

# Extension to 10/10a Queen Street, Haverhill HVH 053

Application No. SE/04/1846/P

TL 6716 4561

Oasis No. suffolkc1-5830

Report No. 2005/26

## Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches at 10/10a Queen Street, Haverhill, located possible evidence of a buried medieval/post-medieval layer and one undated pit, of unknown function, beneath it.

## Introduction

A single visit was made to the site on 17th January 2005 to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for a single building (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/04/1846/P. The work was funded by the developer, Mr P Farrant.

Interest in the site was based upon its general location within the area of archaeological interest for Haverhill, defined by the County Sites and Monuments Record, which covers the Anglo-Saxon and medieval areas of the town. Therefore there was potential for footings to disturb archaeological deposits of these periods.

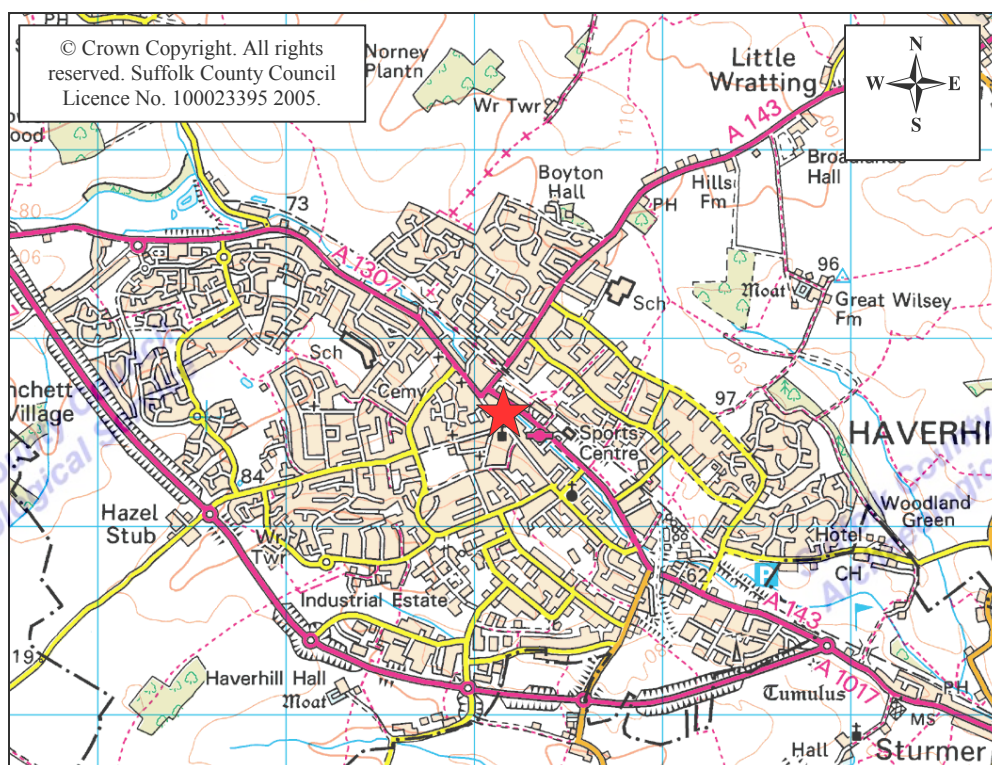


Figure 1. Site location plan

## Methodology and Results

At the time of the visit to the site approximately 70% of the footing trenches had been fully excavated (Fig. 2). The trench for the north-west wall was not yet open and therefore was not seen. The trenches were 0.5m-0.6m wide and 1.2m-1.7m deep and generally showed a modern layer of material, such as soil mixed with brick and concrete measuring 0.4m-0.8m thick, spread across the site. This overlaid a homogenous layer, 0002, of dark grey/brown clay/loam, varying in thickness from 0.3m-0.6m. This layer was fairly clean and no finds were recovered although it contained traces of mortar and other debris. This layer overlaid the natural subsoil, an orange clay/silt, which was at a depth varying from 1.4m in the south to 0.8m in the north.

