

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

2, CHEQUER SQUARE, BURY ST EDMUNDS BSE 254

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Planning Application No.:SE/04/1687/P

NGR: TL 855 640

Oasis Ref. Suffolkc1-9162

Funded by: Dr TM and Mrs ME Savage

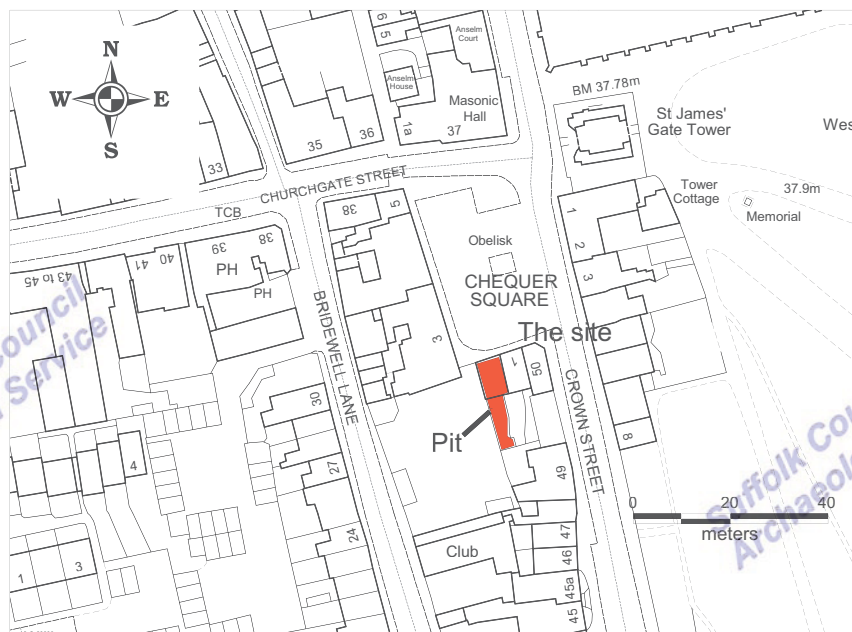
SCCAS Report no. 2005/98

Summary

The construction of a conservatory, and internal improvements failed to identify any features of archaeological significance. Excavations in the garden did not penetrate post medieval soils and only exposed a substantial 18th or 19th century cesspit.

Introduction

Monitoring was carried out during the building of a conservatory, and internal refurbishment work, at 2 Chequer Square. The work was carried out in accordance with an archaeological Brief and Specification by Robert Carr of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service conservation team. Several visits were made to the site during January 2005.



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Figure 1

Site location

Results

The brick floor of an internal cellar, which covered most of the building, was lifted and the soil examined. The bricks had been laid on clean subsoil of degraded chalk, which was c.2.5m below the pavement level. Ground exposed behind the walls of the cellar was disturbed, probably by a cellar construction trench. No further work was carried out within the building.

A concrete slab was removed within the garden, which exposed the arch over a rectangular brick and flint lined chamber (Fig. 2 below). This was built up to the boundary wall with 3, Chequer Square to the west where it was 1.6m long and projected out 1.1m. The pit was filled with brick rubble and general building debris but was at least 1.5m deep. On the south side a series of overlapping slate tiles angled into the chamber. This feature is thought to be late 18th or 19th century in origin. No research has been carried out but it seems likely that this was a well-built garden cesspit. The pit was consolidated before building.

Further construction work was not monitored as it was demonstrated that any early archaeological levels were beneath the level of disturbance.



Figure 2 Brick and stone built cesspit (?)

Conclusion

The construction of the conservatory work did not disturb any archaeological features with the exception of a probable cesspit thought to be late 18th or early 19th century in origin. The site of the cellar was probably occupied by buildings from the early medieval period and therefore not subject to pit excavations, which might have appeared below the cellar in backyard areas.

Andrew Tester July 2005