

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

---

**SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/188**

# **Ashworth, Barn Street, Lavenham**

## **LVM 058**

**D. Stirk**  
©Oct 2010  
[www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/environment/archaeology](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/environment/archaeology)



## HER Information

---

**Planning Application No:** B/10/00358  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 4th October 2010  
**Grid Reference:** TL 9170 4923  
**Funding Body:** Mr. J. T. Wright  
**Curatorial Officer:** Keith Wade  
**Project Officer:** Duncan Stirk  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-83791

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



## Contents

---

	Page
<b>Summary</b>	
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	1
4. Methodology	4
5. Results	5
6. Finds and environmental evidence	7
7. Discussion	7
8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork	8
9. Archive deposition	8
10. List of contributors and acknowledgements Disclaimer	8

### List of Figures

1. Site location	3
2. Trench plan and section	6

### List of Plates

1. Sample section of SE footing facing SE (1m & 2m scales)	5
2. Ditch 0105 facing SW (1m scale)	7

### List of Appendices

1. Context List	
-----------------	--



## Summary

---

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at Ashworth, Barn Street, Lavenham (TL 9170 4923); LVM 058.

Foundation trenching for an extension to the existing dwelling was monitored on the 4th October 2010. A single archaeological feature was recorded, a ditch of uncertain, but potentially prehistoric date.





## **1. Introduction**

---

Archaeological monitoring of building work was carried out at Ashworth, Barn Street, Lavenham (TL 9170 4923); LVM 058 as part of an archaeological condition in relation to a planning permission for building extensions. (Application number: B/10/00358).

The site lies within the medieval core of the village of Lavenham (Historic environment Number (HER) No. LVM 053). It was felt therefore that the development work would cause ground disturbance with the potential to destroy archaeological deposits were they present. As such, there was a requirement for archaeological monitoring of the groundworks as outlined in a Brief & Specification produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team. The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by the client Mr. J. T. Wright. This took place during a single visit on the 4th October 2010.

## **2. Geology and topography**

---

The site is located within the village of Lavenham (Fig. 1). The ground prior to the building work was the garden to the rear of the house. The ground sloped slightly down from NW to SE between the 60m and 65m AOD contour lines. The site is located on gravel and silt deposits of glacial or fluvial origin overlying chalky till from the Anglian glaciation. The site is bounded to the NW, NE and SE by plots for similar cottages, and to the SW by Barn Street.

## **3. Archaeological and historical background**

---

The development site lies in the medieval core of Lavenham (HER No. LVM 053). The original village would have probably been centred on the church (HER No. LVM 009) in the early medieval period, which is approximately 500m to the west of the development site. In the 13th century the settlement expanded to the east, an area in which the development site is located. The shifting of the settlement eastwards was likely to be due to the granting of a charter for a Tuesday Market in 1257. A market cross (HER No. LVM 004) and a guildhall of Corpus Christi (HER No. LVM 005) are adjacent to this market square.

A number of archaeological interventions have been undertaken around the site:

- LVM 035 – Monitoring works revealed a flint and mortar well, pits and a associated medieval pottery at Bolton Street approximately 110m NE of the site.
- LVM 036 – A late medieval or post-medieval post-hole building was revealed in excavations at 'The Grove' on Lady Street approximately 60m to the SW of the site.
- LVM 003 – Green glazed floor tiles were recorded at 51/52 Water Street below the standing 16th century building, 95m to the SW of the site.
- LVM 046 – Medieval and post-medieval finds and possible smithy deposits were recorded at No. 7 Water Street, 110m to the SW of the site.
- LVM 018 –A reference in a 19th century guide book that claims a Roman bath and tessellated flooring were discovered in the grounds of 'Grove House' to the west of site, although no Roman remains have been noted anywhere in the vicinity despite the archaeological monitoring of numerous developments in this area of Lavenham.

The development site is therefore in an area of concentrated archaeological remains primarily of medieval and post-medieval date, and groundworks related to the development were likely to reveal archaeological remains of these periods.

