

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

19 HIGH STREET, HAVERHILL

HVH 066

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008
(Application No: SE/08/0020)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/176
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-45306)

Summary

Haverhill: 19 High Street (TL 6724 4551; HVH 066). An archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundwork for the construction of a single-storey extension to the rear of the building.

The monitoring revealed a natural stratum of sandy clay at between 1.40m and 1.78m below ground level. This was sealed by a succession of subsoil deposits and external soil horizons of unknown date. Overlying dumps of clay and successive baked clay and mortar surfaces suggest the presence of a medieval or later building in the northern part of the site, although there was no associated structural evidence. A thick dump of soil containing post-medieval pottery sealed the postulated building. Three post-medieval pits were recorded along the northwestern boundary of the site.

HER information

Planning application no:	SE/08/0020
Site code:	HVH 066
Date of fieldwork:	01–14 May 2008
Grid Reference:	TL 6724 4551
Funding body:	D & A (2087) Ltd



Figure 1. Map showing the approximate location of 19 High Street, Haverhill

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2008

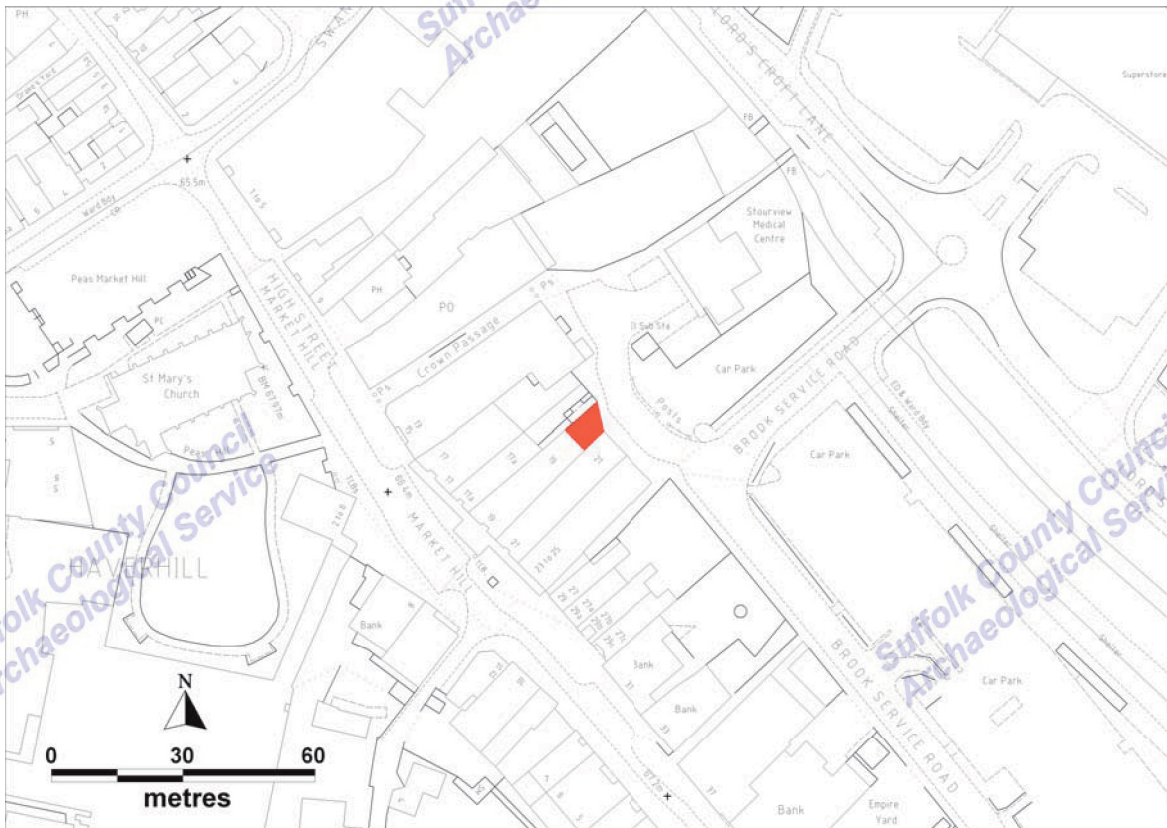


Figure 2. Map showing the site of the rear extension to 19 High Street, Haverhill

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2008

Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was conducted at 19 High Street, Haverhill (Figs. 1 and 2) in accordance with an archaeological condition relating to planning permission for the construction of a single-storey extension at the rear of the building (application number: SE/08/0020).

