

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Exeter House, 2 Church Street, Exning EXG 084

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008
(Planning app. no. F/2007/0632/FUL)



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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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List of contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

| | |
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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mrs A Forshaw and was monitored by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). Andrew Tester and Rob Brooks, from the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team, carried out the fieldwork. Andrew Tester, who also provided advice during the production of the report written by Rob Brooks, oversaw the project.

The post-excavation work was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds information was supplied by Richenda Goffin.

Summary

Monitoring for a house extension revealed post-medieval remains of a pit, wall foundation trench, a further unidentified structure, and artefacts.

HER information

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Planning application no. | F/2007/0632/FUL |
| Date of fieldwork: | 12th and 26th March, 2008 |
| Grid Reference: | TL 6223 6552 |
| Funding body: | Mrs A Forshaw |
| Oasis reference. | suffolkc1-48288 |



Introduction

Visits were made to the site on the 12th and 26th March, 2008 to monitor the ongoing excavation of footing trenches and a soak-away trench for an extension to Exeter House (Fig. 1) for residential use. The work was carried out to an outline Brief and Specification issued by R Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team - Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2007/0632/FUL. Mrs A Forshaw was the owner and funded the monitoring.

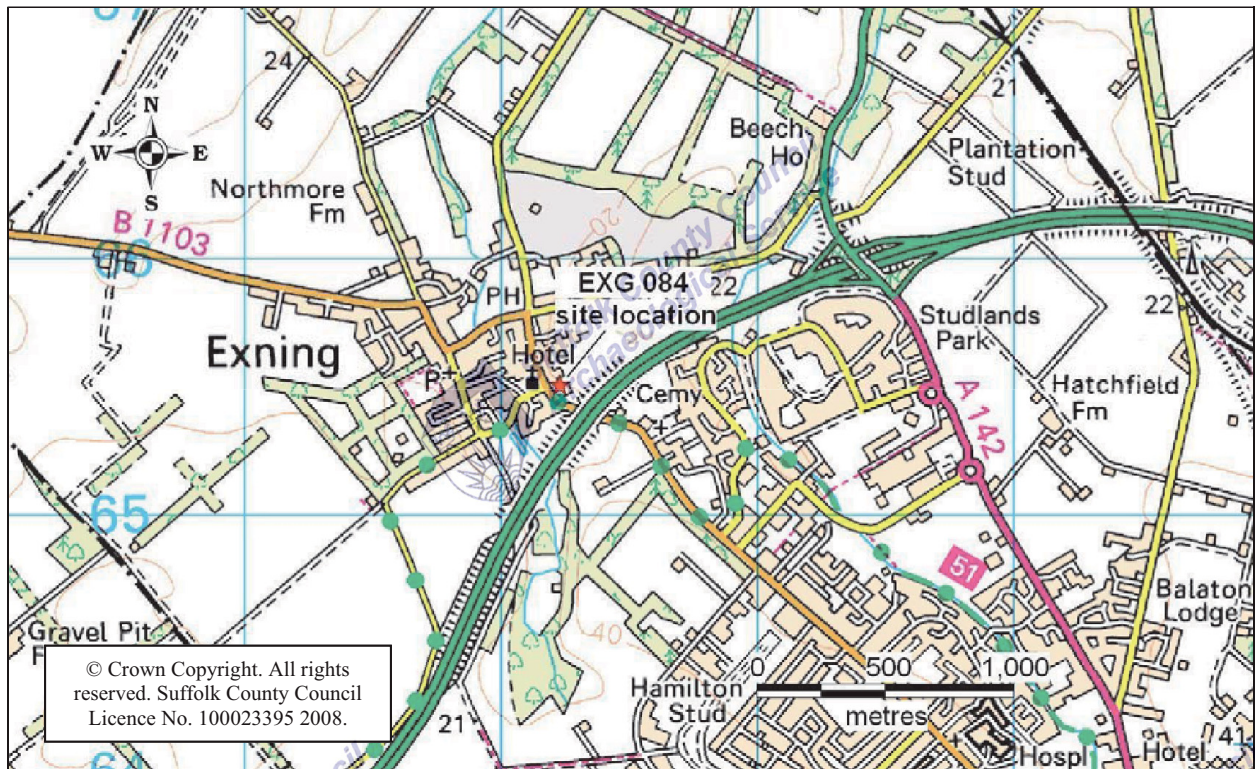


Figure 1. Site location

Interest in the site was based upon its position within 40m of the medieval church and churchyard (EXG 031), close to prehistoric material (EXG 046), Saxon features and finds, and medieval coins (EXG 056) (Fig. 2).

