

PUDDLE COTTAGE, 101 FRONT STREET, ORFORD

ORF 111

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Planning Application No: C/03/1824

Date of Fieldwork: 29/06/05 and 06/07/05

Grid reference: TM 4213 4999

Funding Body: Mr P Forbes

Introduction

A Planning Application (C/03/1824) was made to build refurbish and extend Puddle Cottage, 101 Front Street, Orford. The monitoring was funded by Mr P Forbes.

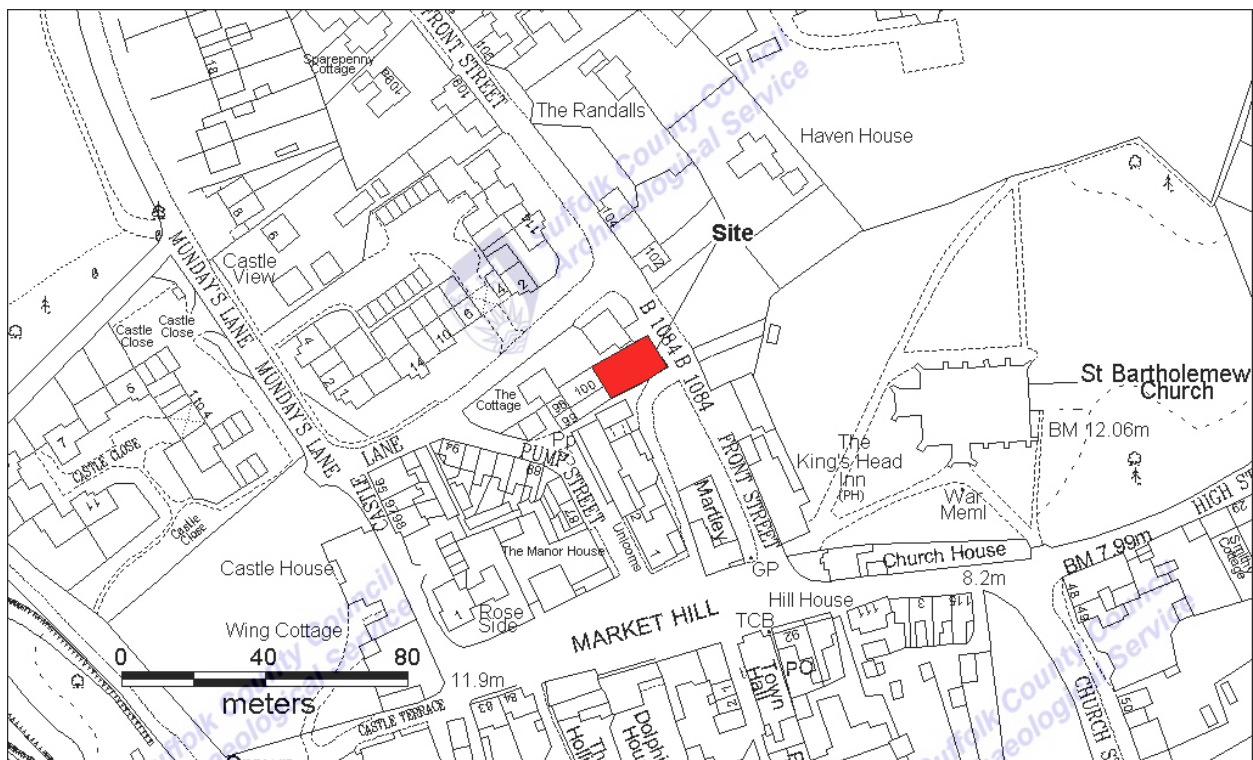


Figure 1. Site location

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The proposed development lies within the historic core of Orford and lies close to St Bartholemews Church. A number of other sites are recorded in the County SMW within a 100m radius. These include:

- **ORF 003.** St Bartholemews Church itself is *c.* 80m to the east, but the churchyard is closer with its edge just *c.* 35m to the east on the other side of Front Street.
- **ORF 012.** Medieval walls observed during monitoring of building works at Manor House, Market Hill *c.* 80m to the south-west.
- **ORF 013.** Medieval and post-medieval pits recorded during monitoring at No. 14 Munday's Lane *c.* 60m to the west.
- **ORF 017.** Several sherds of medieval (13th to 14th century) pottery recovered from spoil dug out during building works in the north-west corner of Market Hill *c.* 85m to the south-west in 1986.
- **ORF 026.** Medieval finds recovered during monitoring of groundworks at Haven House *c.* 70m to the north-east.

