

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/089**

**90 Church Street, Lavenham  
LVM 055**

**J. A. Craven**

**© June 2010**

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** B/09/01330  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 13th and 26th April 2010  
**Grid Reference:** TL 9151 4910  
**Funding Body:** Mr and Mrs I N Thomson  
**Curatorial Officer:** Keith Wade  
**Project Officer:** J. A. Craven  
**Oasis Reference:** Suffolkc1-76196

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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## Summary

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An archaeological monitoring was carried out to the rear of 90 Church Street, Lavenham, during the construction of a new rear extension. The extension footprint was seen to lie in a former patio area that been terraced into the natural slope, largely removing potential archaeological levels.

On the edge of this terraced area a cross-section of the natural slope was seen, showing a complete soil profile. This consisted of modern deposits, overlying the former topsoil, which had been dumped to level the natural slope and form the rear garden. A post-medieval feature was identified below the topsoil and is thought to be a ditch marking a former property boundary broadly contemporary with the range of 15th-16th century listed buildings forming the street frontage.

# 1. Introduction

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An archaeological monitoring was carried out at 90 Church Street, Lavenham during the groundworks for a new extension to the rear of the property on the 13th and 26th April 2010 (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 B/09/1330. The work was funded by the developer, Mr and Mrs Thomson.

## 2. Geology and topography

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The property lies at a height of 65m AOD on a north-east facing slope overlooking a tributary of the River Brett. The site geology is of clayey soils over chalky till (Ordnance Survey 1983).

## 3. Archaeological and historical background

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The planning condition had been placed as the site had high potential for important archaeological deposits to be disturbed or destroyed by the development. The site lies in the historic medieval settlement core of Lavenham, within the area of archaeological importance as defined in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (LVM 053), c.200m east of the parish church. The existing property is a Grade II\* listed building (LBS No: 276687), of a timber framed and plastered construction with a jettied upper storey. It forms part of a continuous street frontage dating to the 15th-16th century.

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks was therefore required to record any archaeological deposits affected by the development.