The proposed development is located in an area of archaeological interest, being within Haverhill's medieval town centre and approximately 70m east of the church of St Mary.

The principal threat to the archaeological resource posed by the development was the excavation of strip foundation trenches, underpinning holes and a drainage trench.

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 (see Appendix).

Monitoring visits were made on 29th April, 1st May and 6th May during the excavation of underpinning holes along the northwest boundary of the site, labelled *a–g* on Figure 3. Subsequent visits were made on 8th May and 14th May to observe foundation trenches *h–j* and drainage trench *k* (Fig. 3).

Site contractors carried out all excavation using a small mechanical excavator and hand tools. Underpinning holes *a* and *b* were observed by the monitoring archaeologist but no records were made. The remaining underpinning holes were recorded but the presence of temporary shoring meant that some of the sections were obscured. Where possible vertical sections were trowelled clean and drawn. Due to poor lighting and restricted access to the underpinning holes it was not possible to make an adequate photographic record. Foundation trenches *h*, *i* and *j*, and drainage trench *k* were observed but detailed records were made only in trench *h*.

Six vertical sections (labelled *s1–s6* on Figure 3) were drawn at a scale of 1:10 on gridded draughting film and deposit descriptions were written on the section drawings. The deposits and features were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 0001-0020.

Very few datable artefacts were found. A fragment of pottery and some ceramic building material were spot-dated on site but not retained.

A site datum level of approximately 67.0m OD for the surface of the ground slab was estimated from spot heights on the road surface adjacent to the site. All excavations were planned by offsetting from points on the site perimeter.

All written records and most of the section drawings are reproduced in this report. The primary records have been deposited in the SCCAS archive at St Edmund

House, Rope Walk, Ipswich. A copy of this report has been sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer. Details of the archaeological monitoring and a copy of this report have been entered on the OASIS on-line database.

