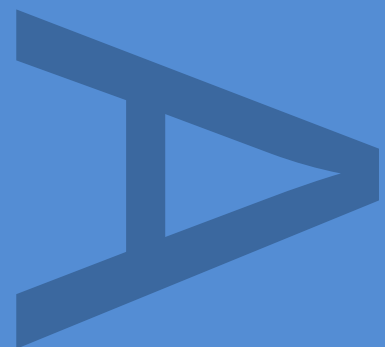


**Land at Westgate House,
Westgate Street, Bury St
Edmunds, Suffolk:
An Archaeological Trial Trench
Evaluation**

December 2014

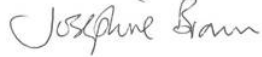
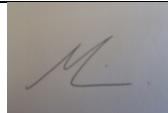


LAND AT WESTGATE HOUSE, WESTGATE STREET,
BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3811
Report Number	R11934

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Land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Planning Reference: Tbc

Central National Grid Reference: TL 85475 63726

Site Code: BSE454

Report No. R11934

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds (NGR TL 85475 63726) between the 8th and 12th December 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area by targeting areas of the site which were not sampled during a previous phase of evaluation in 2011.

Three trenches were excavated. Trench 1, in the north-west of the site, contained a medieval pit and a post-medieval cess pit or well. Trench 2, in the west of the site, contained a medieval boundary ditch aligned broadly perpendicular to Friar's Lane and a post-medieval ditch on a slightly offset alignment. The earlier ditch contained a semi-complete broken pot, indicating proximity to domestic dwellings and suggesting that the ditch was the boundary of a medieval house plot fronting onto Friar's Lane. The later ditch was cut by a row of clay post-pads for a barn or outbuilding. All the features in Trench 2 were sealed by a deep garden soil. Trench 3, in the south of the site, contained no significant archaeological deposits but did show evidence of past landscaping in the gardens of Westgate House.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1QQ (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 85475 63726) from the 8th to the 12th December 2014 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Greene King Plc in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Tom Woolhouse and Mark Hinman of PCA (Woolhouse and Hinman 2014).
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 A total of three trial trenches were excavated and recorded.
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at SCCAS/CT archaeological stores.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

The underlying geology of the site is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey; Website 1). This is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 71 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The local environment was at that time dominated by warm chalk seas.

In the south of the site, the chalk may be overlain by superficial glacial head deposits of clays, silts, sands and gravels associated with the River Linnet. However, across the majority of the site, the chalk bedrock is exposed directly below the garden soils and made ground layers.

2.2 Topography

The proposed development area is currently used as gardens, lawns and areas of asphalt car park, to the rear of properties fronting onto Westgate Street, to the north.

The landscape slopes gradually down to the south, towards the River Linnet approximately 120m from the southern limit of the site.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

The proposed development area lies in an area of archaeological interest, as indicated by information held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). A desk-based assessment produced by CgMs Consulting (Smith 2011) identified potential for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.

3.2 Palaeolithic

Palaeolithic artefacts have been found at the King's Brewery on Maynewater Lane, c. 200m east of the site (HER BSE 347).

3.3 Roman

There is limited evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the site, the only known Roman remains within 250m consisting of a ditch recorded during a watching brief on Cullum Road, c. 200m to the south-west (HER BSE 187).

3.4 Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

Bury St Edmunds has its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period. In around AD 903, following the West Saxon 're-conquest' of East Anglia from the Danes, relics of King Edmund, who had been martyred by the Vikings in AD 869, were moved from the chapel of Hoxne to Beodricsworth (later Bury St Edmunds). In AD 1020, Ælfwine, Bishop of Elmham, granted the custodianship of the remains of St. Edmund to twenty monks, headed by Ufi, the first abbot of Bury St. Edmunds. A stone church was consecrated in AD 1032.

It is thought that early and middle Saxon activity in this part of the town was centred around the east end of Westgate Street, but by the late Saxon period it had extended westwards along Westgate Street, towards the line of the later town wall. However, the southern part of the present site, towards the River Linnet, may well have remained water meadows at this time. The line of the possible Saxon town defences runs c. 250m to the south and south-west of the site, from Southgate, along to Friar's Lane (HER BSE 140 and BSE 139). Known Saxon remains within 250m of the site include two

pits of late Saxon/ early medieval date observed during monitoring at St Mary's Square, c. 250m to the east (HER BSE 201), and late Saxon industrial remains at Honey Hill, c. 200m to the north-east (HER BSE 262).