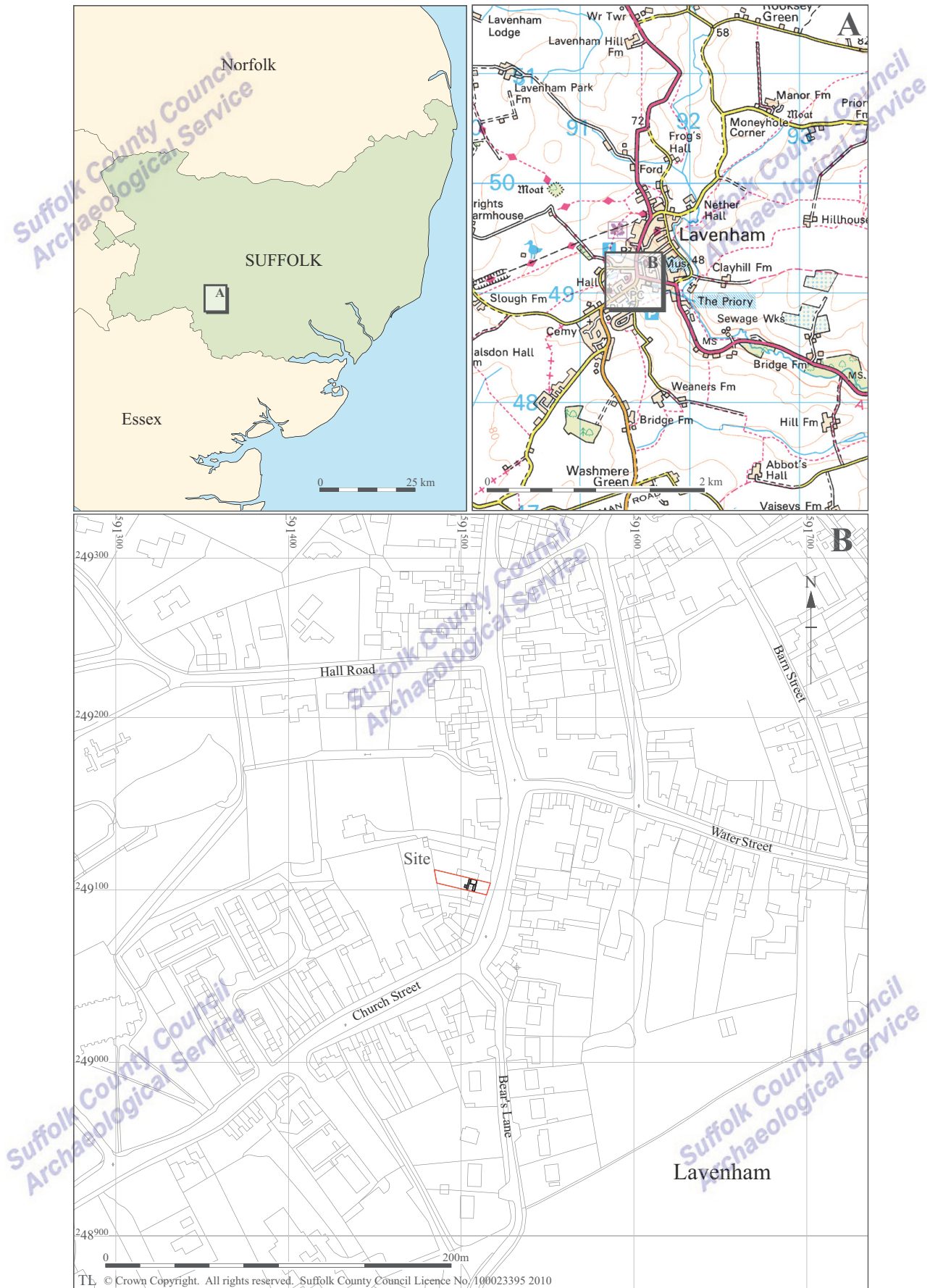


Figure 1. Location of site, showing development area (red), trenches (black)



## 4. Methodology

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A small existing extension to the property was demolished prior to the archaeological monitoring which was carried out during the subsequent reduction of ground levels in the patio area to the rear of the building, the excavation of footing trenches for the extension and landscaping groundworks to the rear garden. All groundworks were carried out by hand by the building contractors.

Excavated spoil was examined for finds. Hand cleaning of trenches and features was carried out as required. The site was planned at a scale of 1:50 by annotating a supplied architectural plan of the development and sections were recorded at a scale of 1:20. Digital colour and black and white photographs were taken at all stages of the fieldwork.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-76196) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER No. LVM 055.