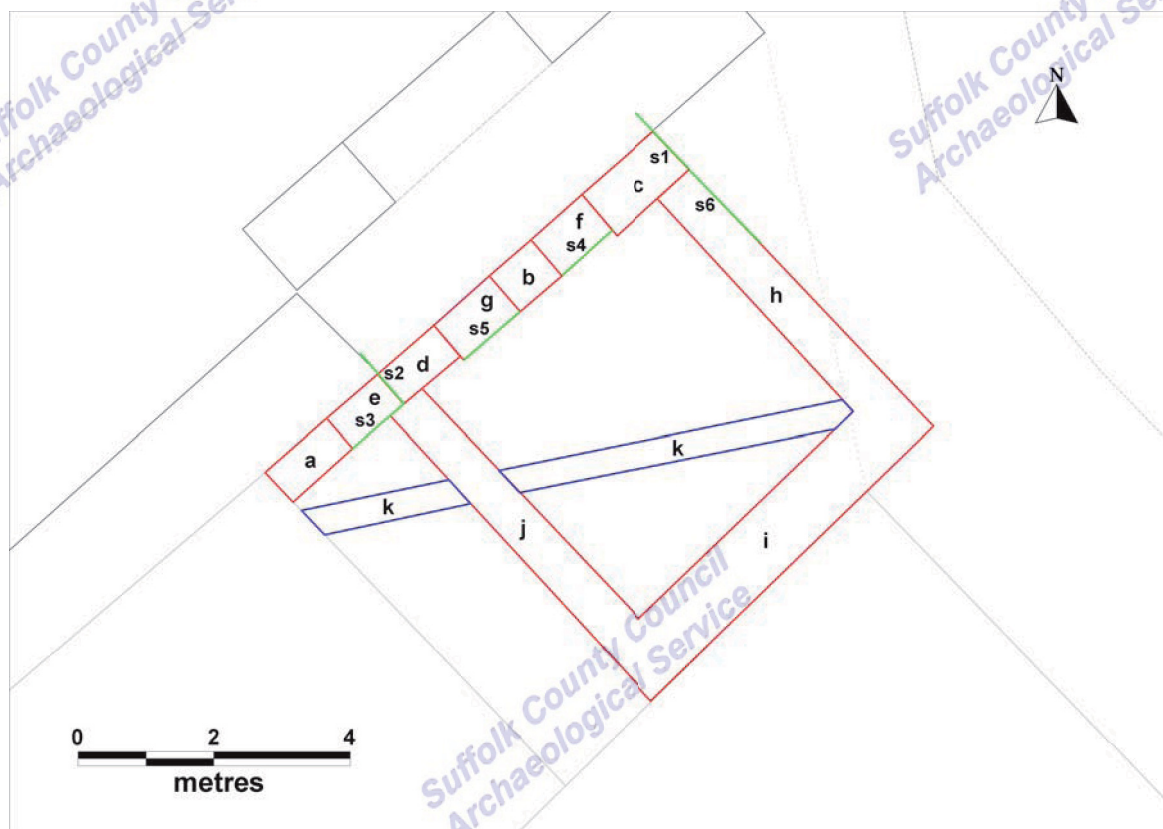


Figure 3. Plan locating the monitored excavations and drawn sections

Results

Underpinning hole c and foundation trench h (Sections 1 & 6; Fig. 4)

Deposit	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
Slab	0.00–0.16	Concrete slab	Modern slab
Wall	0.00–0.93	Brick and concrete foundation	Modern wall
0001	0.16–0.67	Soft, dark grey clayey silt with occasional small pebbles and moderate flecks and small fragments of chalk and charcoal. There is a concentration of pea grits at the base of the deposit	Post-medieval dumping
0002	0.67–0.71	Thin layer of fragmented yellowish white mortar	Surface/floor?
0003	0.71–0.74	Soft, dark grey clayey silt with occasional small pebbles and moderate flecks and small fragments of chalk and charcoal. There is a concentration of pea grits at the base of the deposit	Occupation layer?
0004	0.74–0.77	Hard, mid brownish grey baked clay split by fine, horizontal laminations	Surface/floor?
0005	0.77–0.83	Soft, pinkish brown and light yellowish brown scorched clay with frequent fine pebbles and occasional small fragments of charcoal	Dump/make-up
0006	0.83–0.92	Soft, light grey clay with occasional pebbles and small fragments of chalk and mortar	Dump/make-up

0007	0.92–1.04	Soft, mid grey clayey silt with occasional small pebbles and moderate flecks and small fragments of chalk and charcoal	External soil
0008	1.04–1.24	Soft, light brownish grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles and flecks—small fragments of chalk and charcoal	External soil
0009	1.24–1.60	Compact, light brown clayey sand with occasional small–medium pebbles but no cultural material	Subsoil
0010	1.60–>1.70	Compact, mid orangey brown sandy clay with occasional small–medium pebbles	Natural stratum

Comments

Underpinning hole *c* contained an intact sequence of horizontal deposits from the natural stratum to modern ground level. These deposits extended into adjacent foundation trench *h*. The sequence consists of naturally occurring subsoil, external soil horizons, dumped deposits and probable surfaces or floors.

Deposit 0001 included a small fragment of glazed red earthenware of 17th- or 18th-century date (not kept).

