
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

7, Water Street, Lavenham
(LVM 046)

Planning Application No. B/04/631
Archaeological Monitoring Report No. 2005/18
OASIS ID- 7021

Summary

Lavenham, 7, Water Street, Lavenham (TL/916491; LVM 046) Alterations to 7, Water Street, Lavenham, required monitoring of floor level reduction and footing trench excavation. Various unstratified finds were recovered, mostly dating from the late medieval to post-medieval periods, but including glazed Hedingham ware of 14th-15th century date. The only feature to be observed was a burnt pit containing metal working debris and post medieval pottery, and is likely to be associated with a blacksmith known to have occupied the site.

(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Mr. S. Turner & Ms. H. Bellingham; report no. 2005/18)

1. Introduction

Conditional planning consent for alterations to 7, Water Street, Lavenham (Fig. 1) required the archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with floor lowering and footings for a new extension. The site is centred on TL 9162 4915, just above the 60m contour, and lies within the area of medieval Lavenham as defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The house itself is timber framed, with flint and brick extensions at the rear.

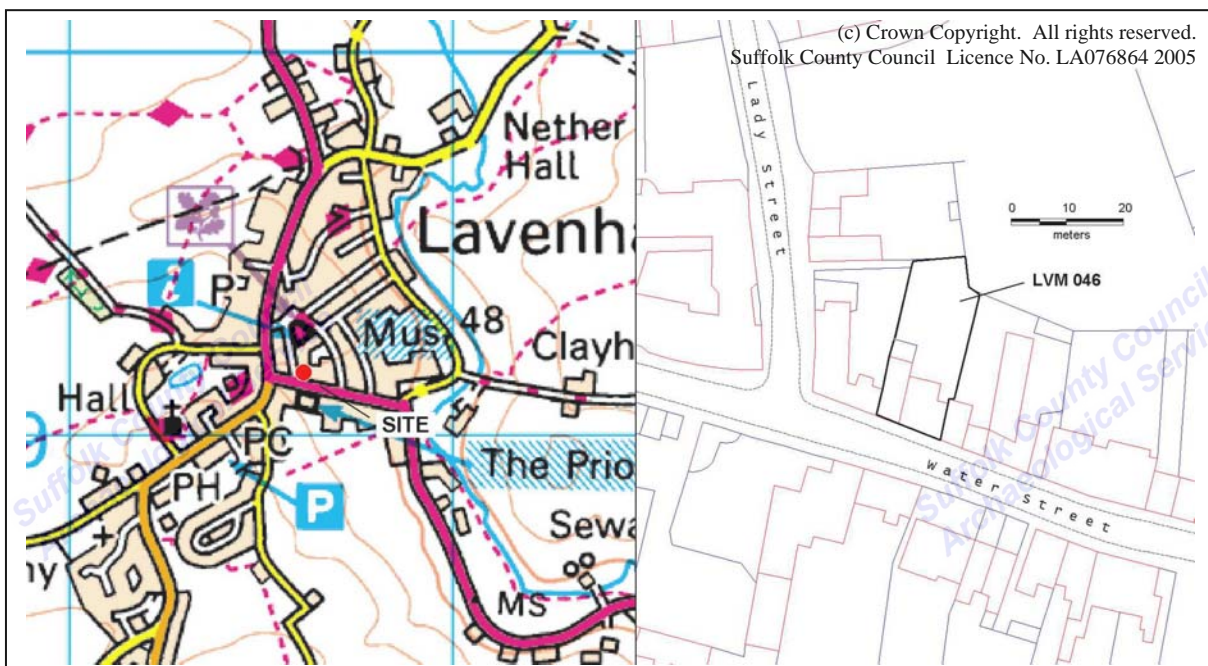


Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

Visits were made to the site during February 2005 in order to observe the various groundworks and record any archaeological deposits revealed. The site was recorded under the SMR code LVM 046. The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Conservation Team. The monitoring work was carried out by the SCCAS Field Projects Team and was funded by Mr. S. Turner & Ms. H. Bellingham.

3. Results

Floor level reduction

Excavation was carried out for the renewal of solid floors in the western wing of the building. In area A, c.250mm of a pale brown sandy silt with occasional chalk flecks was removed from which an assemblage of finds was recovered. No archaeological features or were observed within the reduced area. 300mm of a pale brown sandy silt with occasional chalk flecks and brick and tile fragments was removed from area B. A range of unstratified finds were recovered from the excavated material. One feature was exposed within this area, a sub-oval ring of pale, chalky clay containing a layer of ashy, burnt material including metal slag and modern glazed pottery. This feature was visible in section immediately below the existing footings and had a total depth of 340mm. The area had been lowered prior to the monitoring, removing all but the base of the feature.

No further groundworks in these areas will expose or disturb any deeper deposits.

