

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

### 24 and 26 Church Street, Eye

**PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: LB/5/04**

National Grid Reference: TM 1472 7386

**Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: EYE 073**

Clare McLannahan, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, March 2005

**SCCAS Report Number: 2005/17**

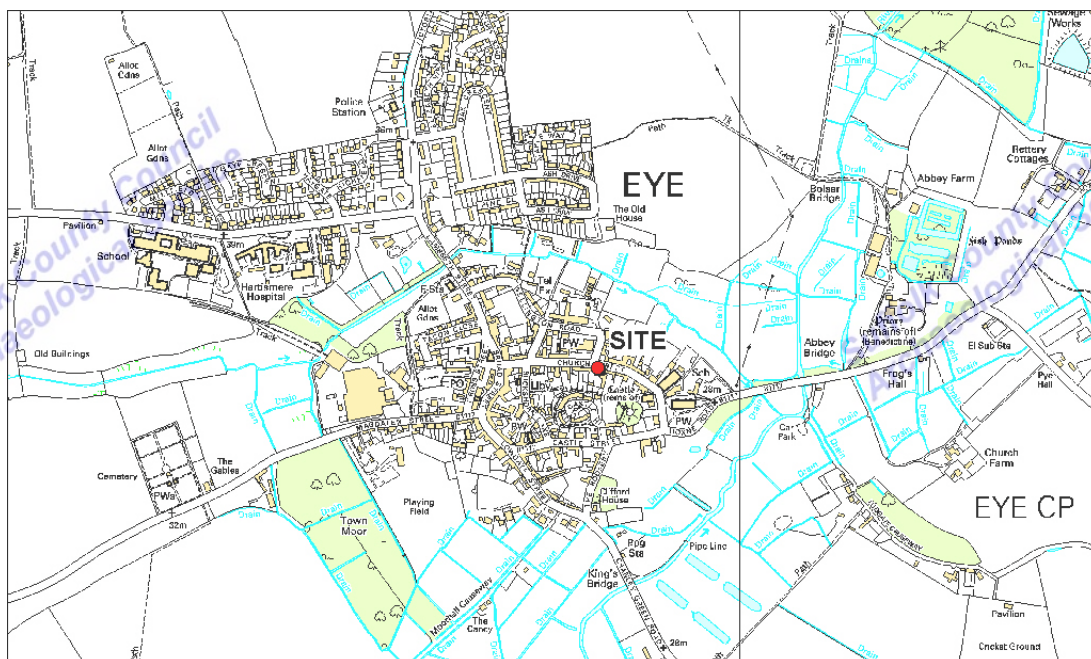
Oasis ID. No. - suffolkc1-6956

### Summary

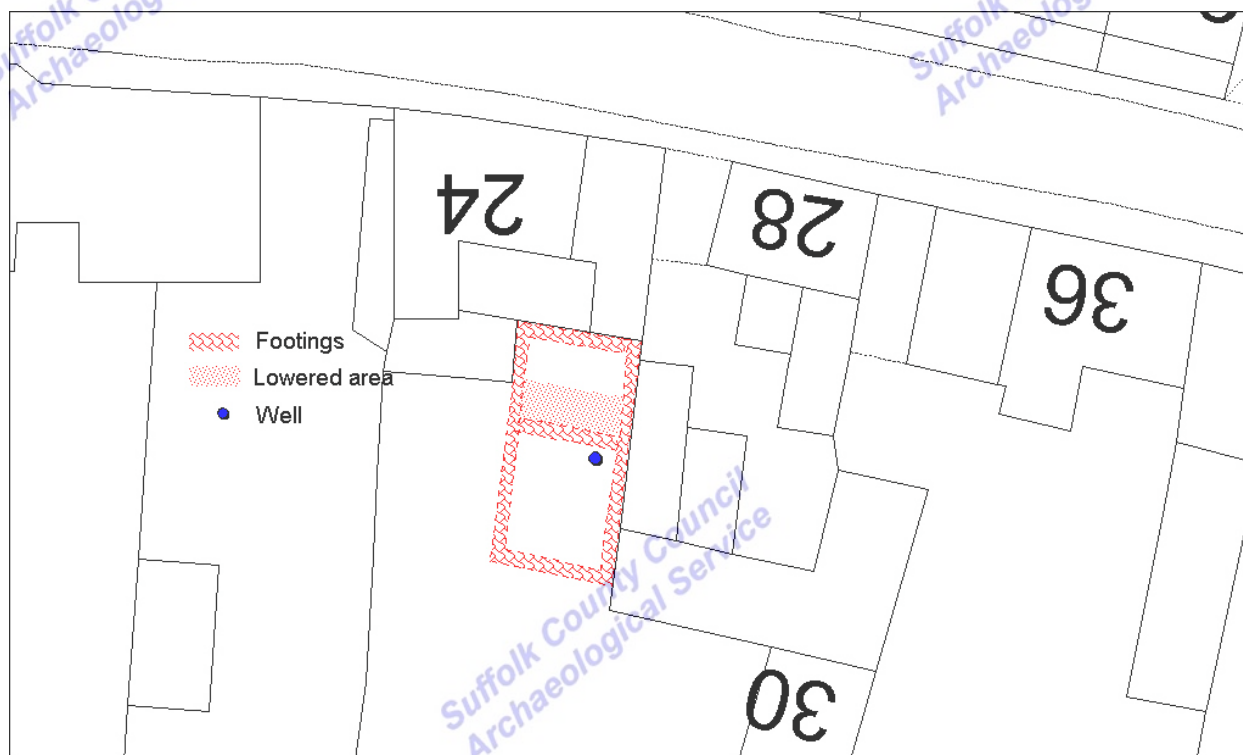
*The construction of an extension at 24 and 26 Church Street, Eye (TM 1472 7386, EYE 073), required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. It was hoped that, since the site lies within the medieval town of Eye, some evidence of the castle or of medieval occupation along Church Street may be revealed. The extension required footings that were inspected during and after excavation, as well as the upcast soil. No archaeological finds or features were revealed during the monitoring with the exception of a probable Victorian well seen in between the footings after the initial soil strip. This has been since filled in and covered over and should remain intact during the developments. The footings at the rear of the garden were dug into a recent topsoil layer which, in all probability, sealed the bailey ditch of the castle underneath.*

### Introduction

Planning consent for the construction of an extension and building alteration works required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site lies within the medieval town of Eye, between Church Street and the bailey ditch of the castle and so it was hoped that this development would produce evidence for medieval occupation along the street front and/or the edge of the castle bailey ditch. The project was commissioned by Robert Gooderham (architect) on behalf of Dr and Mrs C. Storey (landowners).



A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Keith Wade of the Conservation Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), who requested monitoring visits during and after the excavation of the footing trenches. This was to observe the trenches and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.



## Results

The footings were observed both during and after excavation and the upcast spoil was retained on site for inspection. They were dug to a depth of c.0.5m adjacent to the house, rising to c.0.3m at the rear of the garden. Natural subsoil was seen in the footings nearest the house, consisting of mid yellow course sand. The remaining footings were still in the topsoil, which consisted of a very dark, almost black clay sand with frequent sherds of 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery within. An area adjacent to the central footing was also lowered to a depth of c.0.4m below ground level, almost to the natural subsoil.