In the southern part of the site a large possible pit (0003) was identified. It measured approximately 1.3m+ wide and 1.7m deep and was filled with a dark grey/clay loam (0004). This was very similar to layer 0002 which lay above it, and together they may form a single deposit. Again the fill was fairly clean, apart from traces of mortar, and no finds were recovered.

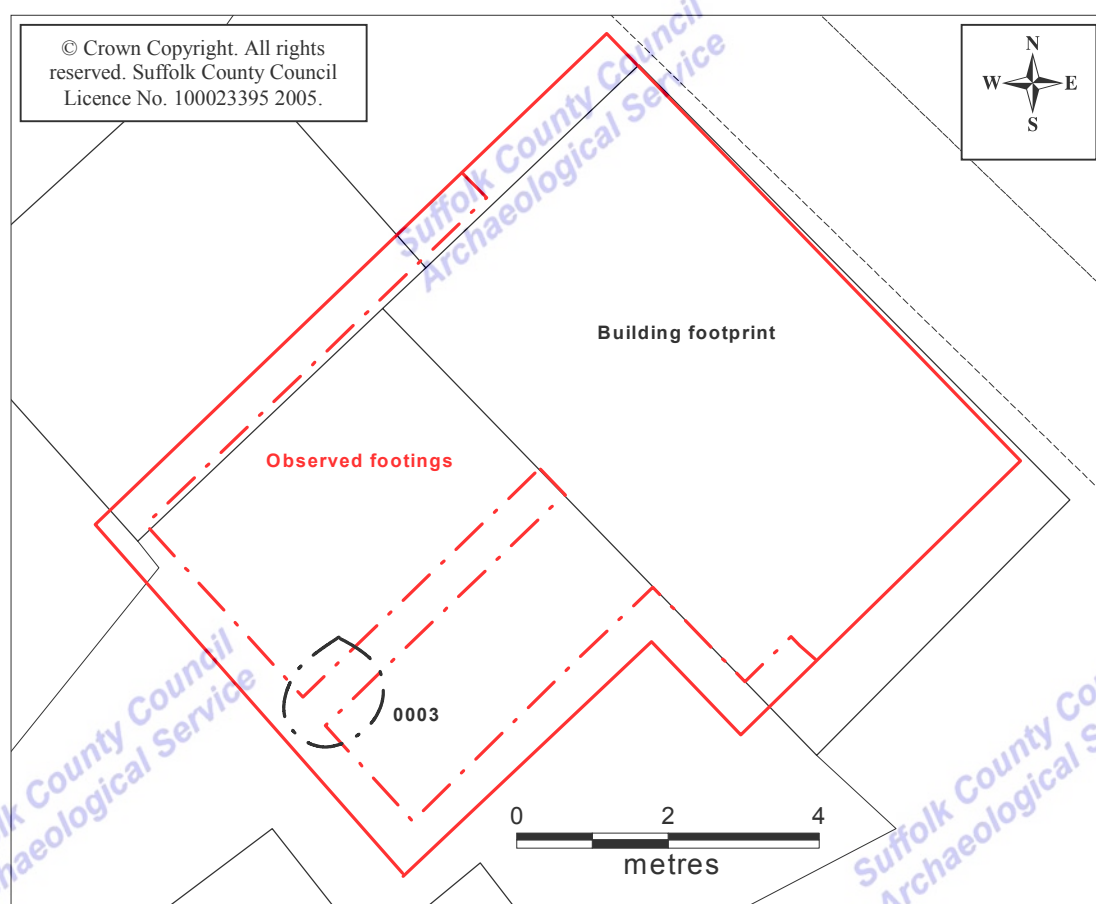


Figure 2. Site plan

## Discussion

The layer, 0002, was sealed beneath thick deposits of modern material and could possibly be a former mixed topsoil of a medieval or post-medieval date. The lack of

any finds evidence means it is undatable, but its presence suggests that other archaeological deposits may survive in the general area, sealed at depth below modern levels.

Pit 0002 appears to predate layer 0003, as it appears to be infilled by the same, or a very similar, deposit. It is also undated and its function is unclear, although an obvious use would be as a rubbish pit, in the yards or gardens to the rear of the properties fronting onto Queen Street, but the fill contained no finds evidence to suggest this.

John Craven, January 2005