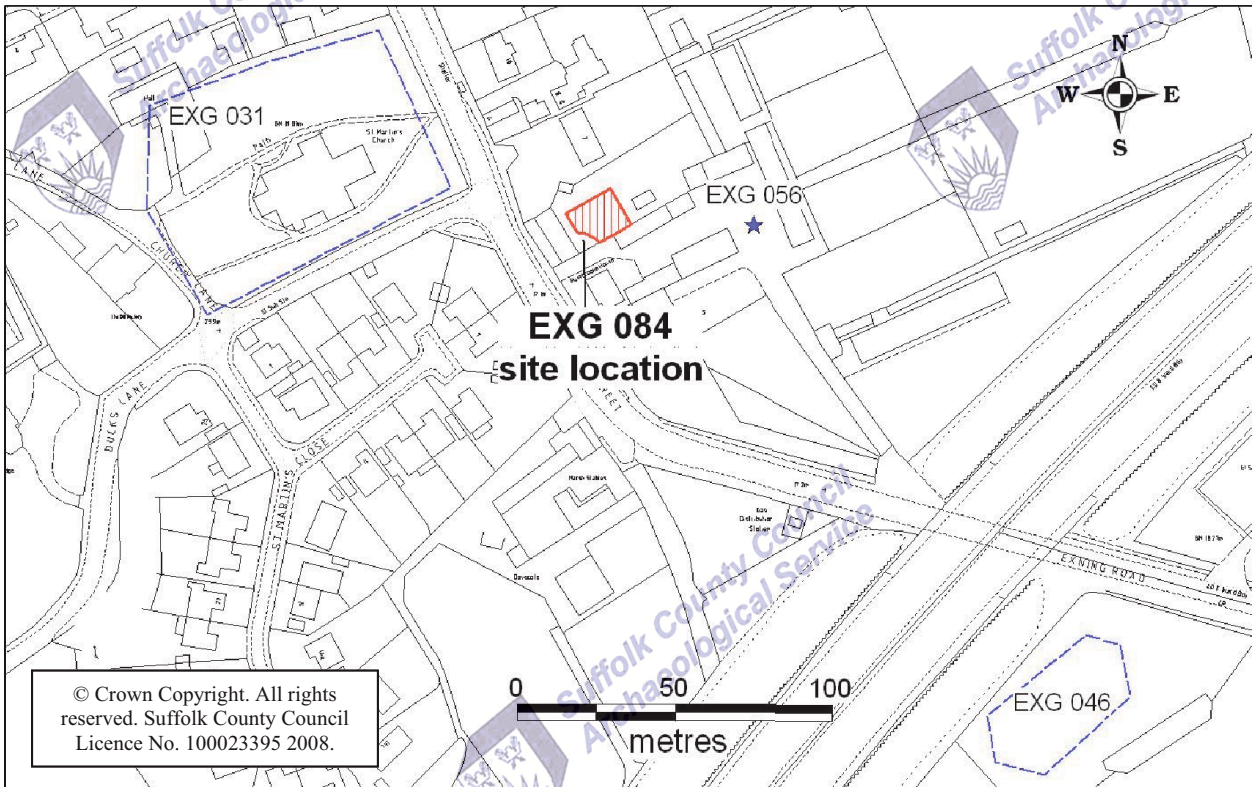


Figure 2. Archaeological listings recorded in the Historic Environment Record

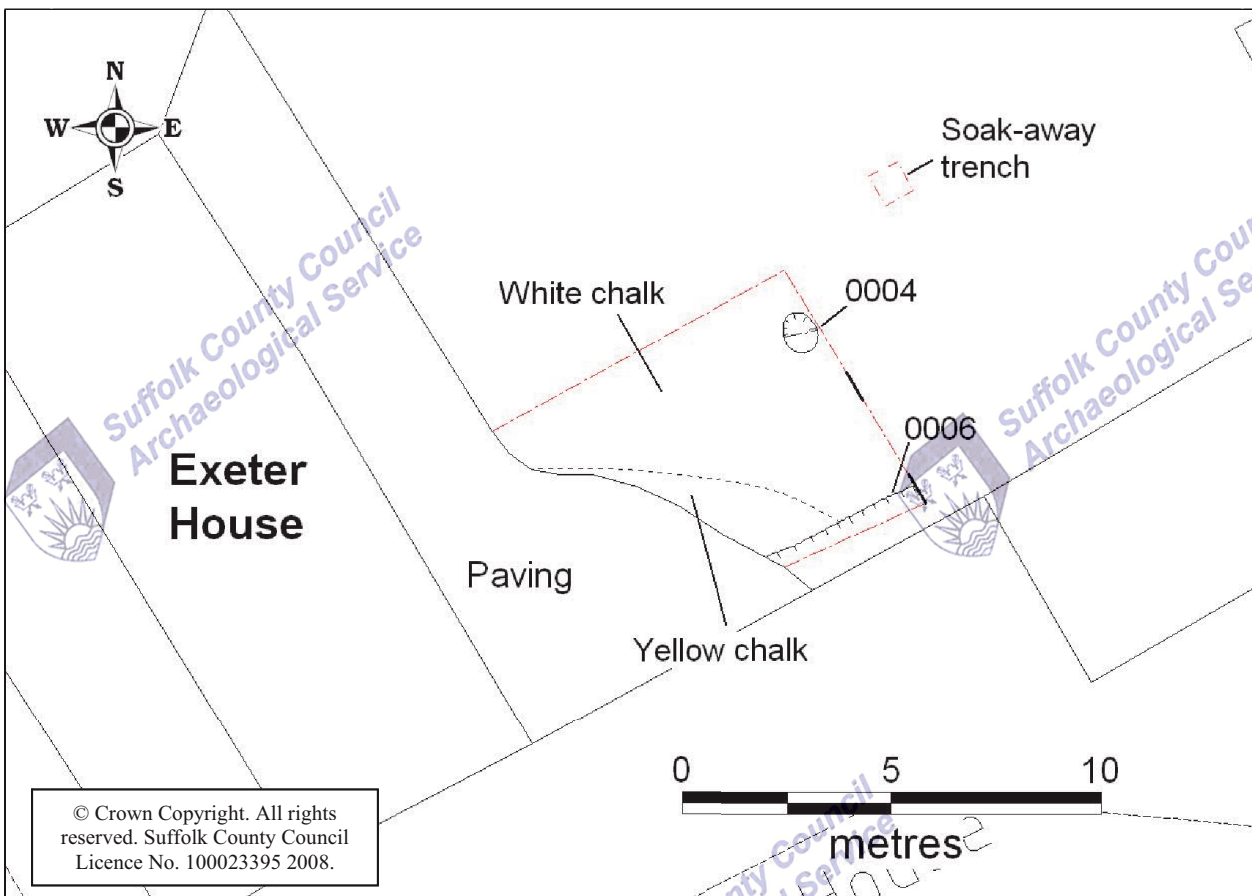


Figure 3. Site plan

Methodology

Two visits were made on the 12th and 26th March, 2008, to monitor two areas that were stripped with a mechanical digger (Fig. 3). The first strip was for a square soak-away drain, which measured c.0.6sq metres and did not reach the natural subsoil. The second area was for the main house extension. The topsoil was entirely stripped, and towards the northern corner of this area a depth of up to c.0.25m of the natural chalk subsoil was also removed prior to the second visit by an archaeologist. This second strip uncovered an area of c.36.65sq metres.

