

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

'A PIECE OF CAKE' 120, HIGH STREET, LOWESTOFT (SMR ref. LWT 150)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF
GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION
OF AN EXTENSION TO 120, HIGH STREET, LOWESTOFT
(Application No. W/11711/3)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2004/167
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-5224)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to 120, High Street, Lowestoft (NGR TM 5509 9350), was undertaken during November 2004 but only a single post-medieval pit was revealed. No other significant archaeological features or deposits were identified. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference LWT150. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from Mrs M. Harper.

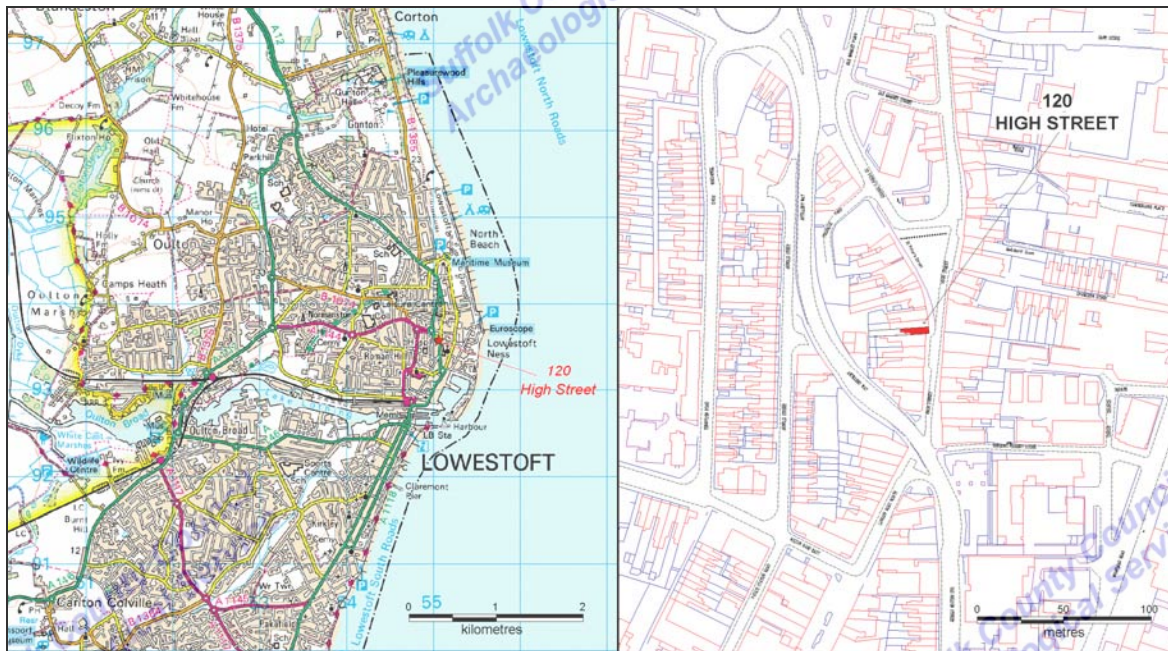


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

An application for the construction of an extension to the rear of 120, High Street, Lowestoft, (application no. W/11711/3) was approved but with an attached condition calling for a programme of archaeological works to be put in place prior to construction

work. The archaeological interest in the site was due to it being located within the area of the late medieval town of Lowestoft.

A Brief and Specification calling for archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the proposed development was produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team and this is reproduced as Appendix 1. The extension was to be constructed on strip footings and it was the excavation of these that was to be the main subject of the archaeological monitoring as they had the greatest potential to reveal and damage any archaeological deposits or features that may be present.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 5509 9350; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference LWT 150. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from Mrs M. Harper.

Methodology

The site was visited to observe the excavated footing for the extension. The depth of the footing trench was recorded and the make-up of the ground as revealed by the footing trench was noted. Any features identified were then recorded in plan and section if possible. Any artefacts recovered were assessed for significance with the intention to retain any noteworthy material. The footing trench and the site in general were then photographed using a digital camera.