Foundation trench

Footings for a new extension were excavated to a depth of c.1m, revealing the composition of the soil in the exposed sections. This comprised a layer of dark, greyish brown topsoil around 200mm thick sealed between the paving above and natural yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil below. No features were observed within the trench.

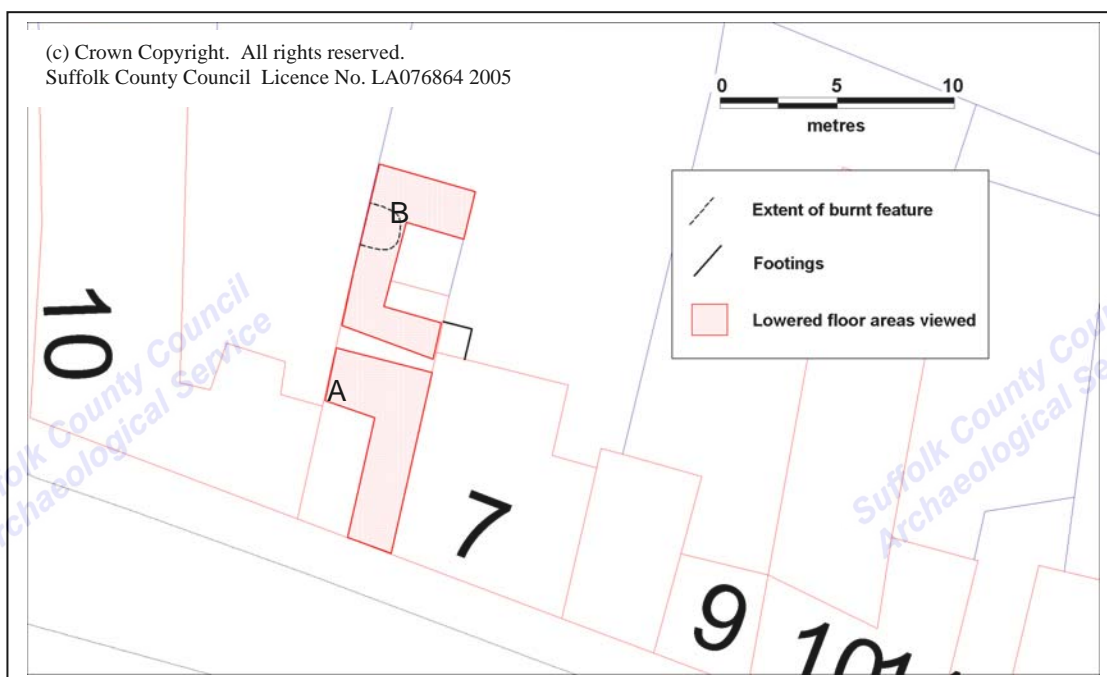


Figure 2: Location of monitored groundworks

4. 7, Water Street, Lavenham (LVM 046): The finds

by Richenda Goffin, October 2005

Introduction

Finds were collected from one unstratified context, as shown in the table below:

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal Bone		Oyster Shell		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0001	21	693	2	138	13	335	2	46	Post Med
Total	21	693	2	138	13	335	2	46	

Pottery

A total of 21 fragments of pottery weighing 693g was recovered from the monitoring. All the material is unstratified, and was collected from Area B. The majority of the pottery is post-medieval in date, but one earlier vessel was identified.

The post-medieval wares include fragments of a Glazed red earthenware jar of Speckle-glazed variety which dates to the late 17th-18th century. Other glazed red earthenwares were also identified, with two fragments of a slipware dish with wavy slip decoration which is of 17th century date. The base of an earlier red earthenware hollow-ware is transitional and dates to the 15th-16th century. The slightly sagging base from a fine sandy micaceous redware which has small spots of lead glaze on the underside is probably a Late Hedingham ware dating to the 14th-15th century.

Ceramic Building Material

Two unstratified fragments of ceramic roof tile were collected weighing 138g. Both tiles are made out of fully oxidised sandy fabrics which are post-medieval in date. One of the tiles is covered with mortar and has been re-used.

Oyster Shell

Two fragments of oyster shell were present amongst the unstratified material.

Animal bone

Thirteen fragments of animal bone were recovered (335g). The group includes part of the mandible of a pig with some loose teeth, and a number of rib fragments. The remainder of the bone is made up of a number of limb bones from medium sized mammals.

Quantification AW/ 05/05, recording RG 26/10

5. Discussion

The material removed from the various groundworks comprised a well mixed, homogenous layer containing finds ranging in date from medieval to post-medieval. A blacksmith occupied the site within living memory and this is likely to be the source of the slag-rich, burnt feature. No other changes or features were observed in the exposed soils.

Linzi Everett

Field Team

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

October 2005