

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

WOODWARDS LANE, HIGH STREET, NEEDHAM MARKET NDM 024

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007
(Planning app. No. 0854/07)

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Field Team
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Summary

Monitoring of footings at Woodward's Lane, High Street, Needham Market, was required to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. Despite its location close to a recorded medieval pottery scatter and to the rear of the medieval street, no evidence for concentrated occupation or other activity was identified, either as artefactual evidence or incised features.

SMR information

Planning application no. 0854/07
Date of fieldwork: 2nd November 2007
Grid Reference: TM 0871 5512
Funding body: Mr. S. Cackett
OASIS ID No. 34277

1. Introduction

Planning permission for the construction of a bungalow on land at Woodward's Lane, Needham Market, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 0871 5512 (Fig. 1), at a height of approximately 25m OD, to the rear of buildings fronting High Street. Archaeological interest in this site is due to its location within the area of medieval settlement defined for Needham Market in the County Sites and Monuments Record and the reported location of a scatter of medieval pottery immediately north of the site (NDM 002).

Monitoring of the site was carried out by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team, based on a 'Brief and Specification' by Keith Wade. The fieldwork took place on 2nd November 2007 and was funded by Mr. S. Cackett.

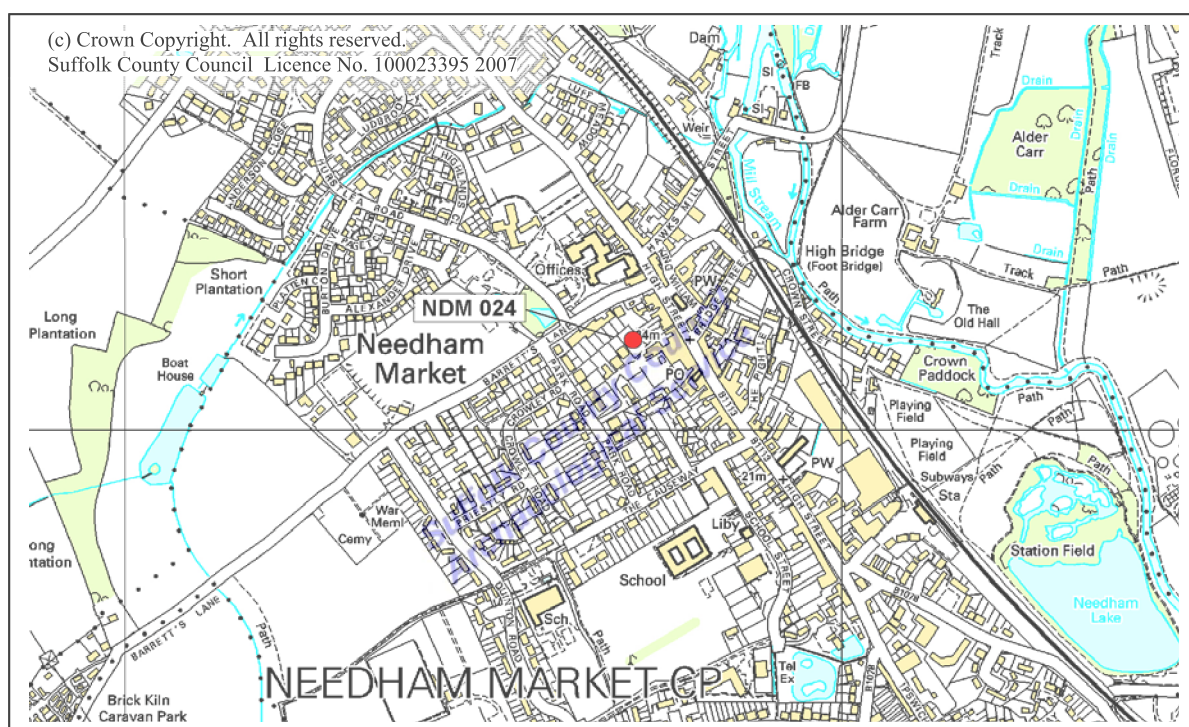


Figure 1. Site location

2. Methodology

One visit was made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the machine excavated footings. The site was recorded under the SMR code NDM 024. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

3. Results

Trenches had been machine excavated to a depth of 800mm, revealing the composition of the soil in the exposed sections. The topsoil was a mid to dark brown sandy loam some 350mm thick, with very occasional CBM and modern glass fragments. This sealed 450mm of mid to dark brown silty sand subsoil. The overburden showed moderate levels of root activity throughout but had noticeably few stone or other inclusions. No features were observed in any of the excavated trenches. Study of the early Ordnance Survey maps of Needham Market showed that the development area was a former orchard (Fig. 3).