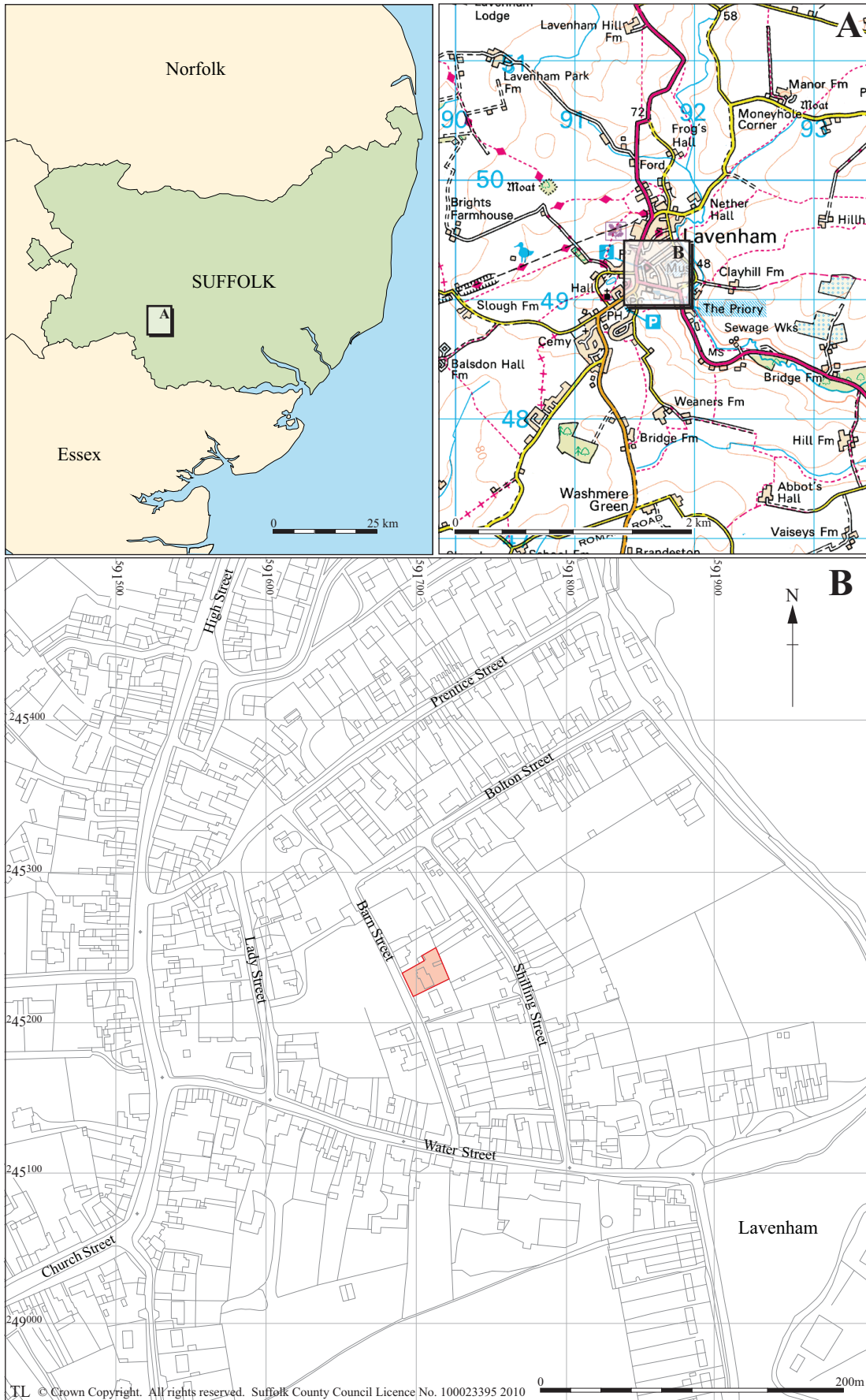


Figure 1. Location of site, showing development area (red)

## 4. Methodology

---

The groundworks for an extension were the subject of this monitoring work; which was allocated the HER number LVM 058.