- **ORF 108.** A single post-medieval pit was recorded during monitoring of footings for an extension to Castle Cottage c. 30m to the west.

Given the clear archaeological potential of the site and the intrusive nature of the groundworks (strip foundations) an Archaeological Monitoring condition was recommended by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team. The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work.

Methodology

Two visits were made to observe the open foundation trenches for the construction of the garage (visited 29/06/05) and extension (visited 6/07/05).

The trenches were dug using a small 360° tracked mechanical excavator (minidigger) fitted with a 0.5m wide toothed bucket. This necessitated brief hand cleaning of the base of the trench and the faces of the upstanding sections in order to clarify the nature of the deposits. All the footing trenches were c. 1.2m deep.

The site was allocated the SMR number ORF 111 and observed archaeological features and deposits were allocated OP (observable phenomena) numbers and recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. Plan and section drawings were recorded at 1:50 and 1:20 scale where appropriate.

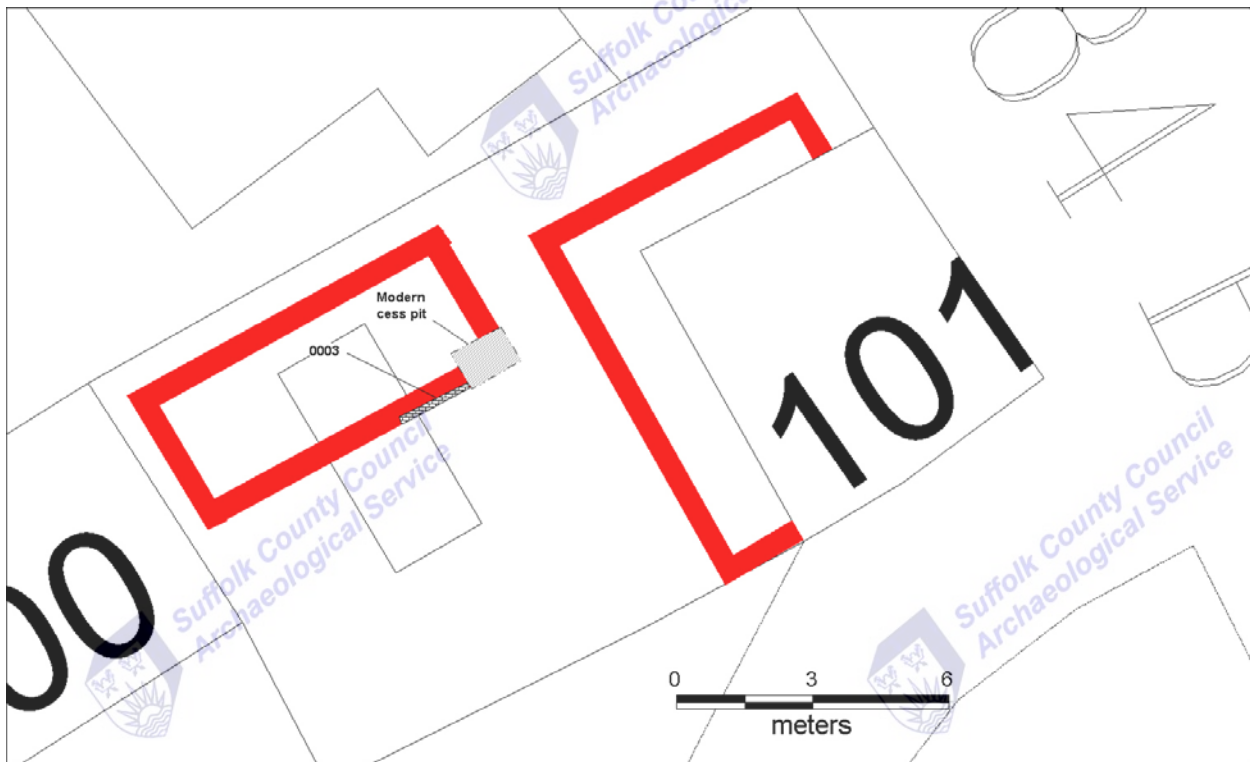


Figure 2. Trench locations

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Results

The location of the observed footing trenches is shown in Figure 2, above.

