

6a, Back Street, Lakenheath. LKH240

Archaeological monitoring report.

Report no. 2005/22

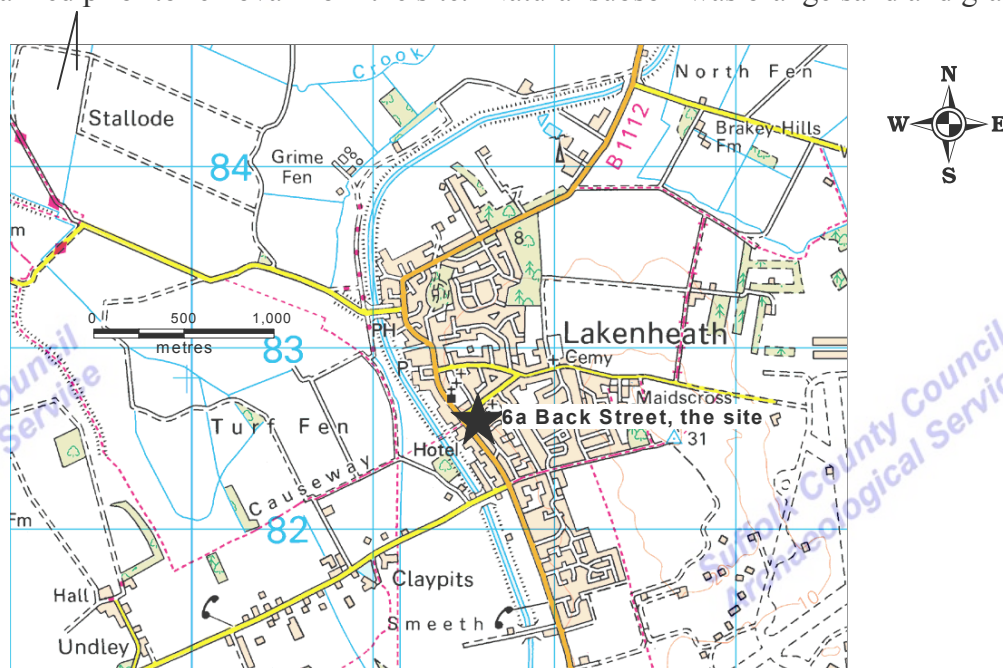
Planning Application No: F/2004/861
Grid reference: TL7155 8264
Date of fieldwork: 6th January 2004
Project Officer: Jo Caruth
Oasis reference: suffolkc1-5797
Funding body: SJL Services

Summary

Archaeological monitoring at 6a Back Street, Lakenheath, revealed modern deposits cutting and overlying an older and less disturbed topsoil, but within which were occasional 19th century inclusions. No medieval or earlier deposits, finds or features were found.

Method

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footing trenches for an extension to the rear of 6a Back Street, Lakenheath. The site lies near the ancient core of Lakenheath with the potential to uncover Anglo-Saxon and Medieval settlement deposits. Prior to the monitoring visit c.40cm of slabs, concrete and modern disturbed soil had been removed from the site. The monitoring was undertaken on 6th January 2004, and c.90% of the footing trenches were observed by the monitoring archaeologist during excavation. The upcast soil was loaded directly into a truck, but where there was the possibility of pre-modern deposits the soil was visually scanned prior to removal from the site. Natural subsoil was orange sand and gravel.



