

**CHURCH COTTAGE
FISHMARKET STREET
THAXTED
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

February 2010

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Prepared By: P. Sparrow Position: Project Supervisor	Signature: Date: 26th February 2010
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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

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EHF SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address: Church Cottage, Fishmarket Street, Thaxted, Essex	
Parish: Thaxted	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 6110 3097	Site Code: TX20
Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring	Site Director/Team: Philippa Sparrow and Andy Letch ECC FAU
Dates of Work: 14/12/09 and 18/12/09	Size of Area Investigated: c. 120m ²
Curating Museum: Saffron Walden	Funding Source: Mr Boutwood on behalf of the client
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related HER Nos. Listed building no. 122312.
Final Report: Summary in EAH	OASIS Ref No.: essexcou1-69111
Periods Represented: Post-medieval, Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>Two stages of archaeological monitoring were undertaken during groundworks prior to the construction of a garden room abutting the western end of the 19th-century Grade II listed Church Cottage and the erection of a new garage at the western end of the site. Church Cottage is situated immediately to the south of the Church of St John the Baptist, St Mary and St Laurence and its graveyard, close to the historic centre of the medieval town of Thaxted.</p> <p>The modern topsoil (1) of a raised garden, 1.7m to the west of Church Cottage was removed. No archaeological finds or features, other than buried topsoil (2), were revealed. Layer 2, 0.2m thick, contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery (Appendix 1) suggesting that this layer may be associated with the construction of Church Cottage.</p> <p>The footings (Fig. 1) revealed sterile clay subsoil (3), 0.7m thick, only present in the northern area of the site, beneath a layer of concrete. A possible levelling layer, or made ground, (5) was present in the south and east of the area. No finds were present, though this layer was overlain by the buried topsoil indicating that it may have been deposited as part of the construction of Church Cottage. A modern land drain (6) orientated north to south was aligned parallel to the cottage and cut through an earlier land drain (8). The manhole cover located at the western edge of the cottage suggests that both drains were associated with the modern services for the cottage. Both features cut through the natural clay.</p> <p>Ground reduction prior to the erection of the new garage was also monitored. Approximately 0.5m of topsoil (1) was removed from the middle of the site before exposing a 'live' sewer pipe and manhole, neither of which had been expected by the contractors. The pipe fed from behind the neighbouring cottage and across the site on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig. 1). Work was suspended in order to make repairs and further monitoring was not possible before the construction of the garage.</p> <p>The programme of archaeological monitoring established that both areas of development within the site had been disturbed by modern services. The soil deposit model revealed during groundworks for the garden room extension indicated that the site had been levelled during the post-medieval period, probably during the construction of Church Cottage, thus any evidence of archaeological activity would have been destroyed during the 19th century.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: P. Sparrow and A. Letch	Date of Summary: 26th February 2010

APPENDIX 1 FINDS

Joyce Compton

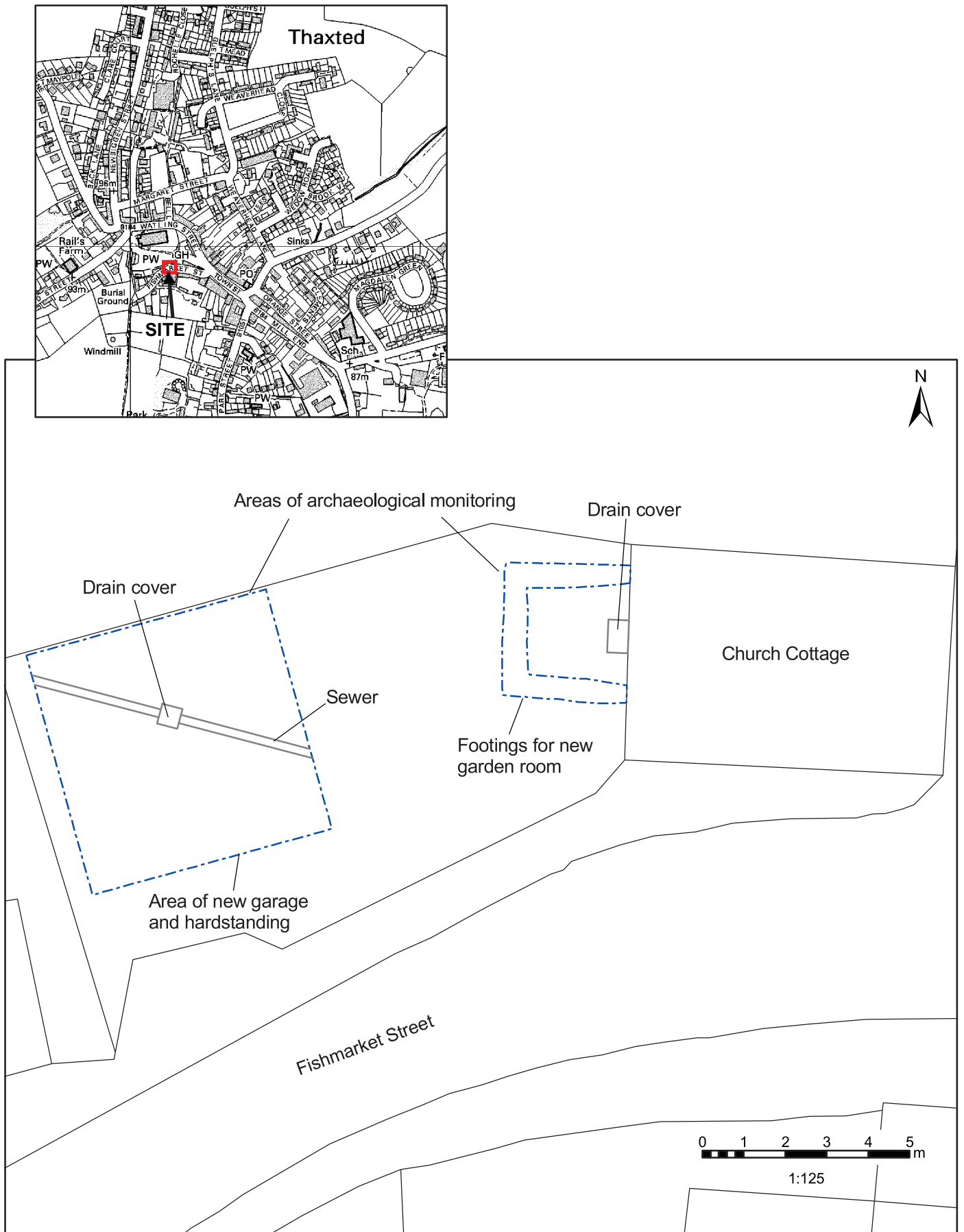
Finds, all of relatively recent date, were recovered from two contexts. The finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full details are shown in the table below. The finds are described by category, as follows;

Glass

A complete Codd's mineral water bottle was recovered from the topsoil (1). This type of bottle was patented in 1895, using a 'marble' in the neck as an attempt to keep the contents aerated. The bottle is embossed with the mineral water's purveyors – Robson and Sons, Saffron Walden.

Pottery

Both contexts produced pottery, amounting to five sherds, weighing 128g. The earliest piece came from the buried topsoil (2) and is a Nottingham stoneware body sherd, which may have an 18th-century date, although production continued into the 19th century. The pottery from the topsoil comprises white earthenware, one with black transfer-printing, and yellow-glazed kitchen earthenware, all of which can be dated to the 19th and 20th centuries. The black transfer-printing indicates a date at the later end of the range.



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Fig.1. Location plan showing areas of archaeological monitoring