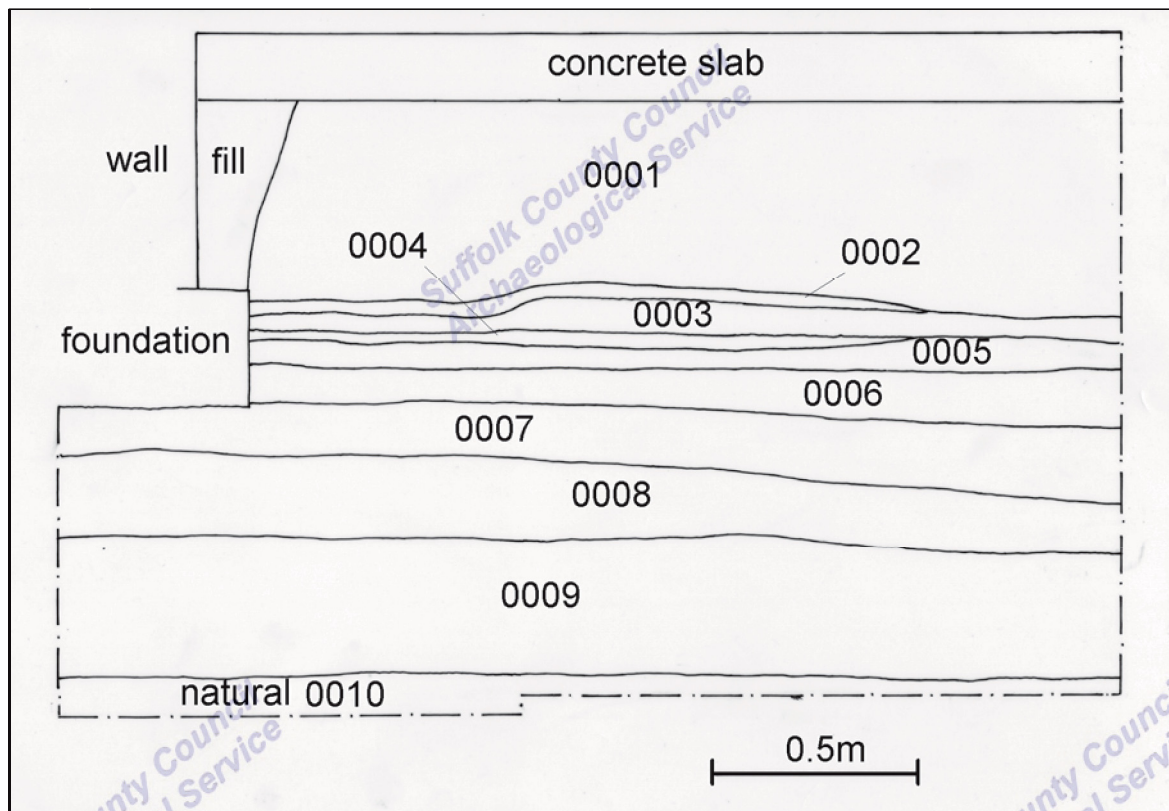


Figure 4. Sections 1 and 6: Composite SW facing section of underpinning hole *c* and part of foundation trench *h*

Underpinning hole *d* (Section 2; Fig. 5)

Deposit	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
Slab	0.00–0.20	Concrete slab	Modern slab
Wall	0.00–0.90	Brick and concrete foundation	Modern wall
0011	0.20–0.87	Soft, mid grey clayey silt with moderate pebbles and flint cobbles and occasional small–medium fragments of red brick	Fill of pit 0021
0012	0.87–1.40	Compact, mid yellowish brown and light brownish grey (mottled) sandy clay with moderate pebbles and occasional small fragments of chalk	Subsoil
0010	1.40–>1.50	Compact, mid orangey brown sandy clay with occasional small–medium pebbles	Natural stratum

Comments

Deposit 0011 is the fill of cut feature 0021, which is assumed to be a pit. The pit is at least 1.0m wide and 0.85m deep and has removed all horizontal strata down to subsoil deposit 0012. The brick fragments in fill 0011 are assumed to be of post-medieval date.

