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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND ADJACENT TO THE GREAT HOUSE HOTEL,  
MARKET PLACE, LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK, CO10  
9QZ**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH  
EVALUATION**

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork & report) Lauren Wilson (Background Research)	
NGR: TL 9156 4941	Report No: 5112
District: Babergh	Site Code: LVM113
Approved: Claire Halpin MlfA	Project No: 6614
Signed:	Date: 13 May 2016

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*Trial trench evaluations*  
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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Land adjacent to the Great House Hotel, Market Place, Lavenham, Suffolk, CO10 9QZ</i>		
<p><i>In May 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Great House Hotel, Market Place, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9QZ (NGR TL 916 493). The evaluation was required to be carried out as a condition attached to planning approval for the erection of a new dwelling (Babergh District Council Planning Ref. B/15/00860/FUL), based on the advice of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the test pits revealed a modern (19<sup>th</sup> century) Pit F1008 and post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> century) Ditch F1010, and deposits of modern made ground. Below the latter, at a depth of over 1m, a medieval (13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century) sherd was found in a layer (L1004)</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	May 2016		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	6614	Site code	LVM113
Type of project	Archaeological trial trench evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Garden		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	Medieval (13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> century) sherd		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Suffolk	Babergh	Lavenham
HER/ SMR for area	Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record		
Post code (if known)	CO10 9QZ		
Area of site	c.250m <sup>2</sup>		
NGR	TL 9156 4941		
Height AOD (min/max)	65-70m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Gareth Barlow		
Funded by			
Full title	<i>Land adjacent to the Great House Hotel, Market Place, Lavenham, Suffolk, CO10 9QZ. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation</i>		
Authors	Wilson, L.		
Report no.	5112		
Date (of report)	May 2016		

## LAND ADJACENT TO THE GREAT HOUSE HOTEL, MARKET PLACE, LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

#### SUMMARY

*In May 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Great House Hotel, Market Place, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9QZ (NGR TL 916 493). The evaluation was required to be carried out as a condition attached to planning approval for the erection of a new dwelling (Babergh District Council Planning Ref. B/15/00860/FUL), based on the advice of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT).*

*The site is an area of archaeological potential in the historic medieval settlement core of Lavenham (HER LVM 053), to the rear (east) of the market place. Medieval finds have been made adjacent (HER LVM 035). It also lies to the rear of Little Hall, a Grade II\* listed 15<sup>th</sup> century structure. Historic maps suggest that the site has been lightly built on only since the 1880s, increasing the potential for the preservation of remains medieval activity on the site.*

*The site thus had a potential for remains of medieval and early post-medieval 'back-yard' activity behind the market place (in particular for early property boundaries, industrial activity, refuse pits and structures).*

*In the event the test pits revealed a modern (19<sup>th</sup> century) Pit F1008 and post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> century) Ditch F1010, and deposits of modern made ground. Below the latter, at a depth of over 1m, a medieval (13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century) sherd was found in a layer (L1004)*

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Great House Hotel, Market Place, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9QZ (NGR TL 916 493; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was required to be carried out as a condition attached to planning approval for the erection of a new dwelling (Babergh District Council Planning Ref. B/15/00860/FUL), based on the advice of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT).

1.2 The project was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by SCC AS-CT (5<sup>th</sup> February 2016), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016) and approved by SCC AS-CT. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance

for *Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the evaluation were:

- To establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*
- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, along with the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

#### *Planning Policy Context*

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 Lavenham is located c.8.5km north-east of Sudbury in the county of Suffolk. The site is located within the historic core of the settlement to the east of the Market Place.

2.2 The site consists of an open garden space within a long rectangular shape and borders a corn mill, now converted for residential purposes, to the east. To the west is more garden space behind residential properties fronting Prentice Street, to the north is the Great House Hotel and the south borders Bolton Street.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 Lavenham is on the western side of the river valley of the River Brett. The land steadily rises to the north-west with the site lying between c.65-70m AOD.

3.2 The underlying geology is made up of the Crag Group; sandy sedimentary bedrock formed in the Quaternary and Neogene periods. The overlying soil type is a lime-rich loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### *Prehistory*

4.1 Unstratified later prehistoric worked flint have been found c.200m to the north-east of the site (SHER LVM073). The monitoring of groundworks for an extension c.100m to the south-east also revealed a possible prehistoric ditch (SHER LVM058).

### *Romano-British*

4.2 Roman finds are limited in the surrounding area to a tessellated pavement noted in 1948-49 by a resident of the town beneath a lawn, possibly in the vicinity of Grove House c.90m to the south-west (SHER LVM018). This pavement seems to be the same as a Roman bath recorded in 1897 as of some size which was reburied after attracting many visitors.

### *Medieval*

4.3 The majority of the buildings in Lavenham date between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century reflecting its development as a medieval town. A fair and market were granted in 1248/49 as a result of the wool trade bringing wealth into the town, and a church was erected between 1480 and 1530 by John de Vere (Earl of Oxford) and a family of clothiers called Springer (SHER LVM053). The market cross lies c.60m to the west, built in 1501 to replace a timber cross in the same position (SHER LVM004). To the south of the market place is the Guildhall of Corpus

Christi, founded by John de Vere in 1529 and now maintained by the National Trust (SHER LVM004). Excavations c.140m to the north-east revealed occupation relating to the founding of Prentice Street, one of the earlier planned streets, which dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (SHER LVM048).

