

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Bridge House, Cavendish Road, Clare CLA 055

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH
AN EXTENSION AT BRIDGE HOUSE, CLARE

Planning Application No. SE/07/0978

NGR: TL 77274542

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-29805

Funded by: Mr & Mrs Bowens

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/124

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches at Bridge House, Cavendish Road, Clare, did not locate any evidence of archaeological deposits.

Introduction

A single visit was made to the site on 9th August 2007 to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for an extension to the property. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/07/0978. The work was funded by the developer, Mr & Mrs Bowens.

Interest in the site was based upon its general location within the area of medieval Clare (Fig. 1), which is defined as an Area of Archaeological Importance in the Suffolk Site and Monuments Record. In particular the property fronts onto the late Saxon/Norman street, immediately to the west of Chilton Stream, and thereby lies on the edge of the Outer Bailey of Clare Castle (CLA 008), the motte of which lies 300m to the south-west. Earthworks associated with the Castle bailey extend to within 50m of the property.

The property, in the late 19th/early 20th century, was also the site of the town gasworks, CLA 051. The house is shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1904 as being part of a group of buildings on the gasworks site (Fig. 2).

Therefore the footing trenches for the extension had the potential to disturb archaeological deposits relating to Saxon and medieval settlement, although it was possible that such evidence could have already been lost to activities relating to the gasworks. Archaeological monitoring of the trenching was subsequently required to record any such deposits.

