

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/218

The Old Slaughterhouse, Chediston Street, Halesworth HWT 031

HER Information

Planning Application No: W/13541/6 (DC/06/0567/FUL)

Date of Fieldwork: 8th November; 30th November-1st December 2010

Grid Reference: TM 3850 7742

Funding Body: Morton Partnership

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Linzi Everett

OASIS ID: suffolkc1- 90462

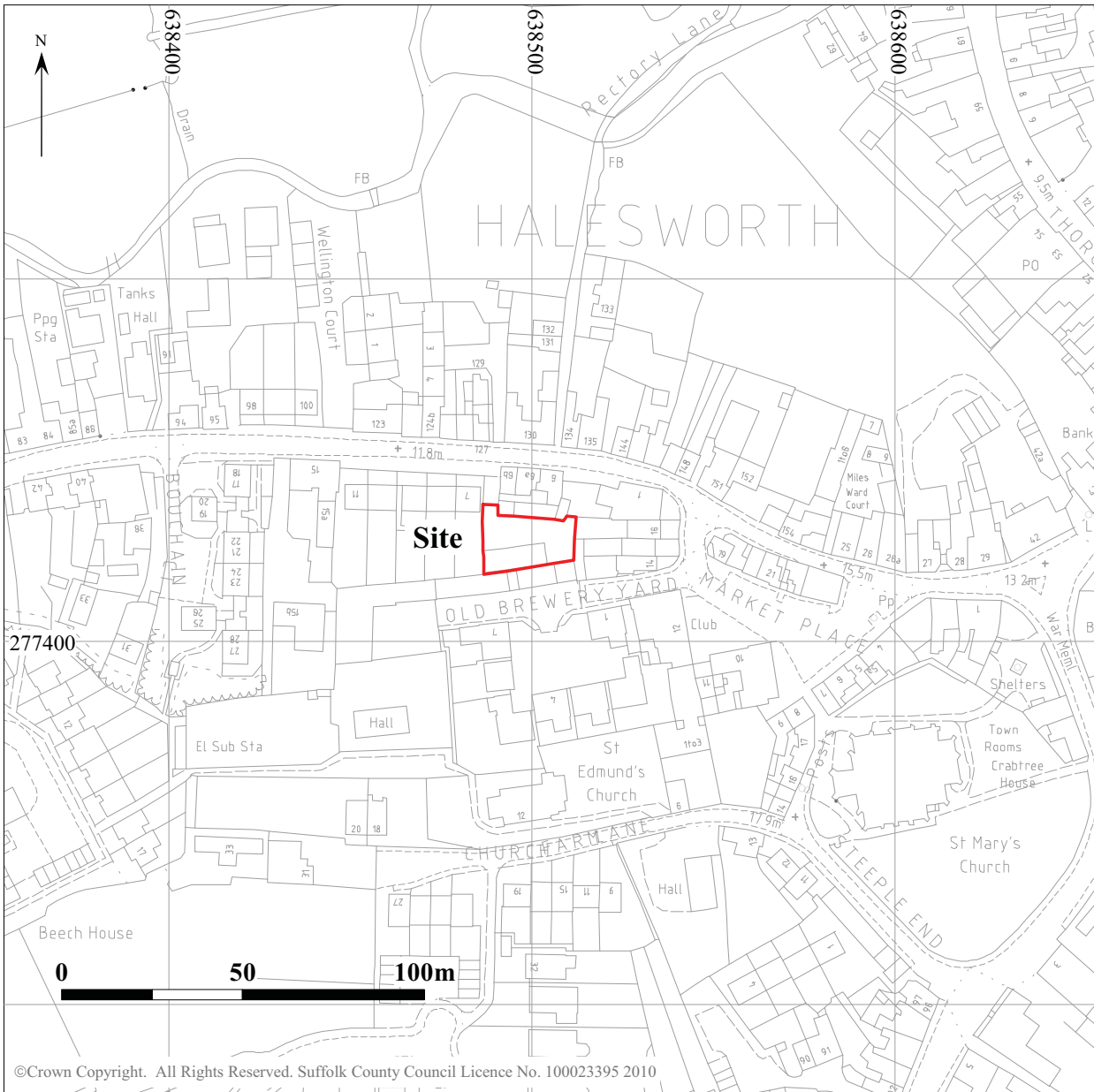
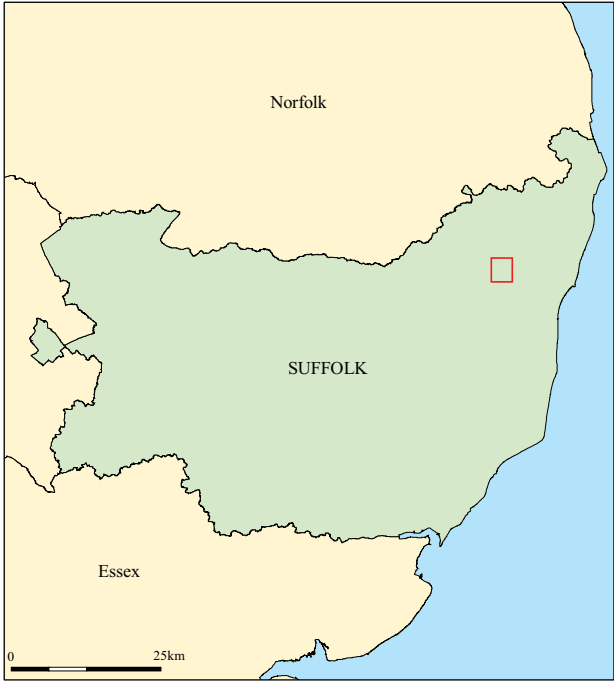
Summary