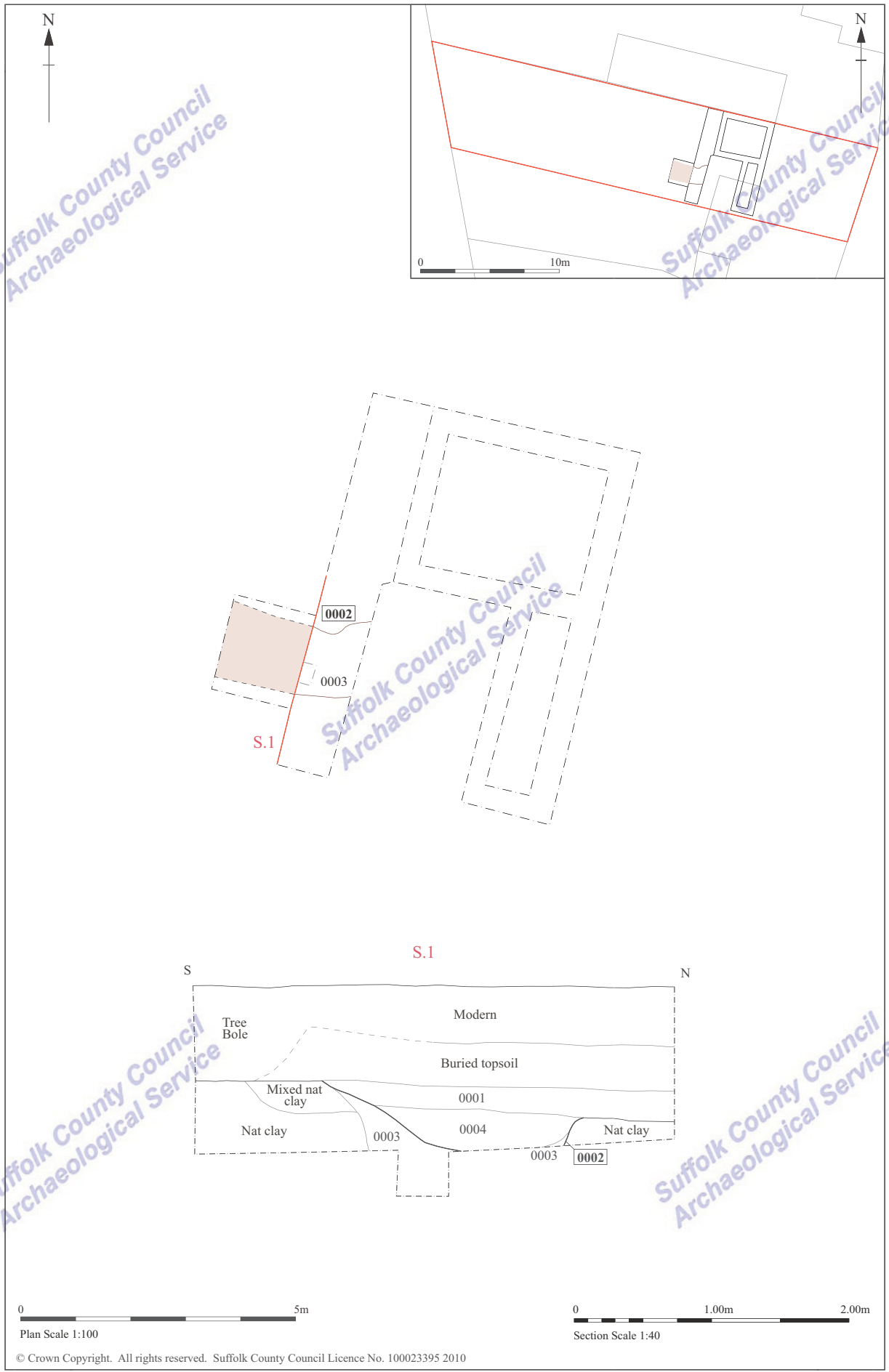


Figure 2. Site plan and section

## 5. Results

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(Fig. 2)

The first stage of works following demolition of the small pre-existing extension involved the cutting back the raised garden to the west to extend the rear yard area for the new extension. The height of the garden was c.1m above the existing patio and a new vertical section was cut across it, parallel to the rear wall of the property, approximately 0.5m west of its previous sloping edge. A 1m wide strip in front of the section was also reduced by c.0.25m.

The section (Fig. 2) showed a build up of modern deposits overlying a buried topsoil. To the south this topsoil directly overlaid the natural clay subsoil but for the majority of its length it sealed layer 0001, a mid/dark grey clayey loam with frequent fragments of brick, mortar and charcoal.

Layer 0001 lay above a feature, 0002, which measured c.1.8m wide and cut at least 0.7m into the subsoil. It was only visible in plan for a short distance but appeared to be a linear feature.

The lower of its fills, 0003, was a light/mid grey clay loam with frequent fragments of post-medieval tile, of which a representative sample was collected, and flecks of charcoal and mortar. The upper fill of the feature, 0004, was a mid grey/brown clay loam with frequent tile and mortar and traces of charcoal.

A c.1.5m square box was then excavated westwards from the section for the creation of a new flight of steps. This was largely placed across feature 0002 and appeared to show it continuing in a linear direction to the west.

Ground levels were then reduced across the development area by c.0.2m which involved the removal of modern deposits associated with the existing patio. Subsequent footing trenches, measuring c.0.4m wide and 0.3m deep, then showed the natural clay subsoil lying a further 0.05m down, under the modern deposits. No further archaeological features or deposits were identified. The bases of the foundations for both the house and the barn/outbuilding to the north were observed in the trenches at a depth of c.0.3m below the former patio level.

