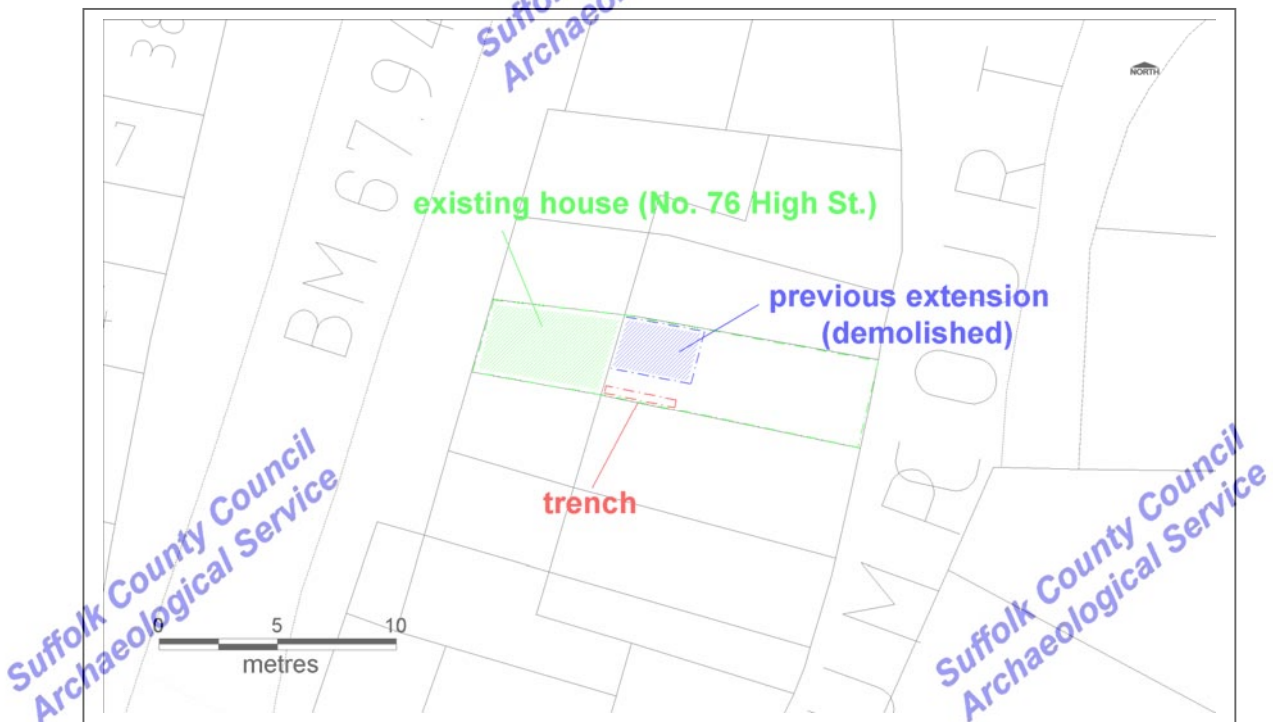


Figure 2. Areas of ground disturbance

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## Introduction

Planning permission to extend 76 High Street, Lavenham, was granted on the condition that an acceptable programme of archaeological work was carried out. The site lies within an area of Lavenham defined within the County Sites and Monuments Record as forming part of the medieval settlement area, an archaeological site of regional importance. A single visit was made to the site on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007, when it was possible to examine a deep footing trench dug in the area of garden at the south-east corner of the existing house. Unfortunately, a combination of factors created considerable problems in terms of archaeological visibility. Weather conditions were severe, with drifting snow and poor light, while within the actual trench an extensive period of previous drain leakage had caused a general staining of the ground deposits, obscuring any potential definition of archaeological features. No archaeological features or finds were located as a result of the monitoring.

## Methodology

Keith Wade (SCCAS Conservation Team) produced the Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring (see Appendix 1.). The site visit took place during exceptionally poor weather conditions, but the brief for archaeological monitoring was generally fulfilled. The general surface of the site had undergone slight disturbance and some hand cleaning allowed an appraisal to be made. A deep hand-dug trench, adjacent to the rear of the existing property was also recorded. All ground disturbance including site clearance, levelling and the deep excavation south-east 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. Areas 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 poor in terms of visibility and moisture levels.

## Results

A footing trench had been excavated by hand to a depth of 1.50m and was around 0.50m wide. The trench extended eastwards from the existing rear wall of the property for around 3.00m. The upper deposit consisted of a mixed loamy clay soil, typical of heavier garden topsoil, but also contained substantial amounts of ceramic building materials dating from the post-medieval period. Below this layer was a deep clay deposit totally permeated by dark sediments, probably as a result of an extended period of drain leakage. As a result of the staining caused by this event, it was not possible to determine if any archaeological features existed within these deposits. A previous extension to the main dwelling, to the north of the trench, had been partially demolished at the time of the visit. A similar deposit as that seen in the upper layer of the trench extended across much of the garden or yard area and also contained

fragmentary ceramic building materials and other later domestic debris. No archaeological features or finds were identified as a result of the monitoring.

## Summary and Conclusion

The site conditions and the extensive discolouration of the ground deposits prevent any conclusions in relation to the archaeology of this site. Similarly, the limited disturbance of the other areas of the site did not present any indications of archaeological features or finds. However, it is obviously not possible to fully discount the archaeological potential of this site.

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## Appendix 1.

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

##### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

### 76 HIGH STREET, LAVENHAM

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend 76 High Street, Lavenham, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/06/0999). 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 Lavenham defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance, 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.
- 1.4 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

#### 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 the 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: 6 February 2007  
Street

Reference: /76 High

**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.**