3.5 Medieval and Post-Medieval

The Scheduled Ancient Monument of the medieval Abbey complex, presumed to be located on the site of the earlier Saxon monastery, is located 250m north-east of the site. Surviving and partially-surviving components of the monastic complex include chapels, a dovecote, two gatehouses, the minster church, the Abbot's bridge, St Mary's Church and St James' Church, now St Edmundsbury Cathedral (HER BSE 010, 058, 062, 063, 090, 092, 104, 110, 111, 112, 113, 118, 123, 143, 146, 172 174 and 196). The medieval town defences soon followed, formed of walls, ditches and gates, possibly following the line of earlier Saxon defences (HER BSE 066, BSE 136 and BSE 140).

The regular 'grid' of streets in Bury town centre, including the east-to-west axes of Abbeygate Street, Churchgate Street and Westgate Street, and north-to-south-aligned Guildhall Street, Whiting Street and Hatter Street/ College Street, are the result of formal town planning by the Abbey during the medieval period.

Archaeological evaluation undertaken immediately to the east of the site (HER BSE 155) revealed medieval (and post-medieval) features including pits, wells, ditches and a possible enclosure, dating to the 12th and 13th centuries.

Historic maps show buildings within the site from at least 1740, indicating high potential for post-medieval structures and associated remains.

A trial trench evaluation was carried out on the present site in 2011 by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Burke and Yates 2011). Five trenches were excavated, totalling 80m in length. The trenches were positioned to avoid standing buildings and other areas which remained in use.

Trench 1, in the north-west corner of the site, contained a backfilled cellar,

an undated ditch and several pits. The cellar was backfilled in the post-medieval period.

Trench 2, towards the north-western edge of the site, contained a cellar backfilled in the c. late 17th or early 18th century, a mid-16th-century pit and an undated possible sunken-floored structure.

Trench 3, in the south-west of the site, contained a late post-medieval/modern brick-faced rubble wall and a robber trench.

Trench 4, in the central eastern part of the site, had been subject to extensive landscaping for a tennis court. It contained 17th-18th-century garden features.

Trench 5, in the south-east of the site, contained deep garden soil deposits. The majority of the identified features were post-medieval, with no in-situ remains of earlier than c. 16th-century date, although it is possible that some of the features, such as cellars, which were backfilled at this time could be earlier. However, a small quantity of residual medieval (13th-14th-century) pottery was found in Trenches 4 and 5. In addition, some of the peg tile recovered from later deposits could feasibly be medieval (14th-century onwards). Therefore, there is potential for surviving medieval remains elsewhere on the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of three c. 10m long trial trenches, positioned to provide coverage of those areas of the site which were not sampled during the previous phase of evaluation.

Due to constraints imposed by up to 12" of reinforced concrete and live services, Trench 1 could not be fully excavated and consisted of two test pits at either end of the proposed trench. Trench 2, located in an area currently used as a walled garden, had to be shortened due to space restrictions. However, a 'T'-shaped extension was dug at its east end in order to reveal the full width of a post-medieval ditch.

Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 7-ton wheeled backhoe loader fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. A 1.5-ton tracked excavator fitted with a breaker was first used to break through the reinforced concrete in Trench 1. Due to the narrow entrance into the walled garden (780mm wide), a 0.75-ton tracked micro-digger fitted with a 90cm ditching bucket was used to excavate Trench 2. Topsoil, subsoil and recent 'made ground' deposits were removed in even spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

Metal-detecting was carried out during machine stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.

Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated and, where considered appropriate, 100% excavated.

Ditches were investigated by means of 1m slots excavated across their widths.

4.2 Recording Methodology

The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better. Where GPS signal strength was weak, trench positions were triangulated by means of measurements taken with hand tapes off standing buildings and other features shown on Ordnance Survey mapping.

Manual plans and section drawings of trenches, archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:50).

Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits and black and white film photographs were taken when considered appropriate by the excavator and supervisor.

Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (IfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

Three bulk soil samples of between 20 and 40 litres volume were taken for the recovery of plant macrofossil assemblages, with the aim of investigating the past environment and economy of the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Features and deposits are described in chronological order, from earliest to latest. The evaluation identified medieval and post-medieval ditches, pits and structural remains representing backyard activity to the rear of dwellings fronting onto Westgate Street, to the north, and Friar's Lane, to the west.

5.2 Trench 1 (Plates 1-5; Figure 3)

Trench 1 contained three pits and a brick drain.

Pit [13] (Plates 2-3; Figures 3 and 5, Section 3) was located in the northern part of the trench and was truncated on its south side by Pit [10]. It was 1.30m wide and 0.50m deep with a steep, concave profile and a flattish base. It had a single fill (14) of greenish-grey silty clay which contained four sherds (59g) of 11th - 14th century pottery. The colour of the fill and the small quantity of finds suggests that it was a truncated medieval cess pit.