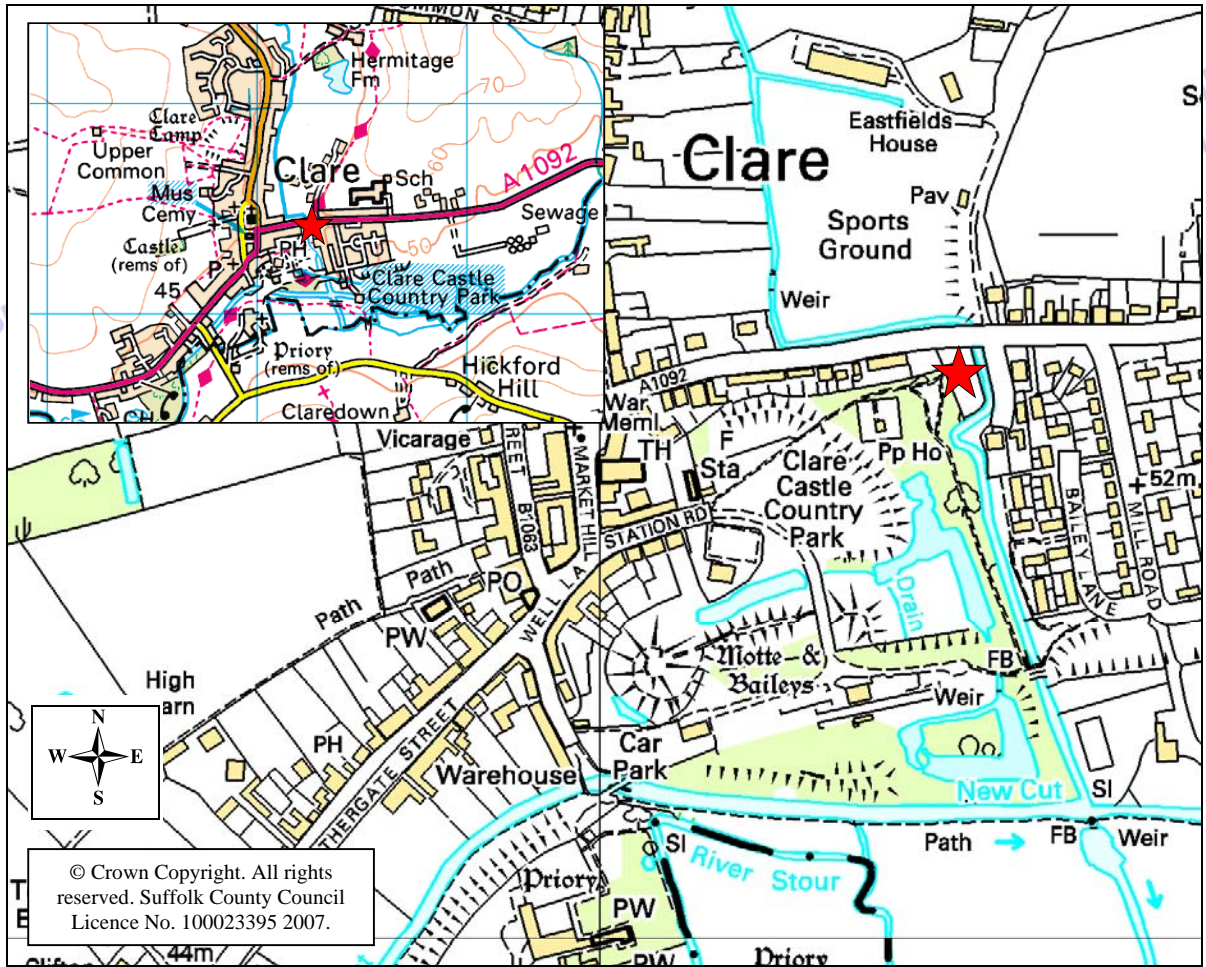


Figure 1. Site location plan

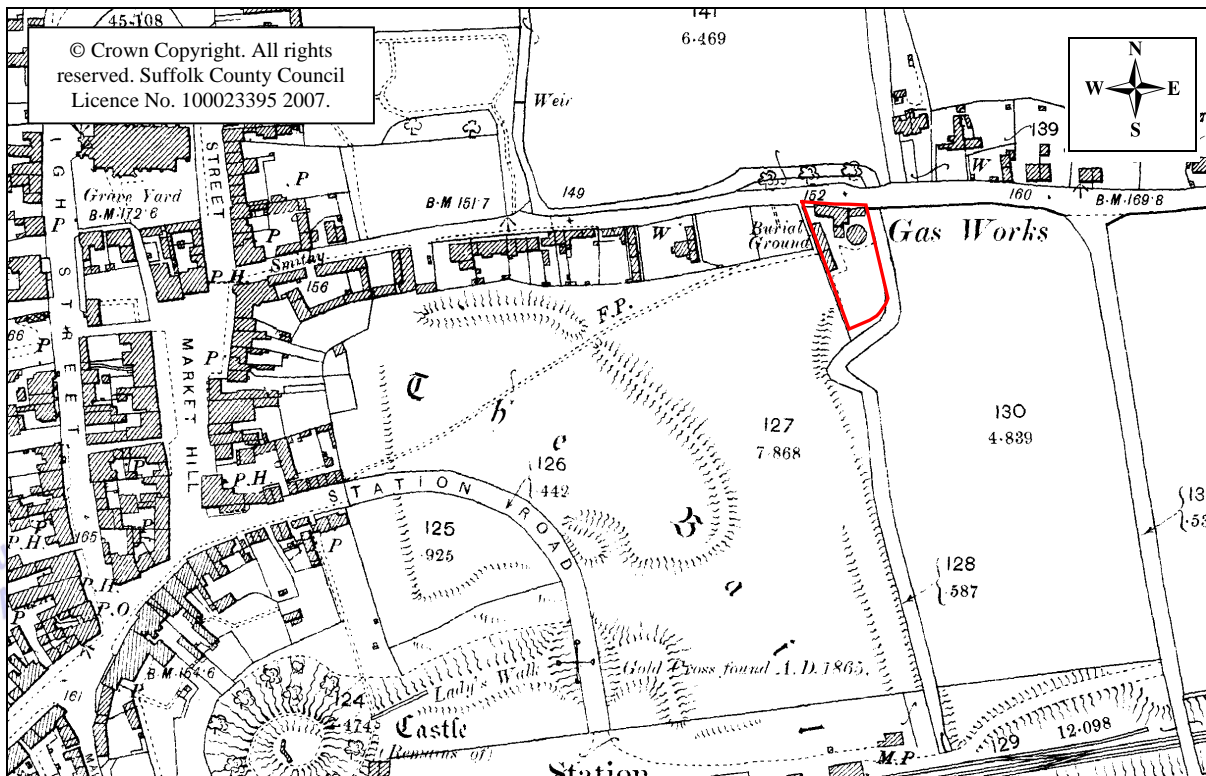
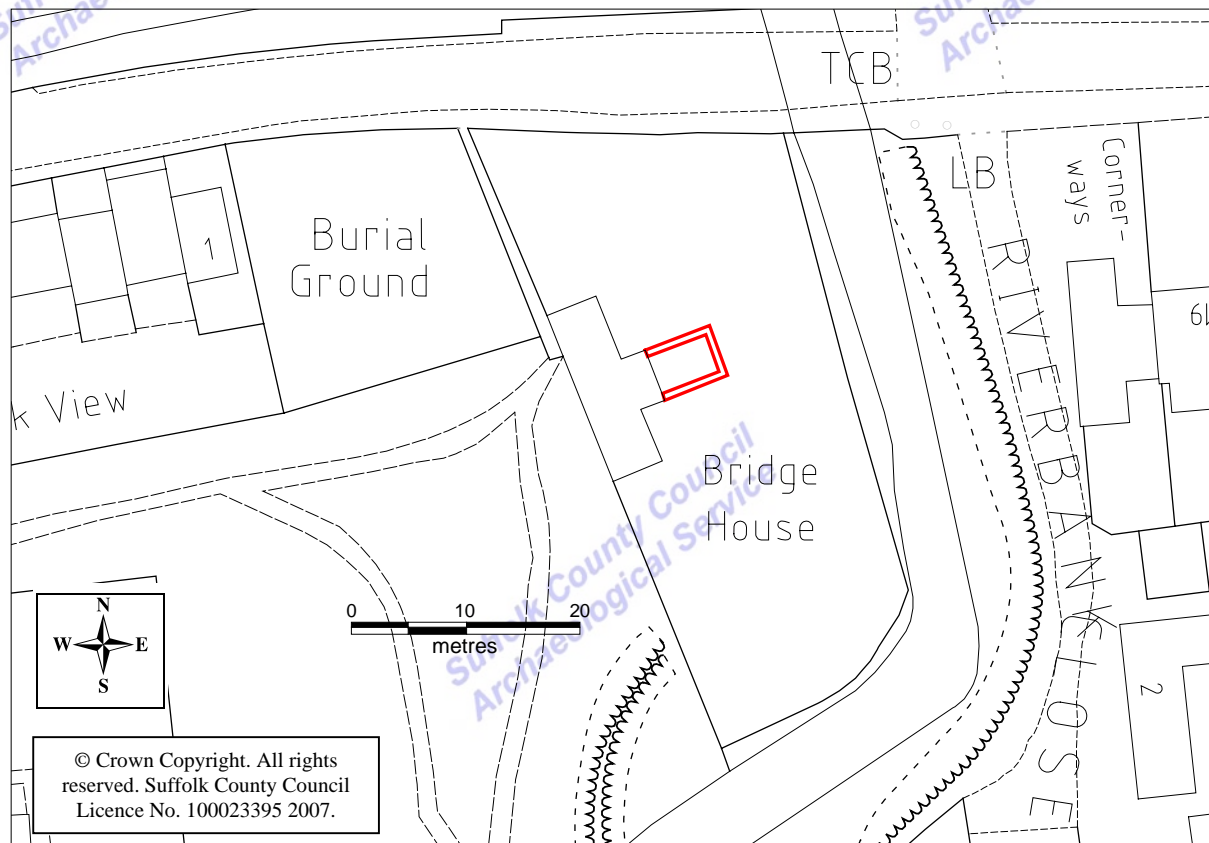