The following common stratigraphy was observed throughout the site:

Context	Depth	Description
0001	0-0.9m (max)	Garden/yard soil. Very soft dark grey slightly clayey sandy silt with occasional modern/19 th century pottery (transfer printed blue and white wares), red brick/tile, corroded iron and bone fragments.
0004	0.9-1.2m+	Natural drift. Soft light brown slightly clayey sand with occasional small sub-angular flint pebbles.

A substantial modern concrete cess pit had truncated the eastern corner of the garage footings. This did not merit further recording.

The only notable archaeological feature recorded in this part of the site was 0003, a partially revealed masonry structure located at the eastern end of the southernmost section (see Figures 2 and 3). It was constructed of yellow bricks (frogged on one side) that measured 4¼" (108mm) broad, 2½" (64mm) thick and 9" (229mm) long. The structure was 1.7m wide (north-east to south-west) and at least 0.65m high. Its base lay directly on natural sand 0004 and comprised a single course of headers. Above this, 8 courses of simple stretcher bond survived (height of 4 courses plus bond = 0.31m). It incorporated a small (0.37m wide and 0.28m high) arched opening. Interpretation is difficult as it was only partially exposed but it probably represents part of a 19th century culvert or drainage/sewer feature.

The opening was filled almost entirely (apart from a small void at the top) with 0005, a very soft/friable mid grey slightly clayey silt with occasional mortar, transfer printed blue and white pottery, glass and small brick fragments along with abundant small and medium mammal bones (rodent, cat *etc.*), probably representing a gradual silting-up/accumulation deposit.

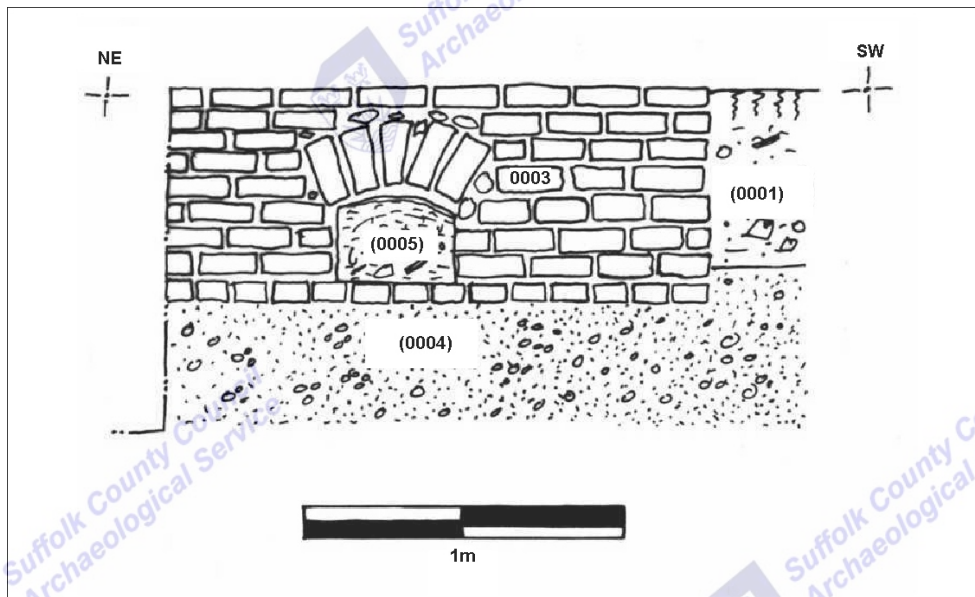


Figure 3. Detail of masonry structure found in area of garage

The footings dug for the extension contained no incised archaeological features and the stratigraphy outlined above was observed throughout.

Conclusions

Despite the site's sensitive location no medieval or earlier archaeological features were observed. A single post-medieval masonry drainage feature was recorded in the eastern corner of the garage plot.