Pit [10] (Plate 2; Figures 3 and 5, Section 2) was located in the northern part of the trench and truncated Pit [13]. It was 1.50m+ wide and 1.00m+ deep with steep to near-vertical sides; the base was not reached due to safety constraints. The excavated part of the feature had a main fill (11) of mixed dark brown/grey/black clayey silt which contained 31 sherds (c. 3kg) of pottery. Large quantities of peg roof tile, brown/ green bottle glass, animal bone and numerous clay pipe stems were also present; representative samples of these finds were recovered. The most datable piece of pottery from (11) was an 18th century tankard made in London Stoneware (ESWL) with part of an ale mark. The upper fill of the pit (12) was similar in composition but darker in colour, suggesting a higher concentration of dumped hearth waste. The quantity and range of finds in Pit [10] reflects deliberate dumping of domestic waste from houses on the Westgate Street frontage, just to the north. Although the feature was not fully revealed in the trench, its size and profile suggest that it was a cess pit or possibly the top of

a backfilled well.

Pit [32] (Plate 4; Figure 3) was located at the north end of Trench 1, cut by Victorian Drain [7] and extending beyond the limit of excavation. It appeared to be oval in plan, 0.80m long, 0.40m+ wide and 0.05m deep. It had a single fill of dark brown clayey silt, which contained no finds. Based on its stratigraphic position and the colour of its fill, [32] is likely to be the truncated lower portion of a pit similar in date to Pit [10].

A levelling layer of made ground (6) containing ash, light brown sand and brick and tile building rubble, sealed these features in the north end of Trench 1. Eighteen sherds of pottery (1.4kg+) were recovered, most of which were from 18th century glazed red earthenwares. There were also two sherds of late 17th century pottery, giving layer (6) a date range of c.1670-1800.

Drain [7] was aligned north to south and was located in the northern part of Trench 1. It was 2.75m+ long (extending beyond the trench in both directions), 0.84m wide and 1.00m deep, with steep to vertical straight sides and a flat base. It contained a brick-built drain/ culvert (8) and backfill (9), which produced pottery, tile and glass fragments. The bricks were machine-made and the pottery included blue and white china. The drain was cut from a high stratigraphic level just below the modern car park surface.

TRENCH 1	Figures 3 & 5		Plates 1-5	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 6m (two test pits)	Level of Natural (m OD): XXXm		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Tarmac and Reinforced Concrete	(5)	0.30m	0.20m	
Made Ground	(6)	0.42m	N/A	
Made Ground	(31)	N/A	0.75m	
Natural Chalk	(4)	0.72m+	0.95m+	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located close to the northern boundary of the site, to the rear of buildings at the Westgate Street frontage.				

Due to the presence of a functioning drain crossing the central part of the trench on a diagonal alignment, the trench had to be split into two 3m sections with an unexcavated portion in between.

The northern part of the trench contained three pits, one 11th - 14th century, one late post-medieval and one undated. These were sealed by a layer of 18th-/19th-century made ground containing brick and tile fragments and other building demolition debris, which was cut by a Victorian brick-built drain.

The southern part of the trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. A deep clay made ground layer containing modern brick and tile fragments was the only deposit present beneath the car park surface.

5.3 Trench 2 (Plates 6-11; Figure 4)

The trench contained two ditches, one aligned west-south-west to east-north-east and 11th - 12th century in date, and one aligned approximately west to east and late post-medieval. A medieval or earlier pit and a line of three post-pads associated with a 17th - 19th century building were also identified.

A heavily truncated pit [26] (Figure 5, Section 6) was located in the central part of Trench 2, cut by medieval Ditch [24]. It appeared to be circular in plan and measured 1.45m wide and 0.18m deep. It had moderately sloping concave sides where these survived; its base was truncated by Ditch [24]. The pit had a single fill (27) of mid greyish-brown clayey silt, which contained no finds. The stratigraphic position of Pit [26] indicates a medieval or earlier date.

An east- to west-aligned ditch (Plates 9-11) extended along the southern edge of the trench for 4.5m+, terminating or turning southwards within the trench, and continuing beyond the limits of excavation to the west and south. Two slots ([22] and [24]) were excavated, revealing a steep straight or concave profile (Figure 5, Sections 4 and 6). The ditch was at least 0.89m wide and 0.32m deep, with a single fill ((23) and (25)) of mid greyish-brown clayey silt in both slots. Slot [22] (23) contained 8 fragments of animal bone.

