

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

THE CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE, BILDESTON (SMR ref. BIL 013)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK
ASSOCIATED WITH ALTERATIONS & EXTENSIONS TO THE MAIN STRUCTURE
AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CAR PARK
(Application No. B/03/02017/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/78
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-8264)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with alterations and extensions to The Crown Public House, Bildeston (NGR TL 9934 4943), and the construction of a new carpark to the rear, was undertaken during summer 2004 but no archaeological deposits or features were identified. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BIL 013. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned by Wincer Kievenaar Partnership (architects) on behalf of their clients, Mrs G. Buckle and Mr J. Buckle, who funded the work.

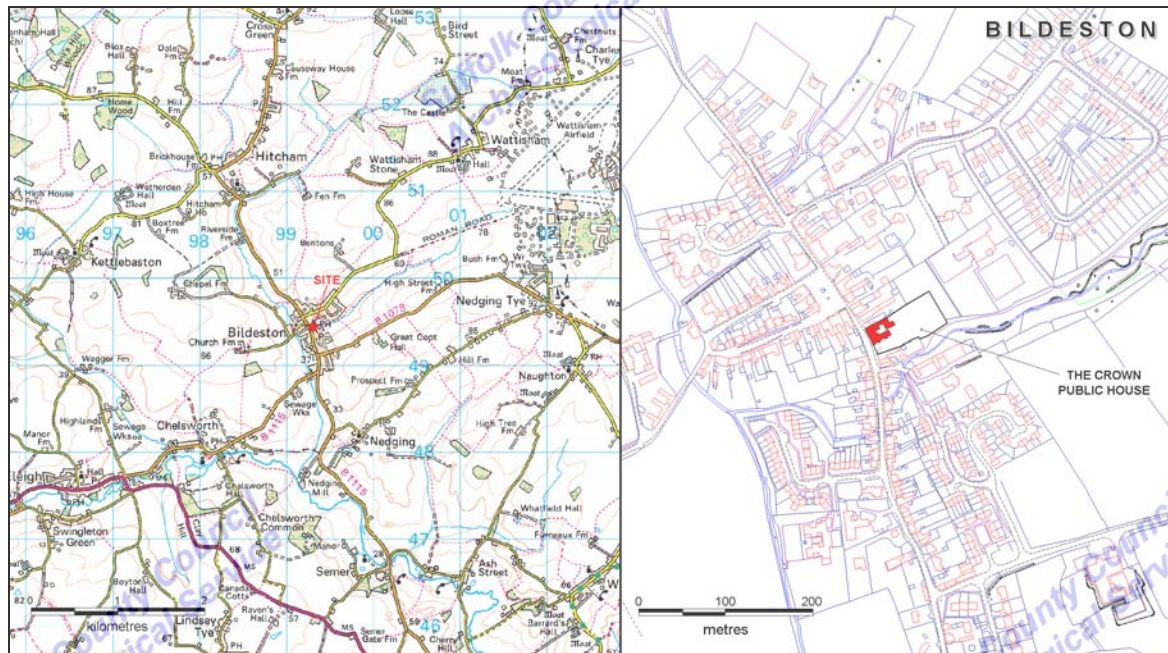


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

An application for alterations and extensions and the construction of a new carpark at The Crown Public House, 104, High Street, Bildeston (application no. B/03/020217/FUL), was approved but with an attached condition requiring a programme of archaeological works to be put in place prior to any construction work.

The archaeological interest in the site was due to its location within the small medieval town of Bildeston, which is defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance.

As the groundworks would only cause limited damage to any archaeological deposits that may be present, the areas affected by the application could be adequately recorded under a monitoring condition and for this a Brief and Specification was produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TL 9934 4943; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference BIL 013. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned by the architects, Wincer Kievenaar Partnership on behalf of their clients, Mrs G. Buckle and Mr J. Buckle, who funded the work.