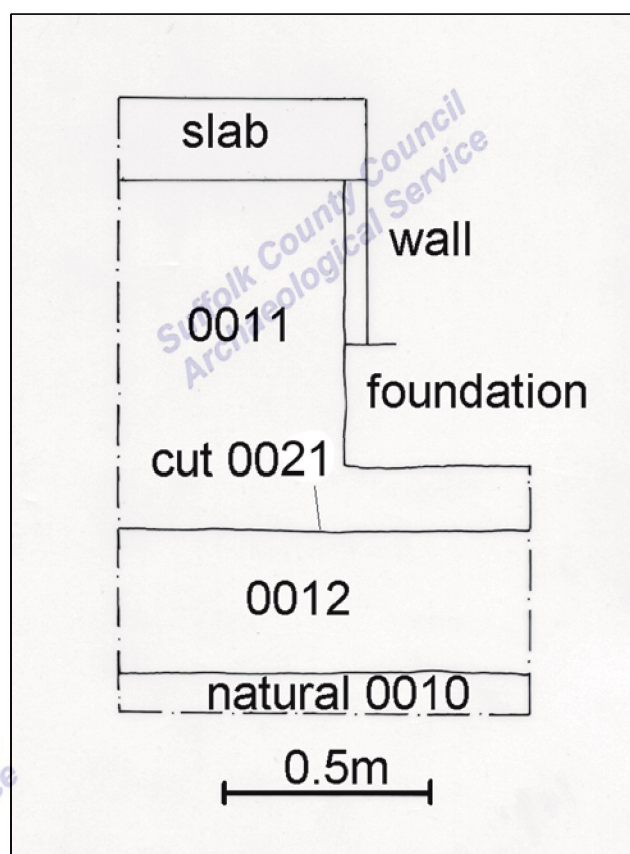


Figure 5. Section 2: NE facing section of underpinning hole *d*

Underpinning hole *e* (Section 3, not illustrated)

Deposit	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
Shoring	0.00–1.20	Upper part of section obscured by shoring	
0012	1.20–1.40	Compact, mid yellowish brown and light brownish grey (mottled) sandy clay with moderate pebbles and occasional small fragments of chalk	Subsoil
0010	1.40–>1.45	Compact, mid orangey brown sandy clay with occasional small–medium pebbles	Natural stratum

Underpinning hole *f* (Section 4, Fig. 6)

Deposit	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
Shoring	0.00–1.04	Upper part of section obscured by shoring	
0013	1.04–1.28	Compact, mid grey clayey silt with moderate pebbles and small-medium fragments of chalk and charcoal	Fill of pit 0016
0014	1.28–1.48	Compact, mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles and small fragments of charcoal	Fill of pit 0016
0015	1.48–1.70	Soft, mid grey slightly clayey silt with occasional pebbles and small fragments of charcoal	Fill of pit 0016
0010	1.70–>1.90	Compact, mid orangey brown sandy clay with occasional small-medium pebbles	Natural stratum
0012	0.93–1.73	Compact, mid yellowish brown and light brownish grey (mottled) sandy clay with moderate pebbles and occasional small fragments of chalk (recorded in SE facing section only)	Subsoil

Comments

Deposits 0013, 0014 and 0015 are the fills of cut feature 0016, which is assumed to be a pit. The pit is at least 1.0m wide and 0.55m deep and has removed all deposits down to the natural stratum 0010. The pit did not appear in the southeast-facing section of underpinning hole *f*, where subsoil 0012 was observed.