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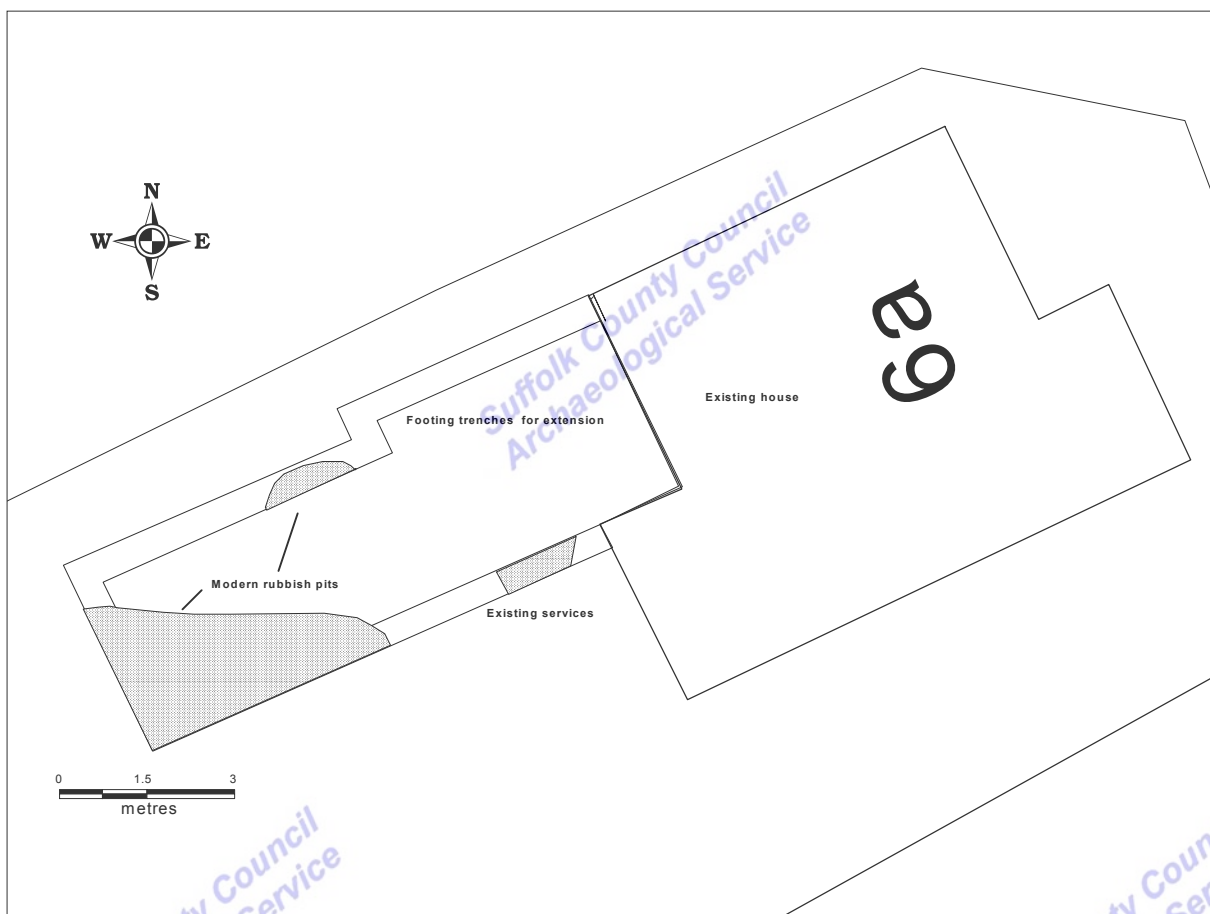
Figure 1 Site location

Results

The entire site was covered by a c.70cm (from pre site strip levels) thick layer of mixed brown loam with occasional bands and patches of mortar, chalk and modern rubble. 20th century finds were recovered throughout. There were two rubbish pits within this layer which cut underlying layers, both these contained early 20th century finds (machine made glass bottles, a tin sign, and possible iron cart fittings). One pit was only just caught by the northern trench and c.1.m width was visible and a depth of c.1.2m, the second pit ran across the south-west corner of the development and was 1.65m deep.

Beneath the modern deposits could be seen a layer of brown sand-loam containing chalk flecks, c.8cm thick, over a cleaner brown sand-loam, c.20cm thick which probably represented an early topsoil. However, occasional modern finds were still seen within this and it has therefore been subject to disturbance during the post-medieval period.

No finds dating to earlier than 1800 were identified and the only cut features were modern.



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Figure 2 Results of monitoring

Conclusion

This site has been subject to considerable disturbance during the 20th century consisting of the excavation of rubbish pits and redeposition of up to 70cm of soil and debris over a previous topsoil. However despite the survival of this layer no evidence of medieval or earlier activity on this site was identified.

Jo Caruth
January 2005