The archaeological work was conducted in accordance with a Brief and Specification written by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Conservation Team.

Monitoring of the excavation of foundations was carried out over a single visit on the 4th October 2010. The work involved the examination of the excavated foundation trenches to determine the presence of archaeological features. The foundation trenches were excavated with a 360° mechanical excavator using a 0.4m wide toothed bucket. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand to better reveal changes in colour and composition that would indicate the presence of archaeological deposits and features. All observed deposits were allocated unique context numbers and recorded on *pro-forma* recording forms, following guidelines set out by SCC Archaeological Service. All archaeological deposits were drawn in a series of 1:20 scale sections and 1:50 scale plans, and photographed digitally. The fill of the archaeological feature was then partly excavated in section for the recovery of datable finds. The graphics in this report have been produced using Adobe illustrator software.

## 5. Results

---

The extension was on the NE side of the house, and measured 4.3m by 3m and was 0.8m deep. Prior to the excavation of the footings the ground had been reduced in level by the removal of approximately 0.2m of topsoil. The geological natural was seen at a depth of 0.4m below ground level (BGL); a mixed orange brown clay sand and clay deposit, 0103. The natural geology was cut by a roughly E-W aligned linear feature, probably a boundary ditch, 0105. This feature had moderate concave sides and a concave base, that was 0.82m wide by over 0.55m long, and 0.13m deep. It held a mid brown sandy clay fill containing flint and flecks of chalk, 0104. Two struck flints of late prehistoric date were recovered from this fill. Over the natural geology, and possibly also sealing the linear feature 0105, was a 0.3m thick deposit of mid brown sandy clay subsoil, or possible plough-soil, 0102. A 0.1m thick deposit of dark grey brown clay loam topsoil 0101 sealed the trench; a further 0.2m of which had been machined off prior to the monitoring.



Plate 1. Sample section of SE  
footing facing SE  
(1m & 2m scales)