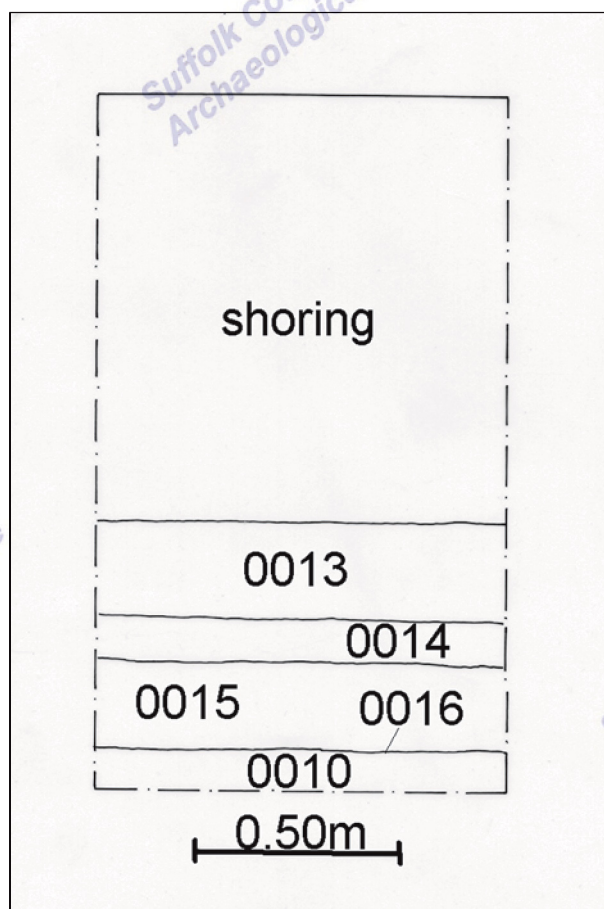


Figure 6. Section 4: NW facing section of underpinning hole *f*

Underpinning hole g (Section 5, Fig. 7)

Deposit	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
Shoring	0.00–0.75	Upper part of section obscured by shoring	
0017	0.75–1.35	Compact, light grey clayey silt with moderate pebbles and small-medium fragments of chalk, and occasional small fragments of charcoal	Fill of pit 0020
0018	0.95–1.65	Compact, mid grey clayey silt with moderate pebbles and occasional flecks of chalk and mortar and small fragments of charcoal and ceramic roof tile	Fill of pit 0020
0019	0.95–1.83	Compact, dark grey slightly clayey silt with occasional pebbles and animal bones (sheep/goat metapodials)	Fill of pit 0020
0012	1.47–1.78	Compact, mid yellowish brown and light brownish grey (mottled) sandy clay with moderate pebbles and occasional small fragments of chalk	Subsoil
0010	1.78–>1.85	Compact, mid orangey brown sandy clay with occasional small-medium pebbles	Natural stratum

Comments

Deposits 0017, 0018 and 0019 are fills of pit 0020. The pit is at least 1.10m wide and 1.06m deep and has removed all deposits down to subsoil 0012. The ceramic roof tile in 0018 is thought to be of post-medieval date.