Trench profiles were cleaned by hand as required for drawings at scales of 1:20. A plan was drawn of the soak-away trench at a scale of 1:20 and further measurements were made for the digital plans (Fig. 3). Digital colour photographs in JPEG format at a 300 x 300dpi resolution were taken of features and trench profiles.

Records made on site have been input into an MS Access database and recorded using the Historic Environment Record code EXG 084. Finds were washed, marked and quantified, and the resultant data was also entered onto the database. Inked copies of profile and feature sections have been made.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-48288) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

Results

(Figs. 3 & 4, & Appendix 2)

Soak-away trench

The monitoring of the soak-away trench revealed a structure, 0009. This was made up partly of 0010, a yellow-orange mortar with patches of flint inclusions. This was recorded in the south-east and south-west sides of the trench (Fig. 4). In the south-east side of the trench and bonded to 0010 was a dark grey/black surface, facing south-west. When investigated this ran further south-east into the section to a distance of >0.3m. This was numbered as 0003 and is post-medieval. The overall shape of 0009 appeared to indicate the remains of a south-west facing wall. Overlying 0009 was a dark-brown topsoil, numbered as 0002, which contained fragments of 17th-19th century pottery.

Building footprint

Monitoring of the stripping associated with the building footprint adjoining Exeter House revealed pit 0004 and a shallow trench, 0006 (Figs. 3 & 4). The soil profile in this area revealed c.0.2m of topsoil similar to that recorded in the soak-away trench as 0002. Below this was 0008, which was mid grey sandy-silt. This layer, which was only observed towards the northern corner of this area of stripping, was c.0.2m deep, and did not produce any artefacts. Under this was the natural chalk subsoil.

0004 was an ovoid pit, which was 0.82m wide north-east to south-west and 0.97m long north-west to south-east. It was dug into chalk subsoil and was filled with a highly-compacted chalk, silt and sand composite (65%:20%:15%). This pit was not excavated to its base because of the high compaction of the fill and the limited time available for the project. 0005 was the fill from this pit and contained animal bone and oyster shell. A post-medieval iron nail was also recovered.

Trench 0006 was north-east to south-west aligned and followed the same alignment as the garden boundary to the south-east. In total, 3.7m of this feature were observed during the

monitoring, but it is clear that the feature extended beyond the limits of what was recorded (Fig. 3). Although the feature was somewhat irregular, the visible north-west side sloped at approximately 30° and the feature had a roughly flat base. Its fill, 0007, was fully excavated by hand and contained a high quantity of ceramic building material (CBM), consisting of bricks and tiles. A 30%-40% sample of this material was sampled and dated to the 18th century onwards. The fill also contained what were thought to possibly be construction blocks of chalk.

