

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## THE GABLES, HIGH STREET, HADLEIGH HAD 087

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2008  
(Planning App. No. B/05/02092)



108-110, High Street, Hadleigh

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## List of Contributors

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## Summary

Monitoring of ground works at The Gables, High Street, Hadleigh, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent. Footings for an extension revealed evidence of what may be large extraction pits of uncertain date. An undated pit rich in oyster and mussel shell was also observed.

## HER information

Planning application no.    B/05/02092  
Date of fieldwork:    21<sup>st</sup> August 2008  
Grid Reference:    TM 0255 4272  
Funding body:    Larlhams Ltd.  
OASIS ID:    55257

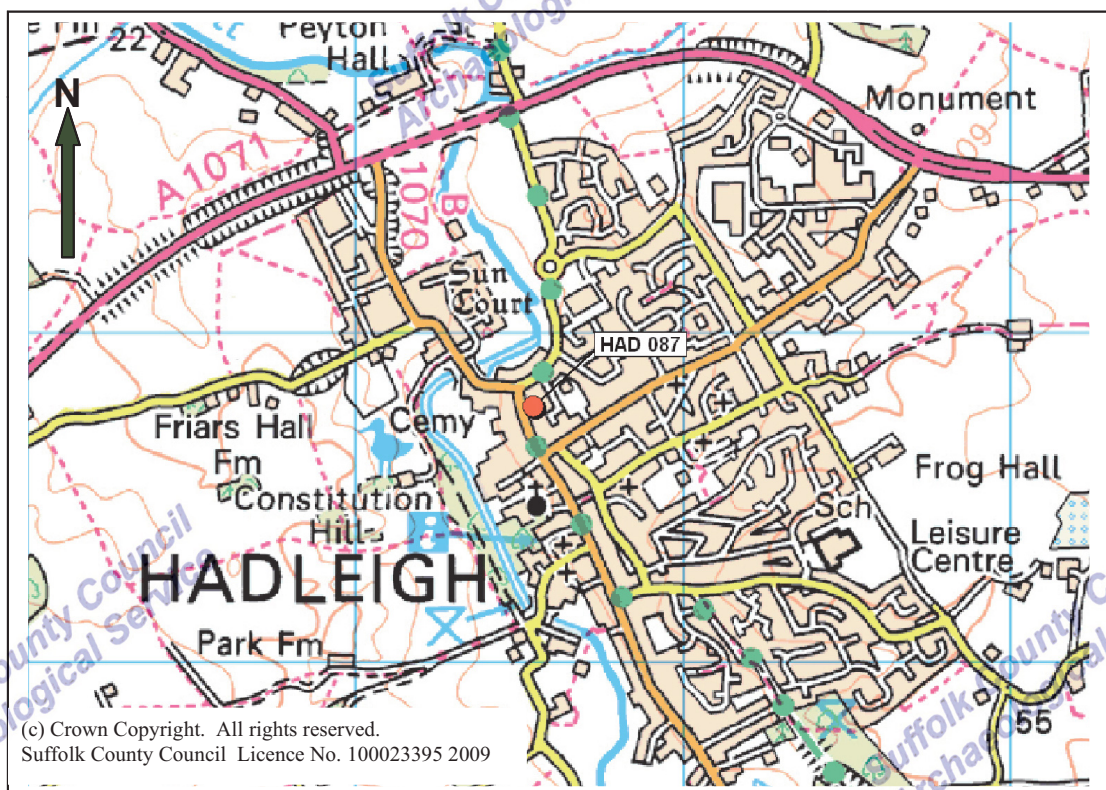


Figure 1. Site location

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## Introduction

Planning permission for the construction of an extension to The Gables, High Street, Hadleigh, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 0255 4272 (Fig. 1), at a height of approximately 21m OD. The site lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance for Hadleigh, with a strong possibility for the presence of archaeological deposits to be encountered. The Gables is also a Grade II\* Listed Building with the date 1649 carved into a bressumer on the central gable.

## Methodology

One visit was made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the excavated footings. Where features were revealed in section, they were cleaned manually for definition and each allocated 'observed phenomena' numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code HAD 087 (Appendix I). Features were recorded on site and photographs taken as a part of the site archive. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix II). The fieldwork was funded by Larlhams Ltd.

The monitoring archive is held in the County HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

## Results

Footings trenches had been excavated to a depth of 1.2m at the east where the footings cut into an east-west slope and 400mm deep adjacent to the existing building, showing the composition of the soil in the exposed sections. In the west to east sections, topsoil was absent, owing to the presence of a boundary wall on the south side and patio on the north. Below the wall footing and patio sub-base were various layers of yellow and orangey brown sandy gravel (0003) which were clean, homogenous and devoid of finds. This initially looked like natural subsoil but the fact that very distinct sloping layers were observed suggests the rapid backfilling of a large feature such as an extraction pit (0002). The upper layers of this pit were cut by a smaller feature, 0005, filled by a dark greyish brown loamy sand rich in oyster and mussel shells (0006). This feature was only visible in the northern west-east footing section and is likely to represent the disposal of domestic waste. No datable finds were recovered from its fill.