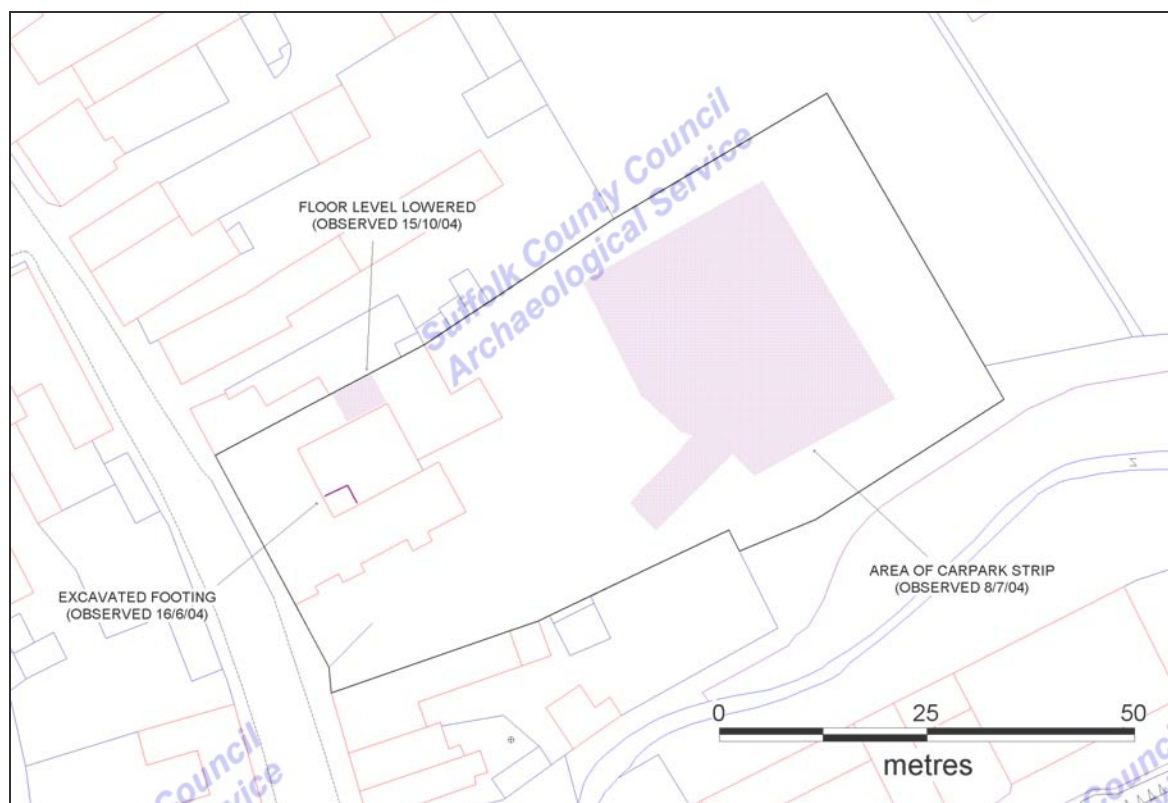


Figure 2: Areas Monitored

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Results

Four visits were made to the site during the groundwork phase of the development. See figure 2 above for the location of area monitored.

The first visit was made on the 16th June 2004 to observe a footing excavated by the contractors for an extension within the central courtyard area of the building. It had been machine excavated to a depth of c.0.85m of which the top 0.25m had been cut through a deposit of made ground comprising grey silty clay with inclusions of large flint cobbles,

occasional crushed brick and tile fragments and lumps of concrete. This was interpreted as the base for the yard surfaces, which had already been removed. The lower portion of the trench was cut through silty clay subsoil (boulder till), the surface of which appeared to have been truncated. No archaeological deposits or features were noted.

Two visits were made during July (on the 8th and 9th) to monitor the topsoil strip for the new carpark to the rear of the property. The topsoil varied in thickness from 0.4m to 0.6m and overlay a natural subsoil of boulder till, the surface of which was weathered but did not appear to be truncated. No archaeological deposits or features were noted.

A final visit was undertaken on the 15th October 2004 to inspect an area within the building where the floor was being lowered by c.0.3m. This revealed the weathered surface of the natural subsoil, which had been partially truncated, but again no archaeological deposits or features were identified.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference BIL 013, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-8264.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or features appear to have been destroyed or damaged by the monitored construction work. The topsoil strip, floor lowering and the excavated footing all revealed relatively clean exposures of the natural subsoil and gave good opportunities to observe for archaeological interventions but none were identified.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team

16th May 2005

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

THE CROWN HOTEL, HIGH STREET, BILDESTON

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for alterations/extensions and a car park on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/03/02017/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed ground disturbance indicates that the areas affected can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the medieval small town of Bildeston (granted a market by 1348) defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance.
- 1.3 Groundworks will only cause limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavations by the building contractor.

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 occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are excavation for building footing trenches and to lay an access and car park. These, and the upcast 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 time-table.

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 Sites and Monuments Record.

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 Sites and Monuments 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 SMR 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 Sites and Monuments Record sheets should be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7.1 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. 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: 19 May 2004

Reference: /Bildeston05

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.