Monitoring of ground works for an extension to The Old Slaughterhouse, Chediston Street, Halesworth, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent in order to record any archaeological evidence revealed by the groundworks. The excavated building footprint revealed made-up ground to a depth of over 1m which may have at least partly been deposited during the construction of the adjacent Old Slaughterhouse. Post-medieval finds were common throughout the made up layers but one medieval sherd was also recovered. At the base of the excavated footprint two features were recorded cutting the natural clay subsoil, each containing finds of post-medieval date.

1. Introduction and methodology

Planning permission for the construction of an extension to The Old Slaughterhouse, Halesworth, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 3850 7742 (Figure 1), at a height of approximately 12m OD. The site is located approximately 100m north west of the Church of St. Mary within the area of the Saxon and medieval town of Halesworth as defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

Three visits were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the excavated ground works. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The fieldwork was commissioned by Morton Partnership. The monitoring archive is held in the County HER in Bury St. Edmunds.



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Figure 1. Site location

2. Results

Initially, a strip c.1.2m wide and 1.5m deep was excavated across the south of the site for underpinning (Plate1). The exposed sections were difficult to access and study closely due to the wooden structure built over it intended to support the adjacent wall. However, what was visible showed topsoil and made up ground to a depth of up to 0.5m, sealing the natural clay subsoil below. Apart from a north to south aligned brick structure, and service trench disturbance, no cut features were obvious within the sections.

The remainder of the building footprint was stripped to the required formation level depth of c.1.5m at the south end of the site and slightly shallower (c.1.2m) at the north end, consistent with the slope the site occupies. The footprint was excavated through broadly the same stratigraphy:

- *Topsoil* 0.3m of dark brown loamy sandy clay with regular modern inclusions.
- *Subsoil* c.0.5m of mid-dark brown friable sandy clay with regular post-medieval/modern inclusions, (clay pipe fragments, brick and tile, glass, glazed china) oyster shells and animal bone.
- *Natural subsoil* Pale yellowish brown clay with regular small pebbles and chalk nodules.

The subsoil was a thick, mixed layer, and may represent material deposited the construction of surrounding properties. Amongst the artefacts of 18th-19th century date, one medieval sherd was recovered from the subsoil. Modern disturbance in the form of brick built structures were also observed within this layer. A WSW-ENE linear brick and concrete structure, possibly an old footing, had used a large, enamelled advertising sign as a form of vertical shutter dug into the ground to pour concrete up against.

Two features were noted cutting the natural subsoil. A WNW-ESE aligned ditch, measuring approximately 0.9m wide, cut through the site whilst just to the south of this feature, a roughly circular pit c.0.6m in diameter was recorded. Both features were filled by a very dark brown humic sandy clay which was fairly homogenous and almost peaty. Both also contained finds of a post-medieval date and were therefore not recorded in detail.