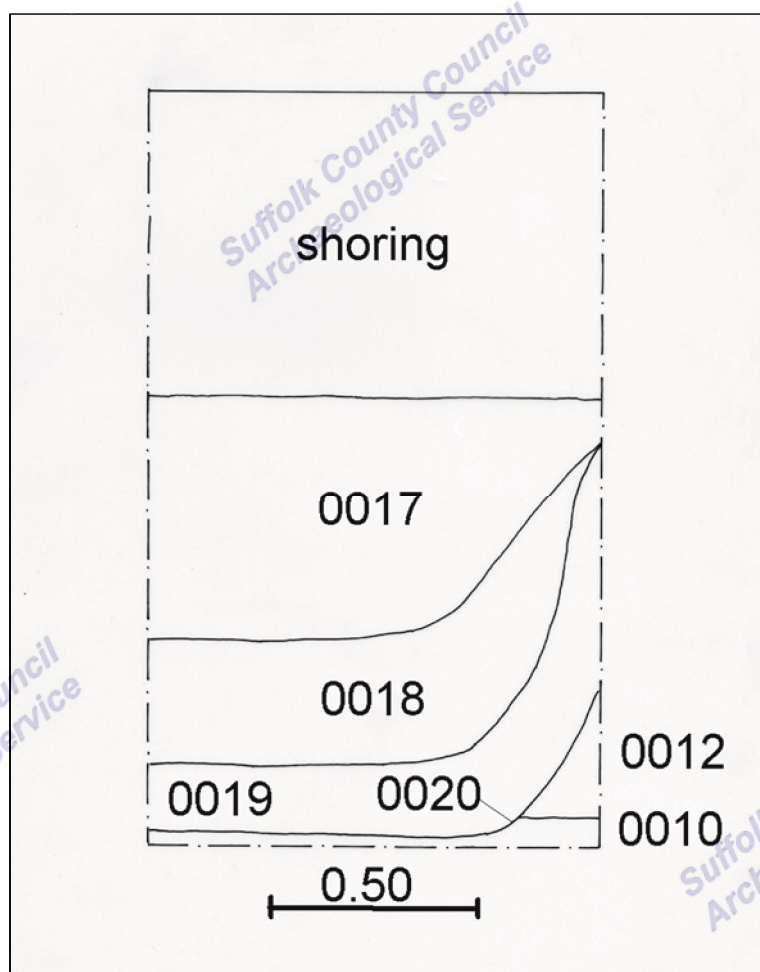


Figure 7. Section 5: NW facing section of underpinning hole g

Discussion and Conclusion

The monitoring has revealed sequences of archaeological deposits and features extending to depths of up to 1.78m below modern ground level. Due to the nature of the ground works on this site only a basic level of recording was possible, and this has limited the extent to which the archaeological remains can be understood. However, some general observations can be made:

Natural stratum 0010 is a deposit of sandy clay with an undulating surface at between 1.40m and 1.78m below ground level. It is sealed by subsoil deposits 0009 and 0012; these are up to 0.35m thick and, where seen, did not contain any cultural material.

In underpinning hole *c* the subsoil is sealed by successive external soil horizons 0007 and 0008, with a combined thickness of approximately 0.30m. These deposits contain fragments of chalk and charcoal indicative of human activity but cannot be dated.

Successive layers of clay 0005 and 0006 above the soil horizons were probably dumped in order to raise ground level or to provide a firm ground surface for subsequent activity. Again, these deposits cannot be dated but they are assumed to be medieval or later.

Baked clay layer 0004 and mortar layer 0002 are interpreted provisionally as internal surfaces or floors, although there is no structural evidence to confirm this and any associated buildings must have been of an ephemeral nature. Although these 'surfaces' appear to respect a common southeastern boundary (see Fig. 4) soil layer 0003 that separates them clearly extends some distance beyond that boundary. In the absence of dating evidence these deposits are assumed to be medieval or later.

Mortar 'surface' 0002 is sealed by up to 0.50m of dumped soil 0001 that is clearly of post-medieval date. This deposit was presumably truncated when the existing concrete ground slab was laid.

The horizontal sequence of dumps and probable surfaces discussed above survives only in underpinning hole *c*, at the north end of the site. Elsewhere the monitoring revealed extensive pitting, with pits being recorded in underpinning holes *d*, *f* and *g*. Pit 0020 in underpinning hole *g* and pit 0021 in underpinning hole *d* are dated broadly to the post-medieval period on the evidence of brick and roof tile fragments in their fills. Pit 0016 in underpinning hole *f* is likely also to be of post-medieval date. The functions of the pits are unknown, but the presence of animal bones in the fill of pit 0020 implies that it was used for the disposal of domestic refuse.

The monitoring has provided a rare opportunity to investigate the archaeology of Haverhill's medieval town centre. Although in this instance no firm conclusions can be drawn it is clear that the site contains an archaeological sequence of some depth and complexity. This indicates that there is considerable potential for archaeological survival on other sites in the vicinity.

Acknowledgements

Le Sage Associates commissioned the archaeological investigation on behalf of D & A (2087) Ltd., who funded the work.

Keith Wade (SCCAS, Conservation Team) provided the Brief and Specification and monitored the project.

The project was managed by John Newman and conducted by Kieron Heard, Andrew Tester and Rhodri Gardner (SCCAS, Field Team).

Kieron Heard, SCCAS Field Team

July 2008

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

APPENDIX: Brief and Specification

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend 19 High Street, Haverhill, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (SE/08/0020). 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 interest defined for Haverhill late Saxon and medieval town in the County Historic Environment Record 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 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 Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found 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: 17 March 2008

Reference: /19 High 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.