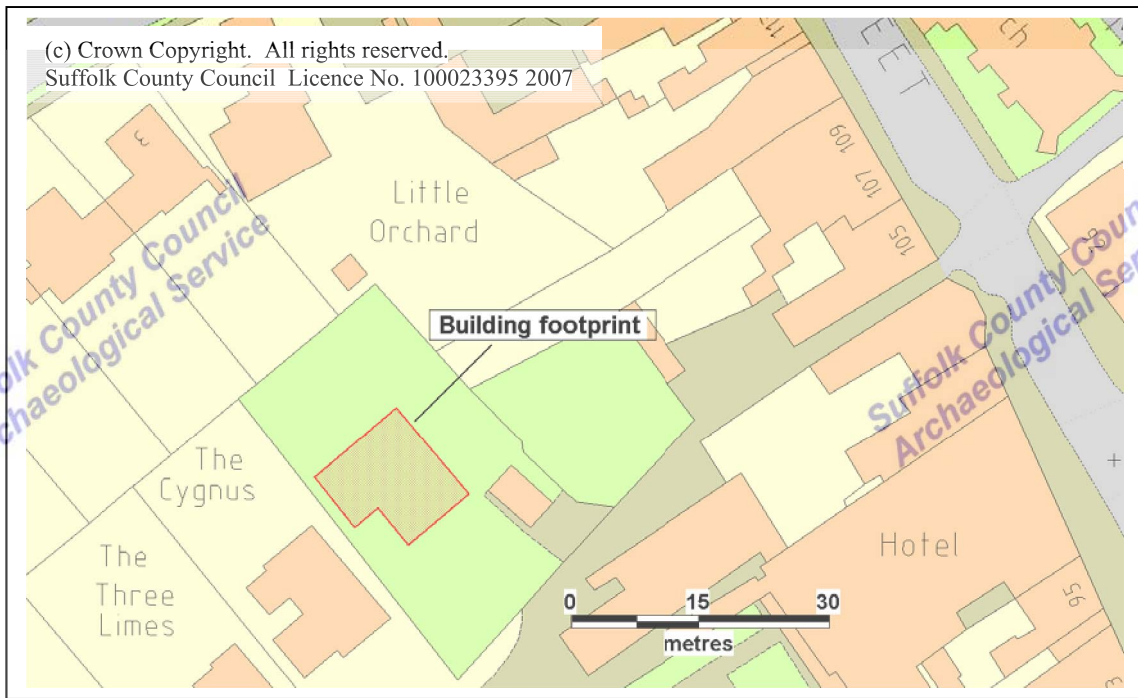
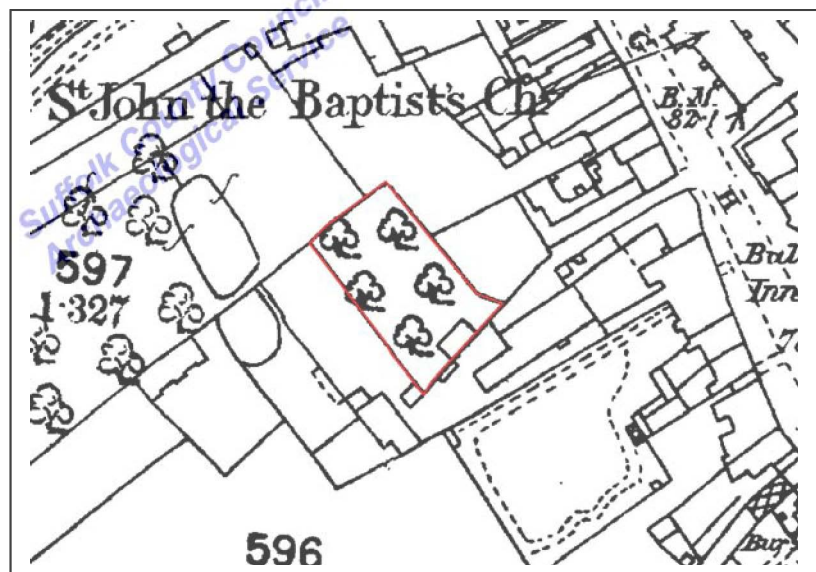


Figure 2: Location of monitored footings

Figure 3: 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, c.1884, showing the development area as orchard.



4. Discussion

Despite the sites location within an area of medieval settlement and to the rear of medieval buildings, where evidence of domestic activity might be expected, no archaeological deposits were observed. This suggests that the development area was not subject to intensive activity, but it is possible for scattered features not to have been disturbed by the footings. The deep, loamy overburden was unusually sterile for an urban location and the fact that the site was known to be an orchard into the early 20th century could suggest that this was a long established use for the site.

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October 2007