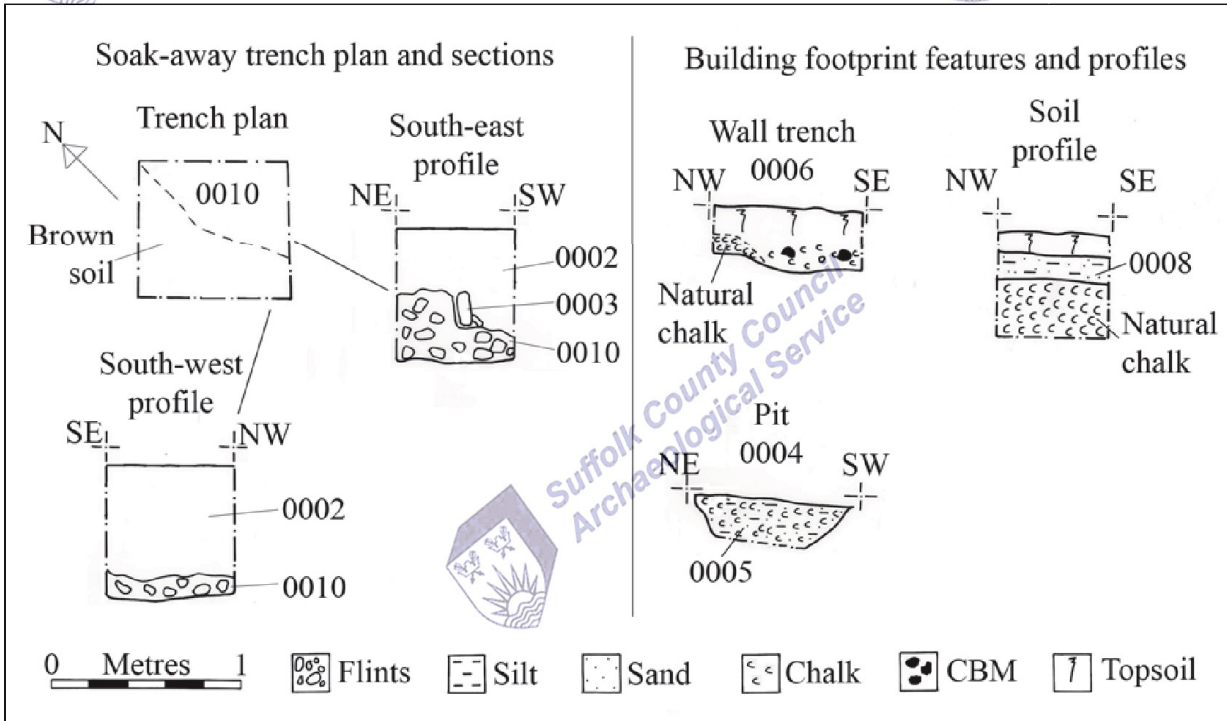


Figure 4. Plans and sections

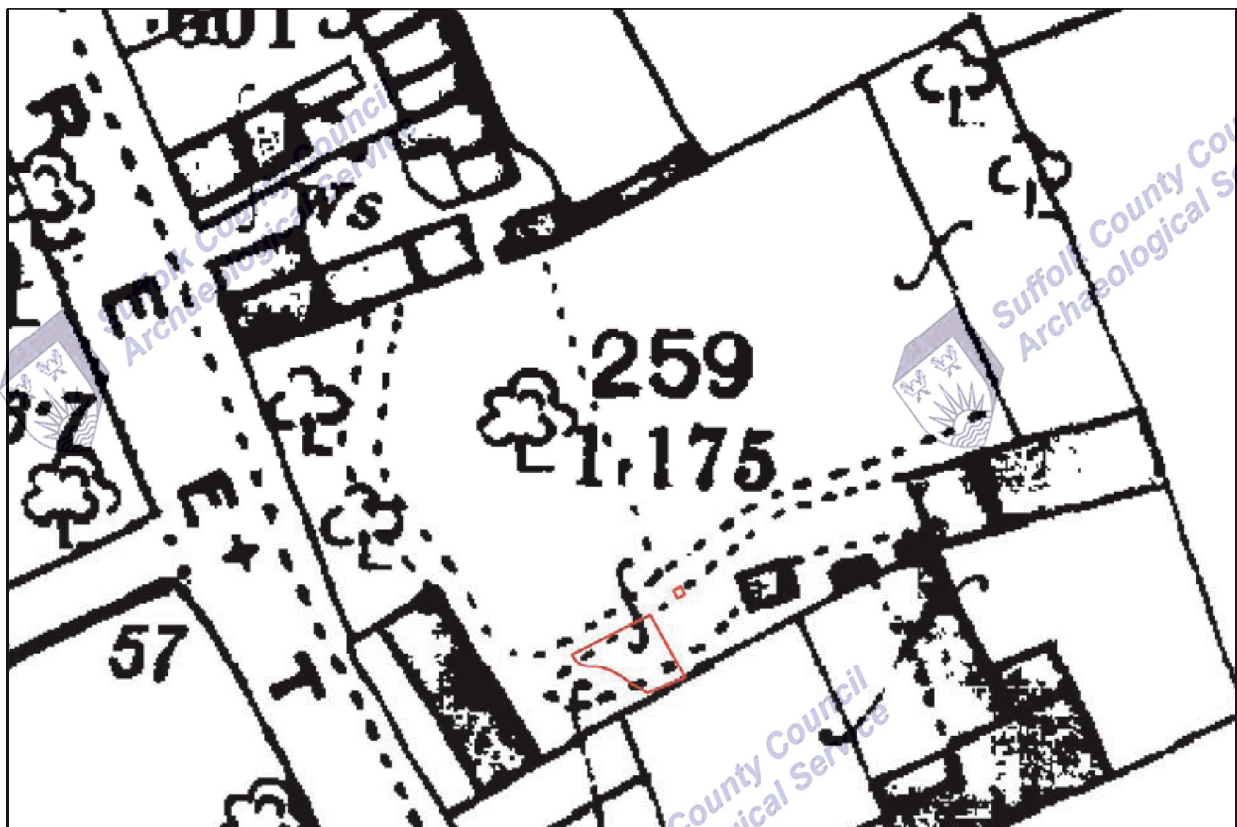


Figure 5. First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1880s, with trench location marked

The finds

By Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from five contexts, as shown in the table below:

| OP | Pottery | | CBM | | Animal bone | | Shell | | Miscellaneous | Spotdate |
|-------|---------|------|-----|------|-------------|------|-------|------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | No. | Wt/g | No. | Wt/g | No. | Wt/g | No. | Wt/g | | |
| 0001 | 9 | 84 | 3 | 218 | 13 | 204 | 1 | 4 | 1 post-med bottle glass @ 73 | 19th C+ (unstrat) |
| 0002 | 3 | 23 | | | 5 | 140 | | | 1 frag mortar lining @10g | 17th -19th C+ |
| 0003 | | | | | | | | | 3 frags mortar lining @ 180g | Post-med |
| 0005 | | | | | 2 | 25 | 1 | 10 | 1 nail @ 6g, 1 stone @ 4g | Post-med |
| 0007 | | | 19 | 3406 | | | | | 2 stone @ 675g | 18th C + |
| Total | 12 | 107 | 22 | 3624 | 20 | 369 | 2 | 14 | | |

Table 1. Finds quantities

Pottery

A total of 12 fragments of pottery was recovered from the monitoring, weighing 0.107kg. The assemblage is entirely post-medieval. The pottery was fully catalogued (Appendix 3).

The unstratified sherds from 0001 included fragments of Pearlware and Creamware dating from the middle of the 18th-19th century, and an abraded fragment of a Glazed red earthenware dish which may be earlier (16th-18th C). In addition two sherds of Red flowerpot were also present which date to 18th-20th C. Three fragments recovered from the fill 0002 of the soak-away trench consisted of two very abraded fragments of a West Norfolk bichrome vessel, possibly a pipkin, dating to the 17th century, and a single fragment of English stoneware (17th-19th C).

Ceramic building material

Ceramic building material was collected as both as unstratified finds and from the fill 0007 of the wall trench. A representative sample of brick and tile was collected from this feature, which ran in the same alignment as the boundary for the garden. Eleven fragments of red-firing and buff-fired post-medieval rooftiles were present, some of which had circular nail holes. The buff tiles are hard-fired and are made of fine, poorly mixed clay containing grog and silty bands. One of these has the remains of a sandy mortar adhering to one of the faces. Two fragments of white-firing bricks were retained, which are post-medieval and may be floor bricks. Seven pieces of red-fired, medium sandy bricks are not the usual shape and have an approximate height of 34mm. They are clearly post-medieval and could be the remains of coping bricks from the top of an earlier wall.