## 6. Finds and Environmental Evidence

Andy Fawcett

### 6.1 Introduction

A total of 12 finds with a combined weight of 752g were recovered from the archaeological investigation at 90 Church Street, Lavenham. All of the finds came from a single ditch feature that contained two fills, 0003 (lower) and 0004 (upper). A summary of the finds is set out below in Table 01.

Find type	No	Weight/g
Pottery	2	10
CBM	6	674
Animal bone	2	35
Shell	1	4
Iron	1	29
Totals	12	752

Table 01: Finds quantities

### 6.2 Pottery

Just two sherds of pottery (10g) were noted, occurring in upper ditch fill 0004. Both of the pieces are late medieval Essex-type ware body sherds (LMTE) and display only slight abrasion. Although neither sherd is diagnostic, the fabric style indicates a date range of 15th to 16th century.

### 6.3 CBM

All of the CBM has been recorded in lower ditch fill 0003 (6 fragments @ 674g). The small assemblage is entirely made up of post-medieval roof tile in a medium sandy fabric (ms). A number of pieces join and overall the fragments display little abrasion; there are also several instances of tile with attached mortar.

### 6.4 Animal bone

Both ditch fills 0003 (22g) and 0004 (13g) contained single pieces of animal bone. However, these are small and fragmentary and are not species identifiable beyond the general class of large mammal.

## 6.5 Shell

A single oyster shell fragment has been identified in upper ditch fill 0004. Although small, the piece only suffers from slight wear.

## 6.6 Iron

A heavily corroded iron nail, dated to the post-medieval period, is present in lower ditch fill 0003.

## 6.7 Conclusion

This is a small collection of fragmentary finds from a single ditch feature and it is post-medieval roof tile that dominates the assemblage. Its presence indicates that a substantial structure was located in the vicinity of the current site. Furthermore the mortar, which on one fragment covers the peg hole, suggest that the roof tile was put to some other constructional use. It is possible that the two sherds of LMTE are of a similar date to the roof tile.

## 7. Discussion

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The natural clay subsoil was seen to underlie modern deposits across the extension footprint which indicates that the natural slope was truncated prior to the construction of the patio area. The garden edge section also showed how the patio level was c.0.3m below the original subsoil level on its western edge.

The garden of the property was also shown to have been raised and levelled by the dumping of deposits which has infilled the natural north-east facing slope. Ground levels at the eastern end of the garden have increased by c.1m and these deposits were built up against the flint and red brick wall of the outbuilding or barn which lies to the north.

The single feature identified, a possible ditch aligned east-west and parallel to the adjacent property boundaries extending from the rear of the street frontage, survived intact below the former topsoil and these additional deposits but had largely been removed in the area of the extension.

The finds assemblage from the ditch fills indicate a late medieval/post-medieval date for the feature, broadly contemporary with the range of listed buildings forming the street frontage. The post-medieval roof tile has likely derived from either a former building to the rear of the street frontage or possibly the brick and flint barn with a tiled roof that forms the northern boundary of the property.

## **8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork**

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Monitoring of groundworks for the new extension has shown that, immediately to the rear of the property, the natural subsoil which rises to the west has been truncated. This has removed potential archaeological levels although no deep excavated features were seen.

To the west of the house and its rear patio, preserved under a deep build up of garden soils levelling the natural slope, a post-medieval feature was identified and is thought to be a ditch marking a former property boundary.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: T:\arc\archive field proj\Lavenham\LVM 055

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

## **10. List of contributors and acknowledgements**

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The project was managed and carried out by John Craven. The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Jonathan Van Jennians and the specialist finds report was written by Andy Fawcett. The production of digital site plans and sections was carried out by Gemma Adams and Crane Begg. The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

## 11. Bibliography

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Ordnance Survey, 1983, 'Soils of England and Wales': *Soil survey of England and Wales, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000*. Harpenden.

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## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

##### 90 Church Street, Lavenham

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend 90 Church Street, Lavenham has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/09/01330). 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 Importance for medieval Lavenham, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record, 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/early post 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 up-cast 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 Historic Environment 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 the 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 HER. 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: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Reference:/90 Church St

**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.**