### Post-medieval

4.4 The site lay within the centre of the post-medieval town, and c.60m to the east monitoring of a small-scale development revealed 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery and animal bone (SHER LVM035). Further to the east excavation revealed a floor as well as traces of a buildings, pits and post holes and pottery (SHER LVM 048). The buildings to the east of the site are recorded in gazetteer of significant industrial archaeological sites as a good example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century steam corn mill (SHER LVM070).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 SCC AS-CT required a programme of archaeological test-pitting within the footprint of the proposed development. Two test pits, each 2m x 2m, were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench location was approved by Suffolk County Council, Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Fig.3).

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 180° back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

### Test Pit 1 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section: 1A 0.00m = 10.73m AOD		
0.0– 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.68m	L1007	Modern Made Ground. Mid orange brown, firm, very silty sand with moderate small and medium flint Same as L1001 (Tr.2)

*Description: Trench 1 contained modern (19<sup>th</sup> century) Pit F1008 and post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> century) Ditch F1010.*



Pit F1008 was unseen in plan (2.50+ x 1.20+ x 0.40m). It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a mid grey brown, firm, very silty sand with moderate small – medium sub angular flint. It contained modern (19<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (1; 53g), CBM, coal and glass. F1008 cut Ditch F1010.

Ditch F1010 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 0.94+ x 1.05m), orientated NE / SW. It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its basal fill, L1011, was a mid orange brown, firm, very silty sand with moderate small – medium sub angular flint. It contained no finds. Its middle fill, L1012, was a dark mid grey brown, friable, silty sand with moderate small – medium sub angular flint. It contained late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (5; 246g), CBM, animal bone and glass. Its upper fill, L1013, was a mid orange brown, firm, sandy clay silt with moderate small – medium sub angular flint. It contained CBM.

### Test Pit 2 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section: 2A 0.00m = 10.99m AOD		
0.0– 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey brown, firm, silty sand with moderate small and medium flint
0.35 – 0.49m	L1001	Modern Made Ground. Mid orange brown, firm, very silty sand with moderate small and medium flint and occasional large rounded flint. It contained modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – mid 20 <sup>th</sup> C) pottery (2; 32g)
0.49 - .054m	L1002	Modern Made Ground. Mid orange brown, firm, very silty sand with occasional small and medium flint
0.54 – 1.09m	L1003	Modern Made Ground. Mid grey brown, firm, very silty sand with moderate small and medium flint. It contained modern (mid 19 <sup>th</sup> – mid 20 <sup>th</sup> C) pottery (4; 72g)
1.09m+	L1004	Mixed, firm, pale brown and pale mid grey brown very silty sand. It contained a medieval (13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> century) sherd (1; 13g).

Sample section: 2B 0.00m = 10.99m AOD		
0.0– 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil.
0.35 – 0.47m	L1001	Modern Made Ground.
0.47 – 0.54m	L1002	Modern Made Ground.
0.54 – 1.00m	L1003	Modern Made Ground.
1.00m+	L1004	Silty sand.

*Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 Topsoil L1000 was a friable, dark grey brown, firm, silty sand with moderate small and medium flint. It overlay modern made ground deposits (L1001, L1002 and L1003) which extended to a depth of over 1m.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site is an area of archaeological potential in the historic medieval settlement core of Lavenham (HER LVM 053), to the rear (east) of the market place. Medieval finds have been made adjacent (HER LVM 035). It also lies to the rear of Little Hall, a Grade II\* listed 15<sup>th</sup> century structure. Historic maps suggest that the site has been lightly built on only since the 1880s, increasing the potential for the preservation of remains medieval activity on the site.

9.2 The site thus had a potential for remains of medieval and early post-medieval 'back-yard' activity behind the market place (in particular for early property boundaries, industrial activity, refuse pits and structures).

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## **10 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Suffolk County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the client, Danny Ward Builders for funding the evaluation, and Roberts Molloy for assistance (in particular Alex Bloss).

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, in particular Rachael Abraham and Faye Minter.

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# APPENDIX 1      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

## Concordance of Finds

LVM113, P6614, Land adj Great House Hotel, Market Place, Lavenham

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000		1	Topsoil	mid 19th-mid 20th	3	19	246		Glass Bottle	1	108
			2		mid 19th-mid 20th	5	37			Fe.frgs	3	59
										Glass	1	19
										Clay Pipe	1	1
	1001			Made Ground	mid 19th-mid 20th	2	32	6270				
	1003			Made Ground	mid 19th-mid 20th	4	72	1030		Glass		295
	1004			Layer	13th - 15th	1	13	13	1			
1008	1009			Fill of Pit	19th	1	53	82		Coal	1	7
										Clay Pipe	1	1
										Glass	1	2
1010	1012			Middle Fill of Ditch	late 17th - 18th	5	246	5030	194	Glass		1201
	1013			Upper Fill of Ditch				2176				