

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

**No. 59, CLIFF ROAD, FELIXSTOWE**

**SMR ref. FEX 253**

**A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF  
GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
EXTENSIONS TO No. 59, CLIFF ROAD, FELIXSTOWE**  
(Application Nos. C/02/0326, C/02/1380, C/02/2067 & C/03/2147)

**Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2004/105**  
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-3572)

*Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a series of extensions to No. 59, Cliff Road, Felixstowe (NGR TM 3190 3562), was undertaken but no significant archaeological deposits were recorded. The natural subsoil, which consisted of crag, was seen at a depth of c.1m below the ground surface. The surface of the crag deposits were uneven with many low areas filled with a uniform brown silt which appeared to be a natural phenomenon. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from the property owners, Mr and Mrs Rainford. This event has since been recorded on the County SMR under the reference FEX 253.*

## **Introduction**

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a series of extensions to No. 59, Cliff Road, Felixstowe, was recently undertaken. The site is situated in an area of recorded Roman activity within a Roman settlement area. The proposed extensions were to have strip foundations and it was the excavation of these that afforded the best opportunity to observe buried archaeological deposits. A Brief and Specification detailing the monitoring work required was produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 3190 3562; for a location plan see figure 1 overleaf. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from the property owners, Mr and Mrs Rainford.

## **Methodology**

The monitoring was undertaken through observation of the footing trenches, after they had been excavated by the contractors, in an attempt to identify cut features or deposits. The spoil was also examined for artefacts. The areas examined were then recorded on a plan of the proposed alterations.

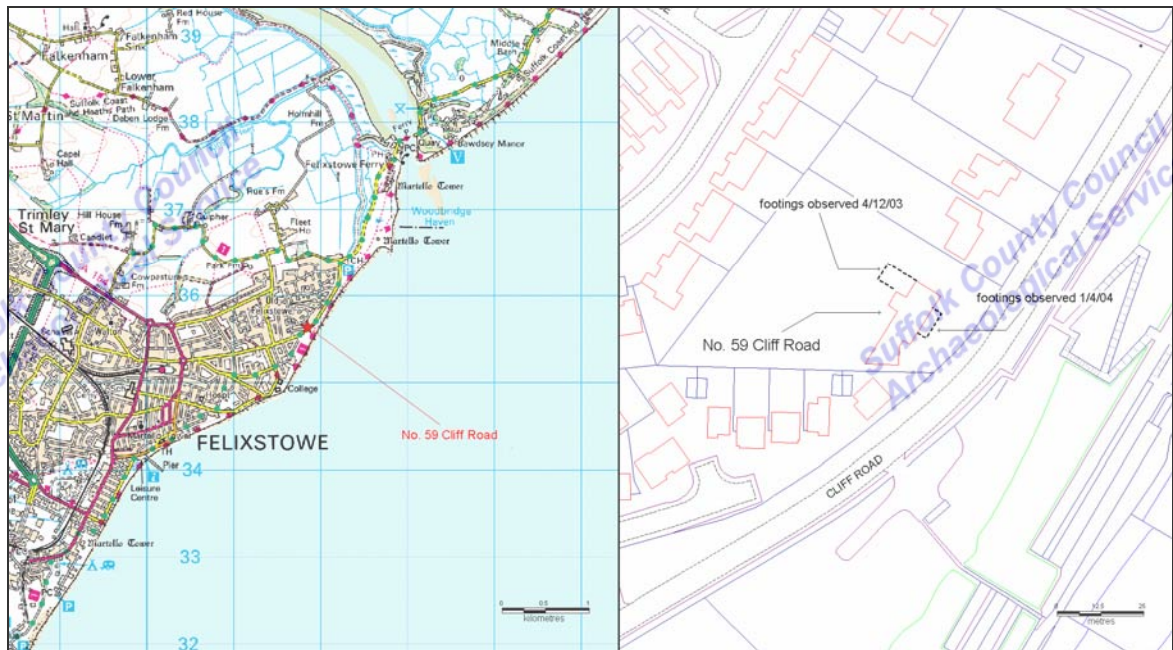


Figure 1: Location Plan

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## Results

The site was visited on two separate occasions, once on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2003 and again on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004, in order to examine works then underway. The areas of footing examined are indicated in figure 1 above.

The first visit (4/12/03) was made to examine a footing to the rear of the house. This revealed a 0.6m thick layer of soft grey clay overlying a reddish brown sandy clay, c.0.4m thick, which in turn overlay natural crag sands. No other deposits or archaeological features were observed and no artefacts recovered from either the trenches or spoil tips.

For the second visit (1/4/04) the entire footing for the new entrance complex on the front of the house had been excavated. The revealed soil comprised of a thin truncated deposit of silty brown clay overlying the natural crag deposits. The surface of natural crag was very uneven with large depressions up to 1.5m metres across, 0.5m deep and filled with a uniform brown silt. Again, no other deposits or archaeological features were observed and no artefacts recovered.

This event has since been recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference FXL 253.

## Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits appear to have been damaged or destroyed by the footings observed. The large depressions in the natural crag surface visible during the second visit are presumably natural phenomena, probably the result of natural water drainage.