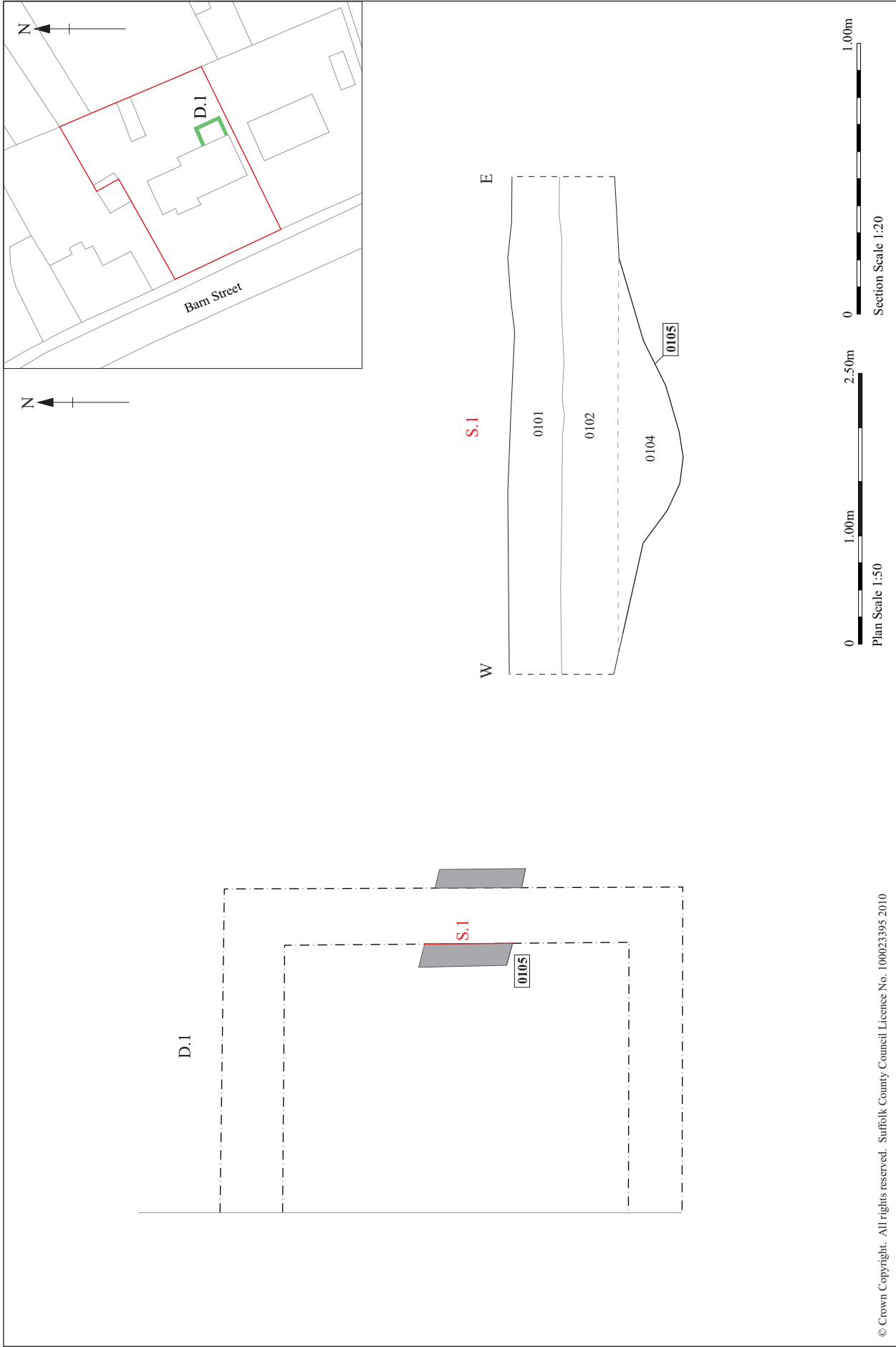


Figure 2. Trench plan and section



Plate 2. Ditch 0105 facing SW  
(1m scale)

## 6 Finds and environmental evidence

---

Two struck flints were recovered from the fill of ditch 0105; a blade and a hinged flake. These were identified by Colin Pendleton, and are probably of late prehistoric date.

## 7. Discussion

---

The only archaeological feature revealed by the monitoring was a linear feature, which was probably a property or field boundary ditch. The approximate E-W alignment of the ditch does not match the current property boundaries or the alignment of the surrounding roads which are probably medieval in origin. Interestingly, the ditch appears to be at right angles to streets further west in the early medieval part of the village, such as Lady Street and the High Street, and in line with Hall Road. This may be slight evidence that the ditch predates the 13th century expansion of the settlement. Alternatively, the ditch may be prehistoric, as suggested by the prehistoric struck flints recovered from its fill. The soil profile does not appear to have been truncated by modern landscaping, so the absence of medieval and post-medieval features warrants discussion. It perhaps indicates that the small extension was located in an open area to the rear of the medieval property strip.

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

---

The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at Ashworth, Barn Street has produced evidence for a boundary ditch that probably pre-dates the 13th century street layout. It is not clear whether the boundary ditch was for a possible prehistoric field boundary or a tenement strip on the edge of the early medieval town. Further archaeological work in the vicinity may help to clarify this.

## **9. Archive deposition**

---

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

Finds archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

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

---

The monitoring was carried out by Duncan Stirk from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by Andrew Tester. Production of site plans and sections was carried out by Gemma Adams, and the report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

### **Disclaimer**

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.



## Appendix 1. Context List

Context	Type	Description
0101	Deposit	Dark grey brown clay loam topsoil remnant. 0.1m thick.
0102	Deposit	Mid brown sandy clay Subsoil. 0.3m thick
0103	Deposit	Mixed orange brown clay sand & clay. >0.4m thick.
0104	Fill	Mid brown sandy clay. Freq. flint, occ. Flecks chalk. 0.13m thick.
0105	Cut	E-W aligned. Moderate concave sides and concave base. Cut of ditch. 0.82m wide x >0.55m x 0.13m deep.