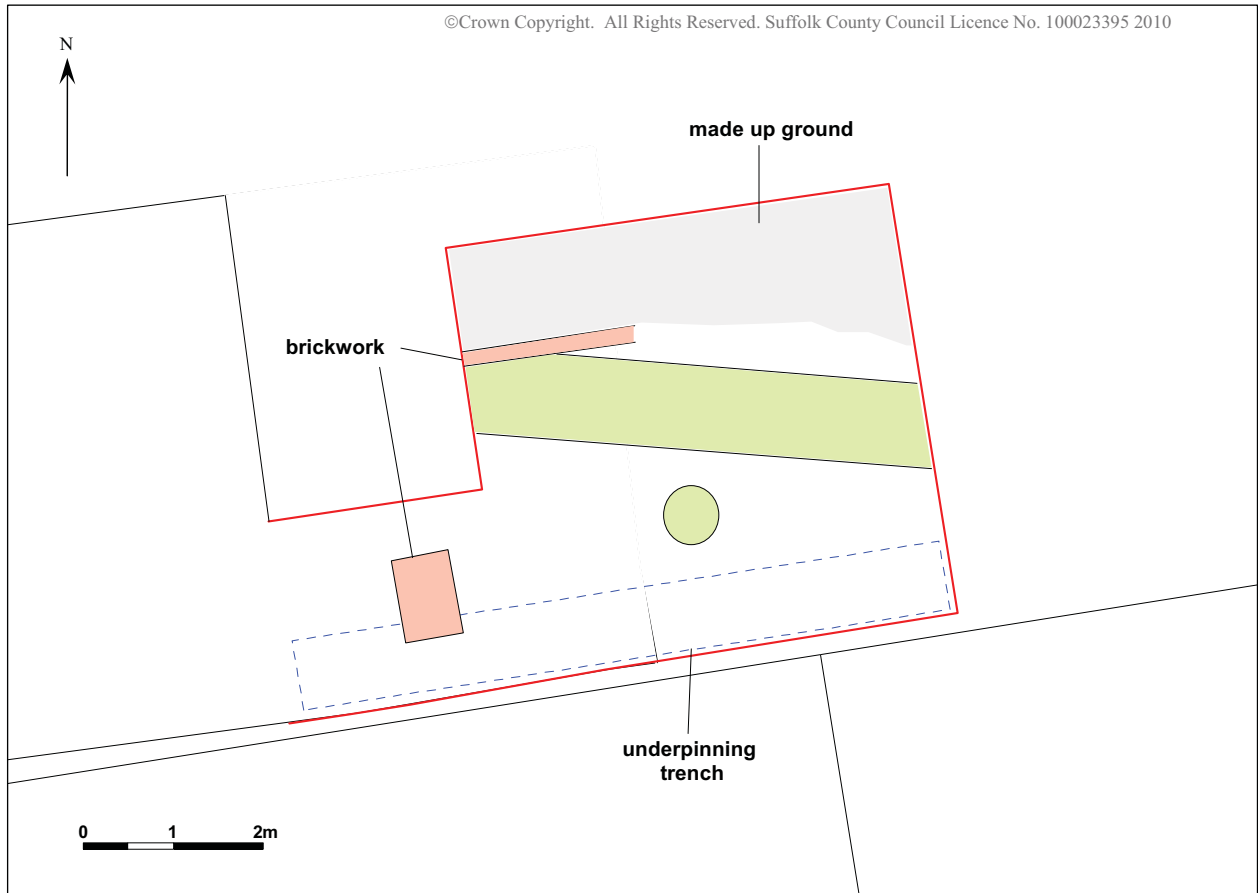


Figure 2. Location of monitored groundworks with archaeological features shown in green



Plate 1. View of the underpinning trench, looking east.



Plate 2. View of the post-medieval pit, partially exposed

3. Finds evidence (Richenda Goffin)

A single fragment of a medieval coarseware cooking vessel weighing 24g was recovered from the mixed subsoil layer, which contained post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material. The sherd is from a sooted cooking vessel dating to the L12th-14th century.

4. Discussion

The groundworks were largely excavated through layers of disturbed and made up ground, much of which may have been re-deposited during construction of the Old Slaughterhouse or surrounding properties, possibly in a deliberate attempt to level out the slope which the site occupies. Archaeological features were exposed cutting the natural subsoil, which was reached at the base of the excavated raft footing, but the linear feature and pit recorded both contained finds of a post-medieval date. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from a mixed layer, making its provenance uncertain.

Linzi Everett
December 2010

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

FORMER SLAUGHTER HOUSE, CHEDISTON STREET, HALESWORTH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent to extend the former slaughter house at Chediston Street, Halesworth, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (DC/06/0567/FUL). 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 defined for medieval Halesworth in the Waveney Local Plan and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As a slab foundation is proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during the ground-works 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 and later occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation for the foundation slab. This, and the up-cast soil, is to be observed during and after excavation 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. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.4 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.5 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.6 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 R Ballentyne, 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.
- 4.7 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: 5th October, 2009

Reference: /Chediston Street

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.