Despite revealing the natural subsoil and the good visibility afforded by the clean excavation of the footings, no archaeological finds or features were found within the footing trenches or in the upcast spoil.

A well, probably Victorian in date, was seen after the initial strip of grass was made in the development. It was approximately 3m deep with rubble at the base so the true depth could not be ascertained. The bricks at the surface appeared to be of Victorian or later date although it was not possible to inspect the bricks further down to determine any further information. The well was approximately 1.5m in diameter but could not be inspected fully due to the concrete encasing metal work above it. A

pump is noted on the 1880's OS map in the adjacent garden to this so it is possible that these are in some way related. This well was filled in and covered over and should remain intact during the development works.

## **Discussion**

The lack of any archaeological finds or features in this monitoring does not suggest that medieval evidence is lacking in this area. On the contrary, the footings at the rear of the garden, towards the castle, were dug into what appeared to be quite a recent topsoil deposit. It is hoped, and likely, that possible remains of the bailey ditch do exist under this topsoil layer, and so have been untouched during this development. A layer of overburden was also seen in a monitoring on 37 Castle Street (Everett, 2003) a road adjacent to, and parallel with, Church Street and was interpreted as in-fill of the bailey ditch. This suggests that there has been substantial in-filling of the ditch since it ceased to be maintained and so it may well exist in this garden, underneath this topsoil layer. It is likely that medieval evidence also exists along the road frontage, underneath the existing building.

## **Bibliography**

Everett, L., 2003. *37, Castle Street, Eye*. EYE 065. SCCAS Report No. 2003/108

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Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 7th March 2005





Footings and lowered area



Footings and lowered area



Well



Well base and walls

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