Mortar/concrete

Three fragments of two layers of mortar/concrete were collected from the soak-away lining 0003. The underlying layer is made of a hard sandy layer of buff mortar containing frequent small black shiny inclusions, whilst the overlying mid-dark grey layer resembles concrete and contains even more of these inclusions. The function of this lining is unclear, but it may be a drain, although its relationship to other features has not been determined. A small fragment of the same material was present in 0002.

Post-medieval bottle glass

A fragment from the base of a post-medieval wine bottle of 17th-18th century date is an unstratified find (0001).

Stone

Three fragments of chalk were identified in pitfill 0005 and the fill of wall trench 0007.

Metalwork

A single iron nail was present in pitfill 0005.

Shell

Two fragments of oyster shell, one of which was recovered from pitfill 0005 were catalogued and discarded.

Animal bone

Fragments of unstratified animal bone include bovine vertebrae and the shaft of a large limb bone which had evidence of cutmarks. A bovine calcaneus and vertebra and the molar from a sheep was present in soak-away fill 0002.

Discussion

The majority of datable artefacts recovered from the monitoring belong to the later part of the post-medieval period, 18th-19th century or later. There are some earlier pottery sherds, (16th-17th C), but these are either unstratified or residual fragments. In spite of the proximity of the site to the church, no medieval finds were identified.



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Discussion

The monitoring revealed an area covered with a varying depth of dark topsoil, as expected with a site which has potentially been used as a garden since the late 19th century. This is indicated by the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5).

0004 was a post-medieval pit, which may have been a quarry pit for construction material, hence it being excavated into the chalk. After this it may have been filled with any unusable chalk and domestic refuse, such as the oyster shell and animal bone.

Trench 0006 was also post-medieval and appears to have been a wall foundation slot. At an unknown point the wall was demolished or collapsed and the material from it was then probably partly used to back fill the trench. It is likely that this wall would have marked the boundary for the property as it is aligned with the existing garden wall and is close to it. The Ordnance Survey maps also do not indicate any other possible use for it. This suggests that if it is not a garden wall, that it is presumably earlier than the First Edition Ordnance Survey map and thus an unrecorded feature.

There is little evidence for structure 0009 in the soak-away trench. It is clearly post-medieval, though it is not shown on the First to Third Edition Ordnance Survey maps. During the monitoring it was thought to be the remnants of a kiln, but on closer inspection it was found to not be burnt. As such it could be the remains of a drain or another demolished wall.

Conclusion

The monitoring work revealed no medieval occupation evidence for the site and the earliest finds (16th to 18th century pottery) were redeposited. It is probable that the area was used as a garden in the post-medieval phase, with some quarrying for the local chalk. There was also probably a garden wall that was located slightly north-west of the existing south-west to north-east boundary. An unknown structure (possibly another wall or a drain) was also recorded.

Generally this project afforded good visibility of the archaeological remains. However, the soak-away trench was an exception, making it impossible to establish with certainty the function of the remains within it.

Rob Brooks
Excavation Supervisor
Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
October 2008

Appendix 1 – Brief and specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

EXETER HOUSE, EXNING

Although this document covers the work of the archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that its requirements may affect the work of a building contractor and may have financial implications (e.g. see paragraphs 2.3); there may also be Health & Safety responsibilities (e.g. paragraph 1.4).

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application F/2007/0632/FUL). The available evidence indicates archaeological monitoring of development, with provision for a record of any archaeology as it occurs, will be an adequate programme of work.
- 1.2 The development area lies within 40m of the medieval church and churchyard, and it is close to the frontage of the historic roadway. There is high potential for the disturbance caused by the excavation of footing trenches (c.32m) to damage or disturb archaeological deposits relating to the historic settlement core.

The principal objective of the monitoring will be to establish presence or absence and date range.

It is intended that, subject to archaeological conditions, this monitoring should not be an extended or complex exercise. Provided building excavations are properly timetabled, and accurate notice given, it should be possible to complete monitoring in one visit with the whole process of monitoring and report writing being achieved in one working day or less.

- 1.3 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in “Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England” Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 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.
- 1.5 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

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.

2.2 The main objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.

2.3 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.