Results

A site visit was made on the 24th November 2004 in order to observe the excavation of the footing an extension situated to the rear of the building. A 1m deep footing trench had been excavated by the building contractors (see figure 2). The excavation had been undertaken by hand as there was no possible access for a mechanical excavator into the narrow rear yard area of the property. The footing had been excavated through 0.7m of dark loamy topsoil, which contained occasional small fragments of brick and tile and other post-medieval debris. This overlay the natural subsoil, which comprised pale yellow silty clay. The interface between the topsoil natural subsoil was irregular and blurred suggesting the natural subsoil surface had not been truncated. The finished trench was relatively clean and gave a good opportunity to identify any cut features or archaeological deposits that may have been present.

The footing trench deepened at one point to a depth of 1.15m and continued at this depth for 0.6m. In the revealed section it could be seen that a small shallow pit had been excavated by the contractors (numbered 0002). The fill comprised a dark brown sandy clay and a number of fragments of animal bone and pieces of glazed pottery had been recovered from the fill. The animal bone fragments had originated from a large animal, probably cow, and all displayed at least one sawn face. All the pottery fragments were glazed on both sides and were clearly of a post-medieval date. None of these finds were retained.

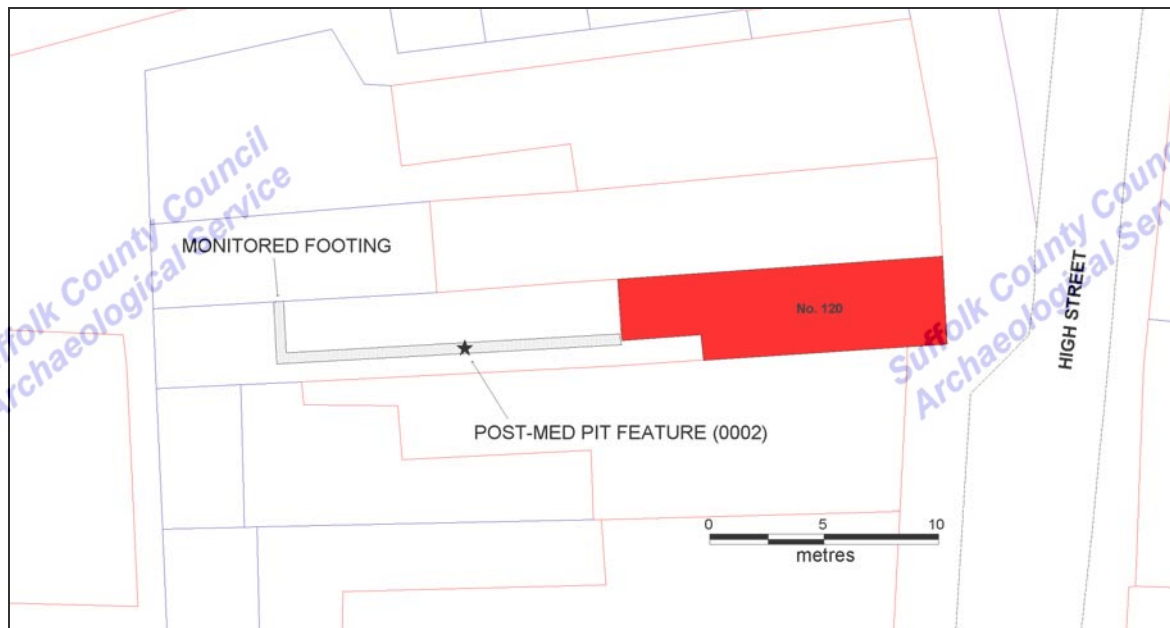


Figure 2: Results

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Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits appear to have been damaged or destroyed by the development of this site. The footing trenches were cleanly dug and gave a good opportunity to observe for archaeological features and deposits. The absence of any late medieval, or earlier, features within the examined footing has to be considered a real phenomenon.

The pit feature (0002) within the trench is of a relatively late date as indicated by the glazed pottery which was of 19th or early 20th century origin. The animal bones were had been clearly sawn suggesting they came from animals butchered for their meat.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team

25th November 2004



Plate I: the soil profile
as revealed in the footing trench



Plate II: general site view