

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

THE PLOUGH, ICKLINGHAM IKL 152

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Planning Application No.: F/2005/0249/Full

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Summary

Monitoring carried out during the excavation of footings at The Plough Inn, Icklingham, revealed evidence of pit digging during the post-medieval period. No evidence of roman or medieval activity was observed on the site.

Introduction

Monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footings for an extension to The Plough Inn at Icklingham. The work was carried out in order to fulfil an archaeological condition on planning application F/2005/0249/Full given on the advice of Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council curatorial section. The site was located at c. 70m OD. Interest in the site is related to its position within the medieval core of the village close to the church and to the proximity of a Roman road which is likely to have passed close by.

Results

Four visits were made to the site in June 2005 during the excavation of footing trenches. The trenches were c. 0.6m wide and at least 1m deep. A layer of dark loam topsoil mixed with post-medieval rubbish overlay much of the site. Beneath this, and an intermittent layer of pale brown silt, was natural solid chalk. Three features are recorded and shown in Figure 1. 0002 is a chalk lump built cellar whose internal dimensions were 2.3m square and c.2m deep from the levelled ground surface. The wall was two bricks of chalk wide. The cellar had been backfilled with sand and underlay an extension, which had been demolished as part of the current works. It could not be established whether the cellar was a part of the extension although this remains a possibility as there is a symmetry to the plan with the cellar marking the end of the retained portion of the extension. 0003 was an oblong pit c.2.5m long, 1.5m wide and 0.8m deep. It contained a dark friable organic fill including mussel shells. A small fragment of glazed pottery from the middle of the pit is dated 18th century or later. 0004 was a wide shallow pit with a dark loam fill. No finds were retained but bricks and tile were observed suggesting that this was a 19th century feature.

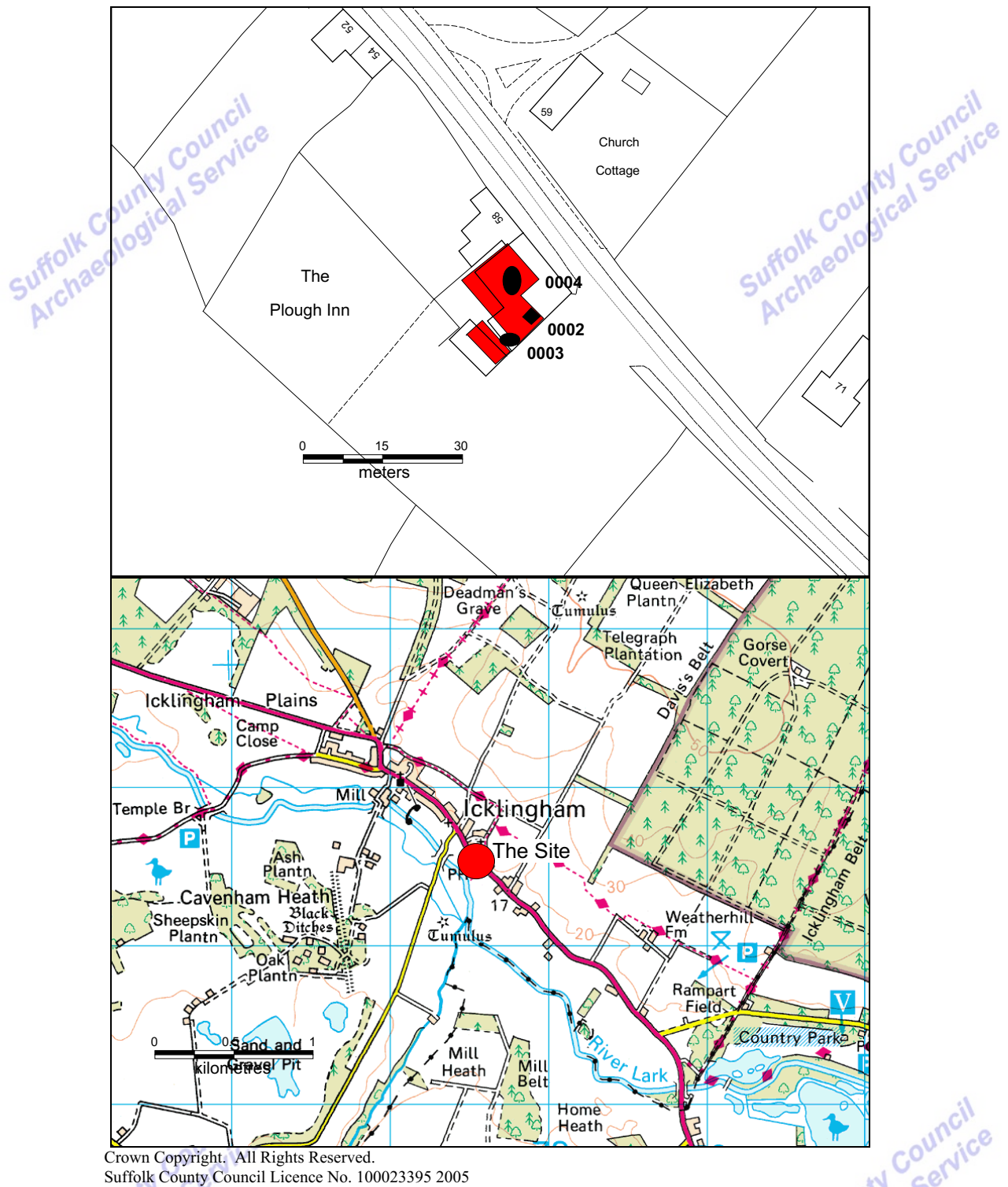


Figure 1 Site, and location plan

Discussion/Conclusion

There was no evidence of any Roman or medieval activity on the site with three cut features all dating to the post-medieval period. Most of the trenches were cut into natural chalk, however, and it is possible that features had been truncated. A chalk lump built cellar is likely to have been part of the standing building although this construction technique probably dates from the medieval period.

Andrew Tester July 2005