Figure 2. Site on the Second Edition OS, 1904.

Methodology and Results

The trench was observed once fully excavated and measured c.15m in total length, c.0.6m wide and c.1m-1.2m deep. A uniform soil profile was seen throughout, consisting of a 0.4m thick layer of modern topsoil and occasional mixed brick rubble overlying a c.0.7m thick layer of homogenous mid brown silt/loam. Beneath this, at the base of the trench, a waterlogged black organic silt was exposed. There was no indication of any archaeological deposits.



Discussion

No archaeological deposits were seen within the trench, which showed a thick build up of natural loam overlying waterlogged riverlain silts, and so there does not appear to have been Saxon or medieval occupation at this point. The brick rubble in the topsoil is likely to have come from the demolition of the gasworks buildings in the early 20th century.

The site is located within the floodplain of the Chilton Stream and River Stour, as demonstrated by the undisturbed soil profile seen in the trenching. It seems likely that, during the medieval period, the site was generally left as open land, forming part of a strip between the eastern edge of the Castle bailey and the Chilton Stream.

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Project Officer
Field Team
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
August 2007

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

BRIDGE HOUSE, CAVENDISH ROAD, CLARE

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a side extension at Bridge House, Cavendish Road, Clare, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (SE/07/0978). 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 archaeological interest defined for medieval Clare in the County Sites and Monuments Record and will involve significant ground disturbance. It occupies a late Saxon/Norman street frontage location adjacent to the Castle.
- 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 late Saxon/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: 31 July 2007

Reference: Bridge House, Cavendish Road

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.