

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## 50 Cliff Lane, Ipswich

**PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: IP/03/00890/FUL**

National Grid Reference: TM 1772 4330

**Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: IPS 465**

Clare McLannahan, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, October 2004

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Planning consent for the construction of sheltered housing at 50 Cliff Lane, Ipswich, required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site lies on the edge of Holywells Park which was the site of the manor of the Bishop of Norwich during the medieval period, and it is possible that the boundaries of this manor, marked by a substantial bank and ditch, run through the application area. The project was commissioned by CgMs Archaeological Consultants on behalf of McCarthy & Stone (Developers) Ltd.



Figure 1: Location of site

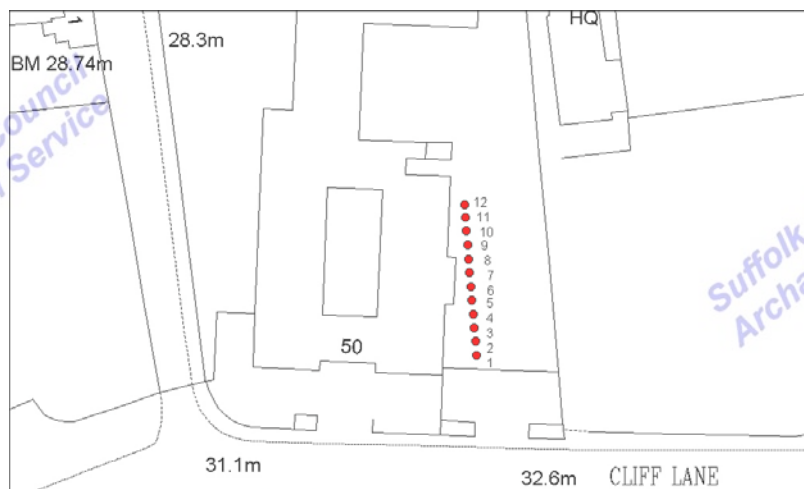


Figure 2: Location of auger holes

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Keith Wade of the Conservation Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), who requested a series of monitoring visits during the excavation of the footing trenches. This was to observe the trenches and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.

The land had also been extensively terraced in the past to accommodate the present building on a sloping site. It is likely that this terracing has already destroyed a part of any archaeological evidence that was remaining but demolition of the existing building and the subsequent removal of footings will probably cause more damage. As such, it was concluded that test depths of the natural subsoil be obtained by augering before work commenced in an attempt to determine how much, if at all, this terracing had affected the natural lie of the land and possibly any archaeology. It was also hoped that this augering would locate the boundary ditch of the manor if this ran through the site at this point.

## Results

Phil Camps and Tim Browne from the Field Team, SCCAS, visited the site on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2004 to auger. Due to the presence of concrete, tree roots and other ground disturbance, they could only bore twelve holes on an area of lawn, immediately adjacent to the former house (Fig.2). Of these twelve, five could not be bored to the natural subsoil due to brick rubble under the lawn. The results can be seen below.

Hole	Level at Surface	Depth of Hole	Level of Base of Hole
1	31.30m OD	0.48m	30.82m OD
2	31.18m OD	0.59m	30.59m OD
3	31.08m OD	0.63m	30.45m OD
4	31.02m OD	-	-
5	30.96m OD	0.51m	30.45m OD
6	30.97m OD	0.72m	30.25m OD
7	30.93m OD	0.63m	30.30m OD
8	30.90m OD	0.80m	30.10m OD
9	30.98m OD	-	-
10	31.02m OD	-	-
11	31.08m OD	-	-
12	31.12m OD	-	-

The auger results enable us to gain information about the soil profiles in the area.

They show that the natural occurs at different levels through the short stretch studied, and that the topsoil is of varying depths suggesting that some terracing has occurred. However, further investigation would be necessary to reach any firmer conclusions. No evidence of the ditch was seen in the augered soil but again, because such a small area was investigated, the ditch could still be present in another part of the site.

Foundation trenches were dug to an average depth of 1.8m as part of the house construction. These were not seen by an observing archaeologist at any stage and so conclusions about the archaeology here cannot be made.

### **Conclusion**

The footings were not seen whilst open so the presence of any features relating to the former manor cannot be determined. The augering was also inconclusive in that only a small area could be studied. It is possible that archaeology exists in this area but only further work could prove or disprove this.

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