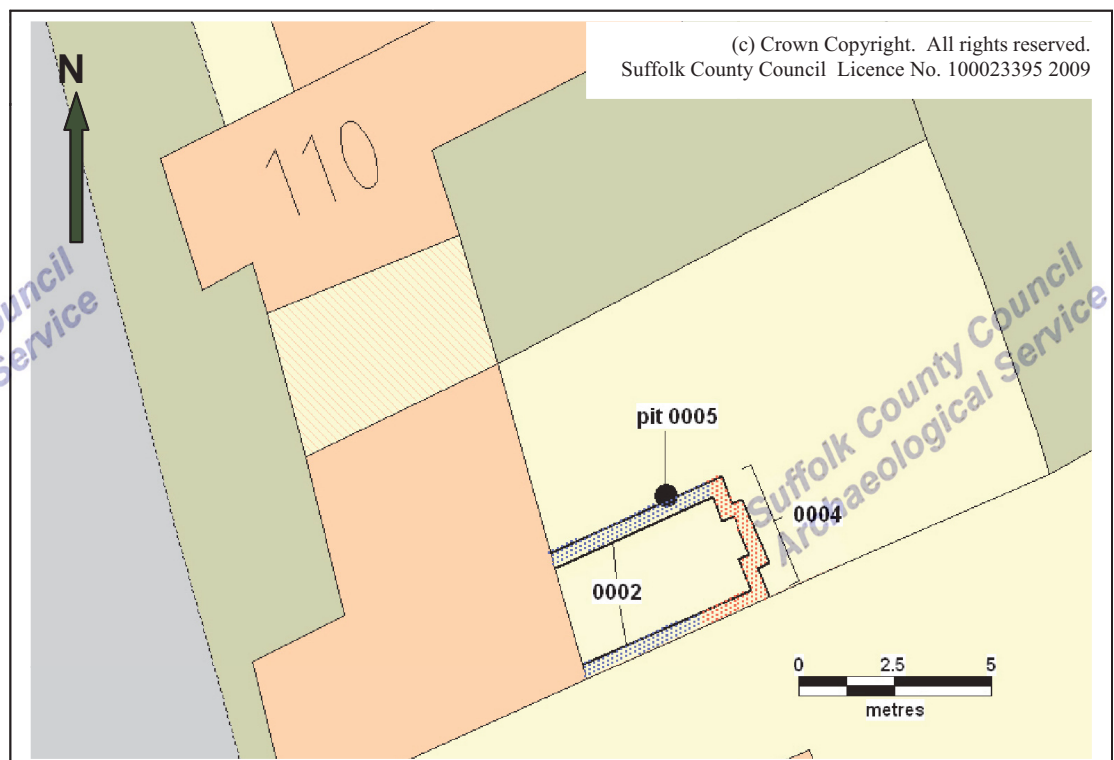


Figure 2. Location of monitored groundworks

The exposed section of the north-south footing comprised 300mm of dark greyish brown sandy loam topsoil over a second large pit, 0004. This appeared to cut 0002 and was filled by 0007, a mid orangey brown sandy clay with very occasional small stones, flecked with charcoal and occasional chalk and oyster shells. This was present to the full depth of the trench (1.2m at this point), including the base. Natural subsoil was not exposed at any point in the footings. No artefactual evidence was recovered from the exposed sections or the upcast spoil.

## Discussion

The presence of the existing house proves occupation of this site from at least the early post-medieval and the large extraction pits observed are likely to predate its construction. Similar quarry pit-type features have been recorded elsewhere in Hadleigh, notably at Long Bessels (HAD 071) and Magdalen Road (HAD 038). The presence of a smaller, undated pit containing deposits associated with domestic waste suggests that other features may survive here but were not disturbed by these groundworks. However, recent garden landscaping, including the construction of a patio adjacent to the house, could have impacted on any shallow archaeological deposits once present.

Linzi Everett  
Field Projects Team,  
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service  
February 2009

## Appendix I

OP	CONTEXT	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	OVER/ CUTS	UNDER/ CUT BY
0001	0001	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam, many roots throughout. Up to 300mm thick.	0006; 0007	
0002	0002	Pit cut	Probable extraction pit extending beyond the full depth of excavation.		0005; 0004
0003	0002	Pit fill	Yellow and orangey brown sandy gravel sloping layers, suggestive of backfilled quarry pit. Layers all clean, homogenous and devoid of finds.		0007
0004	0004	Pit cut	Probable extraction pit extending beyond the full depth of excavation.	0002	
0005	0005	Pit cut	Small pit, open 'U' shaped profile, c.450mm deep and c.600mm wide.	0002	
0006	0005	Pit fill	Dark greyish brown loamy sand rich in oyster and mussel shells. Root action throughout. No datable finds in section.	0007	0001
0007	0004	Pit fill	mid orangey brown sandy clay, homogenous, very occasional small stones, flecked with charcoal and occasional chalk and oyster shells. No obvious tip lines like those in 0003.	0003	0001

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

##### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

##### THE GABLES, 108-110 HIGH STREET, HADLEIGH

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend The Gables, 108-110 High Street, Hadleigh, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/05/02092). 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 Hadleigh medieval town in the Babergh Local Plan 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 Historic Environment 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 HER 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: 18 March 2008

Reference: /The Gables

**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.**