The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of footing and service trenches.

Trenches and the upcast soil are to be observed by an archaeologist after they have been excavated by the building contractor. Unimpeded access at the rate of one and a half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin.

2.4 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service.

2.5 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site.

2.6 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.

2.7 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

2.8 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

2.9 Opportunity must 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.

2.10 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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.
- 2.13 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 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: R D Carr
Date: 15 October 2007

Reference: /Exeter House

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.

Appendix 2 - EXG 084 database

| Context | Feature | Identifier | Type | Description | Excavator | Recorded by | Date |
|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------|---|-----------|-------------|------------|
| 0001 | | Unstratified finds | | | | | |
| 0002 | | | Deposit | Dark brown, garden-type soil seen in soak-away trench. | AT | AT | 12/03/2008 |
| 0003 | 0009 | Wall | Deposit | Possible kiln lining seen in soak-away trench. Appeared to have a black, burnt surface, on orange/yellow mortar with flint nodules. Photographed. | AT | AT | 12/03/2008 |
| 0004 | 0004 | Pit | Cut | Small, round pit cut. Half-sectioned. Not excavated to base. 40°-60° concave sides. 0.82m wide NE-SW x 0.97m long NW-SE. Excavated to 0.26m deep. Photographed. Interpretation - possible quarry pit into chalk subsoil, although size and high percentage chalk backfill suggests a different purpose. | RB | RB | 26/03/2008 |
| 0005 | 0004 | Pit | Fill | Fill of 0004. Mid-light brown sand and silt. 60-70% chalk nodules. Excavated using trowel, shovel and mattock. Contained bone. | RB | RB | 26/03/2008 |
| 0006 | 0006 | Wall | Trench | Rough NE-SW trench. Approximately 30° sides, curving to a flat base. Only north-west half visible due to remaining bank and garden wall. Fill = 0007. Interpretation - wall foundation trench judging by form and its alignment with the existing garden wall. | RB | RB | 26/03/2008 |
| 0007 | 0006 | Wall | Trench fill | Brick, chalk, clunch, mortar and garden soil fill of wall trench 0006. 30%/40% sample of brick and mortar kept. | RB | RB | 26/03/2008 |
| 0008 | | | Layer | Mid grey sandy silt layer visible towards the north-west end of the north-west to south-east section in the larger excavated area. This may have been a buried topsoil. | RB | RB | 26/03/2008 |

Context **Feature** **Identifier** **Type** **Description** **Excavator** **Recorded by** **Date**

0009

Structure

Structural remains seen in soak-away trench. Only seen very partially. Made up of possible kin-liming 0003 and mortar-0010

0010

Wall

Deposit

Orange/yellow mortar and flint. Seen in soak-away trench



Appendix 3 - Pottery spotdates

| <i>Context No</i> | <i>Ceramic Period</i> | <i>Fabric</i> | <i>Form</i> | <i>Dec</i> | <i>Sherd No</i> | <i>Weight (g)</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>Comments</i> | <i>Fabric date</i> | <i>Context date</i> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 0001 | PM | ENGS | BODY | | 1 | 14 | | | 17th-19th C | All unstratified |
| 0001 | PM | LPME | FLOP | | 2 | 24 | | | 18th-20th C | |
| 0001 | PM | CREA | BOWL | | 1 | 0 | | | 1740-1880 | |
| 0001 | PM | PEARL | PLATE | | 2 | 17 | | | 1770-1850 | |
| 0001 | PM | GRE | DISH | INCD | 1 | 13 | | | 16th-18th C | |
| 0001 | PM | PMRW | BODY | | 1 | 9 | AA | | 16th-18th C | |
| 0001 | PM | PEARL | PLATE | BLUE | 1 | 1 | AA | | 1770-1850 | |
| 0002 | PM | ENGS | BODY | | 1 | 4 | | | 17th-19th C | 17th-19th C |
| 0002 | PM | WNBC | BODY | | 2 | 18 | AA | Rilled, could be part of pipkin | L16th-17th C | |