

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

110-118, BENTON STREET, HADLEIGH (HER ref. HAD 084)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERIES OF EXTENSIONS
(Application Nos. C/06/2338/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/223
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-35234)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a series of extensions to the rear of 110-118, Benton Street, Hadleigh (NGR; TM 0304 4175), was undertaken during November and December 2007. Footings for the new extensions were examined but no significant archaeological features or deposits were identified. The natural subsoil, which comprised sand and gravel, lay beneath a 0.5m thick layer of topsoil. This monitoring event is recorded on the Historic Environment Record under the reference HAD 084. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned by the architect, Bill Bailey, on behalf of his client, Hadleigh Grand Feoffment Charity, who funded the work.

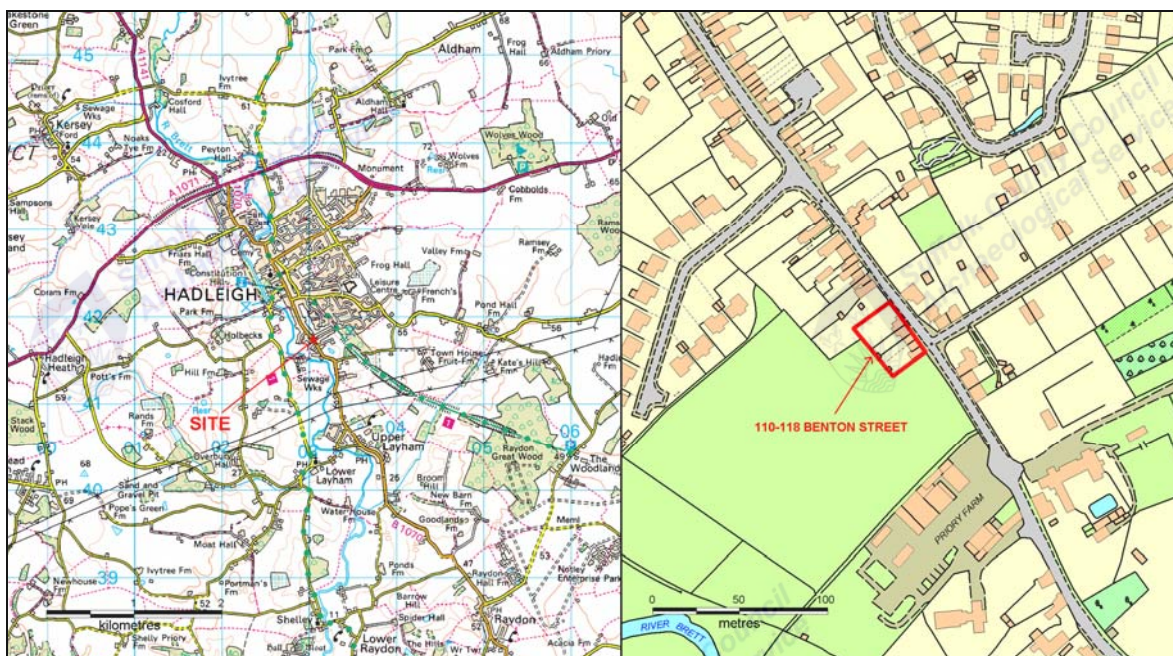


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a series of extensions to the rear of 110-118, Benton Street, Hadleigh, was undertaken during November and December 2007. Although there are no known archaeological sites within the development area interest in the site is due to its location within the Area of Archaeological Importance for Hadleigh as defined in the Babergh Local Plan.

The extensions are to be constructed on strip foundations that would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to reveal and damage any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. Consequently an archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent to allow for archaeological monitoring of the work in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits that may be revealed. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Mr K. Wade of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

Nos. 110-118, Benton Street, which comprise a single terrace of timber framed cottages, are included on the Lists of Buildings of special architectural and historic interest, classified as Grade II. They were formerly known as 'The Almshouses' and are believed to have been built around 1636. The site lies on the very edge of the floodplain of the River Brett that meanders on a course roughly parallel to Benton Street but lying approximately 200m to the southwest. The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 0304 4175 (for a location plan see figure 1) and it lies at a height of approximately 20m OD.

This monitoring event is recorded on the Historic Environment Record under the reference HAD 084. It is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-35234. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned by the architect, Bill Bailey, on behalf of his client, Hadleigh Grand Feoffment Charity, who funded the work.



Figure 2: Areas Monitored

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Methodology

Visits were made to the site inspect each set of footings for the three extensions once they had been excavated but prior to filling with concrete. Each footing was examined for cut features and archaeological deposits which if identified were to be sampled and recorded. Any revealed soil profiles were also recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. A small number of digital photographs were also taken. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visits were examined for archaeological artefacts.

Results

The site was visited on three occasions, the 22nd and 29th November and 3rd December 2007, to inspect the three sets of footings (see figure 2 for location of the new extensions). The soil profile revealed in each set was similar and comprised a 0.5m thick deposit of dark topsoil overlying a natural subsoil of yellow sand and gravel. The interface between the two layers was uneven and blurred and there was no indication that the surface of the subsoil had been truncated. No archaeological features or deposits were identified. The spoil, which was stored in heaps on site, was examined but no artefacts other than 20th century debris was noted. The footing trenches were cleanly cut and had any features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference HAD 084.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features were noted within the excavated footings and no significant artefacts of any period were recovered. The complete lack of evidence for any early activity on this site suggests that it lies outside the core of medieval Hadleigh. The 1630s almshouses are likely to have been built on open ground such as could be found on the outskirts of the town and their presence suggests an early 17th century date for the general urbanisation of this area. It should be noted that the almshouses are the last domestic dwellings on this side of the road going out of town with only open fields and a small settlement around Priory Farm lying further to the south.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team

4th December 2007

Plates



Plate I: General View from Benton Street
view looking south



Plate II: Excavated Footings for No. 118

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

110-118 BENTON STREET, HADLEIGH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend 110-118 Benton Street, Hadleigh, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/06/00581). 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 Importance defined for Hadleigh in the Babergh Local Plan, 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 Anglo-Saxon and 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: 8th November 2007

Reference: 110-118 Benton Street

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.