

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

50 OLDMARKET STREET, MENDLESHAM (SMR ref. MDS Misc)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008
(Application No: MD/1294/03)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/092
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-39331)

Summary

Mendlesham: 50 Oldmarket Street (TM 10256 65804; MDS Misc). An archaeological monitoring was carried out at the above site in advance of the construction of a double garage.

The monitoring revealed garden soil, a 20th-century pipe trench and natural boulder clay.

SMR information

Planning application no:	MD/1294/03
Site code:	MDS Misc
Date of fieldwork:	12 March 2008
Grid Reference:	TM 10256 65804
Funding body:	Householder

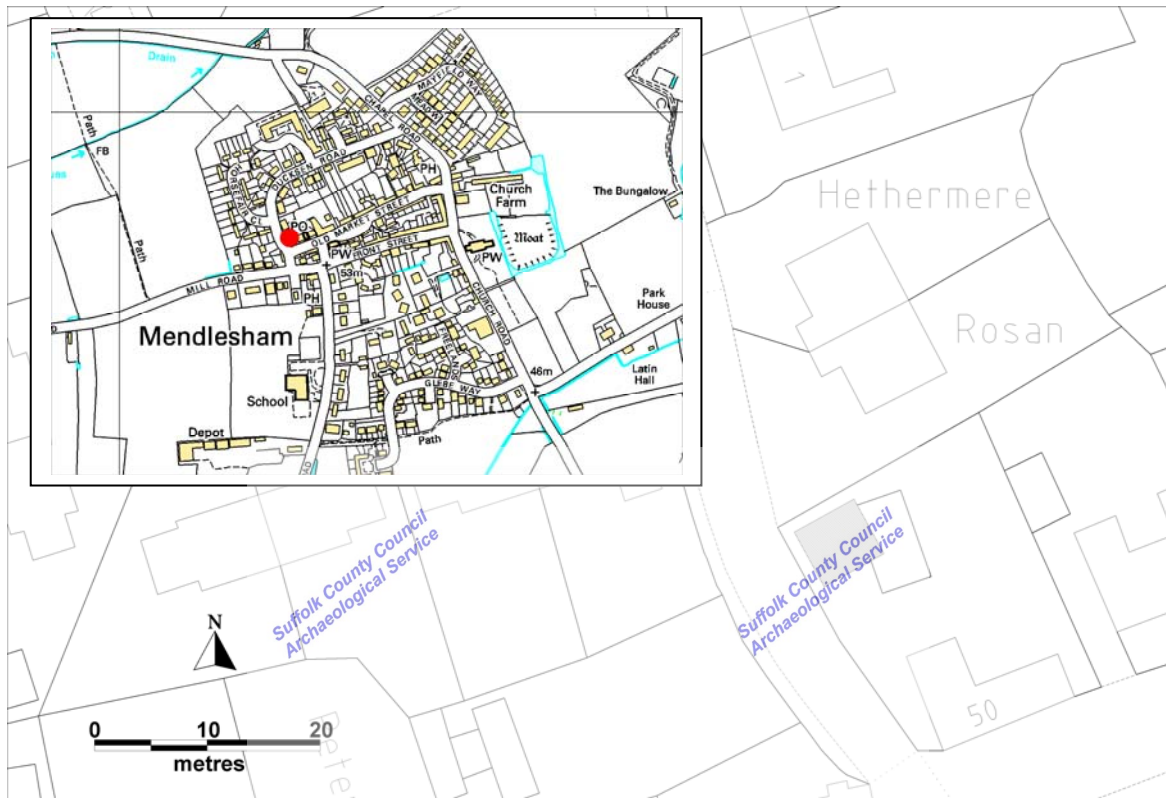


Figure 1. Location maps. The area of the proposed double garage is shaded

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Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was conducted at 50 Oldmarket Street, Mendlesham (Fig 1) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the construction of a double garage (Mid Suffolk District Council application number: MD/1294/03).

50 Oldmarket Street is located in Mendlesham's medieval settlement core – an archaeological site of regional importance. Ground disturbance associated with the proposed development (strip foundations) had the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains that existed on the site.

Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

The writer visited the site on 12 March 2008 to monitor the excavation (by JCB tracked mini-digger) of the foundation trenches for the proposed garage (Fig 2). The building measures approximately 6.00m EW x 5.50m NS and the trenches were 0.50m wide x 1.00m deep. Trenches were dug on the N, W and S sides of the building – to the E the garage will abut an existing structure.

The sides and bases of the foundation trenches were examined for archaeological features and deposits, and the excavated material was examined for artefacts that might be dated archaeologically. A digital photographic record was made. All records (written descriptions and a sketch plan) were made in a field notebook and have been reproduced in full in this report.

Results

Generally, the trenches revealed garden soil (0.30 – 0.40m thick) overlying natural boulder clay – a deposit of stiff, light yellowish brown or light grey clay/silt containing small fragments of chalk and occasional flint nodules.

A 20th-century pipe trench runs NS along the E side of the excavated area. This measured >2.50m wide x >1.20m deep, at which depth the ceramic drain pipe was observed. According to the householder, the pipe was probably laid in the 1930s in the base of an existing drainage ditch.

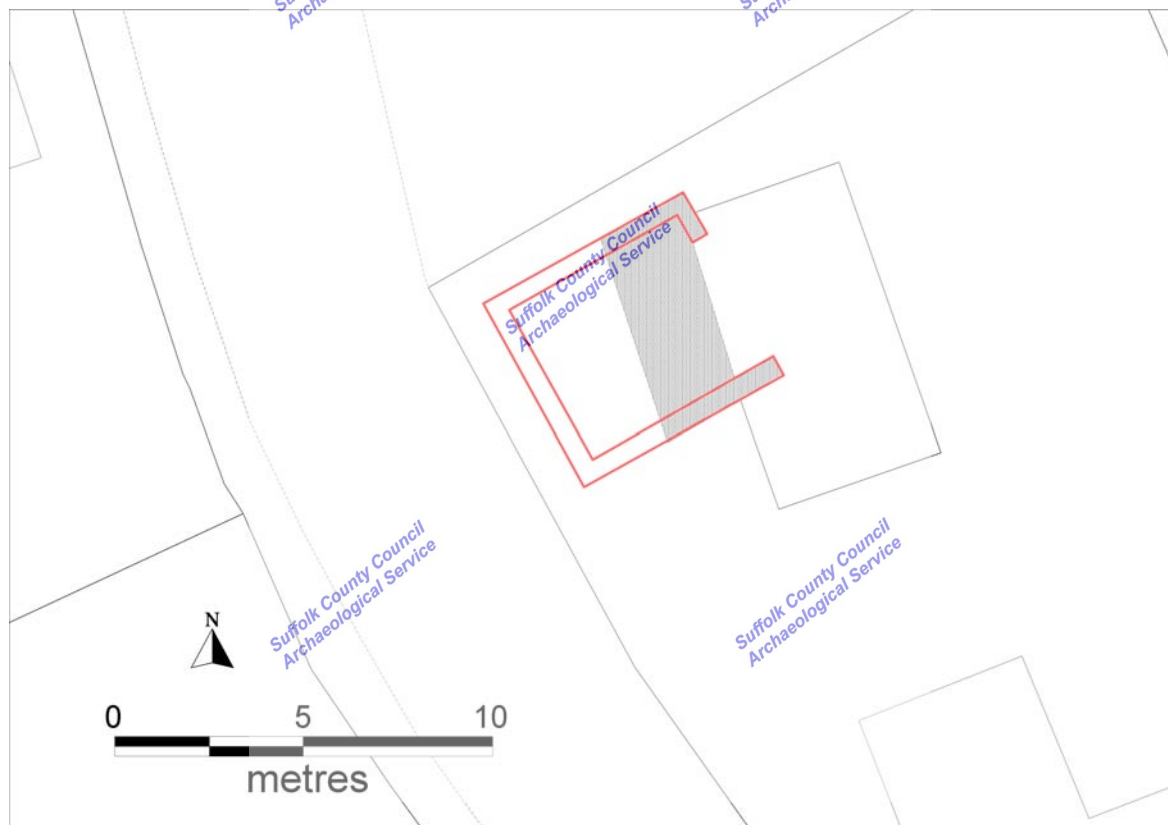


Figure 2. Plan of the foundation trenches (red) and the pipe trench (shaded)

Conclusions

No archaeological deposits were observed and no artefacts recovered. The development has had no impact on the archaeological resource.