Slot [24] (25) contained 20 sherds (1.3kg) from a single medieval 11th - 12th century cooking pot, 2 fragments of animal bone and one burnt flint (the latter not retained). The pottery was found together in a single concentration, probably in the original location where the vessel was discarded (Plate 10). The alignment of the ditch broadly perpendicular with Friar's Lane, 18m to the west, as well as the associated broken pottery vessel, suggest that it is a boundary ditch defining a medieval house plot fronting onto the lane.

Ditch [28] (Figure 5, Section 5) was aligned west to east and extended through the eastern half of Trench 2. It was 4.5m+ long, 1.5m wide and 0.66m deep with steep sides and a 'v'-shaped base. It had a lower fill (29) of mid grey clayey silt with frequent re-deposited chalk and flints, which contained a fragment of tile, 5 fragments of animal bone and an iron nail, and an upper fill (30) of fairly loose dark greyish-brown clayey silt which contained a single rim sherd of an unglazed 18th - 19th century flower pot and a tile fragment. Ditch [28] is likely to represent a property boundary ditch orientated broadly perpendicular to Friar's Lane, although its offset alignment from that of Ditch [22]=[24] suggests some movement of plot boundaries since the medieval period.

Ditch [28] was truncated by a line of post-pads on the same west to east alignment: (from west to east) [19], [17] and [15] (Plate 7). The post-pads had identical mid orangey-brown compact clay fills and were spaced 1.5-1.7m apart.

Post-pad [19] was seen at the northern edge of the trench, truncating Ditch [28]. It had a single fill (20) of mid orangey-brown clay, identical to the fills of [15] and [17], but was not excavated as it lay almost entirely outside of the trench.

Post-pad [17] (Plate 8) was located in the eastern half of the trench and truncated Ditch [28]. It was square in plan, 0.58m wide and 0.20m deep, with vertical straight sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (18) of mid orangey-brown clay, which contained one sherd of 17th - 19th century pottery and three small fragments of tile.

Post-pad [15] was located in the eastern half of the trench and truncated Ditch [28]. It was square in plan, 0.57m wide and 0.16m deep, with vertical straight sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (16) of mid orangey-brown clay, which contained one sherd of 12th - 13th century pottery, two fragments of tile and two iron nails.

The post-pads were fairly substantial and are therefore likely to be foundations for upright timber posts forming a barn or other outbuilding. Their stratigraphic relationship with Ditch [28] and the sherd of pottery from (18) suggest a 17th century or later date. It is interesting to note that the post-pad alignment directly follows the earlier property boundary.

TRENCH 2	Figures 3 & 5	Plates 6-11	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 8.4m	Level of Natural (m OD):XXX	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		W End	E End
Topsoil	(1)	0.10m	0.10m
Garden Soil	(21)	0.74m	0.65m
Natural Chalk	(4)	0.84m+	0.75m+
Summary			
<p>Trench 2 was located in the west of the site, in an area currently forming a walled garden. Due to space restrictions, the trench had to be shortened from the proposed 10m, but a 'T'-shaped extension was excavated at its east end to expose the full width of a ditch.</p> <p>There were six archaeological features in the trench: a pit of medieval or earlier date, a medieval boundary ditch containing a complete broken 11th - 12th century pot and post-medieval boundary ditch, cut by a line of three post-pads.</p> <p>All the features were sealed by a deep build-up of 'clean' and homogenous garden soil which contained no finds apart from a few small and undiagnostic fragments of ceramic building material.</p>			

5.4 Trench 3 (Plates 12 & 13)

No archaeological features were present in Trench 3. The undisturbed natural chalk horizon was present at a depth of 1.2m below existing ground level, sealed by a deep garden soil (3) and a layer of redeposited natural

chalk (2), the latter deriving from the terracing of this part of the site to form the garden of Westgate House.

TRENCH 3	Figure 2		Plates 12-13	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 10m	Level of Natural (m OD): XXX		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(1)	0.22m	0.18m	
Made Ground	(2)	0.20m	0.11m	
Garden Soil	(3)	0.78m	0.94m	
Natural Chalk	(4)	1.20m+	1.23m+	
Summary				
<p>Trench 3 was located in the south of the site.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were present. A deep garden soil build-up was sealed by a layer of redeposited chalk which is likely to derive from post-medieval landscaping in the garden of Westgate House.</p>				

6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 The Medieval Pottery

Berni Sudds

The post-Roman pottery assemblage amounts to 25 sherds, weighing 1374g, and dates from the 11th to 14th century (Table 1). The early medieval wares, dated to the 11th to 12th century, include local sandy coarsewares (EMW) but also regional coarsewares that contain some shell or calcareous inclusions (YARN/ BMSW/ MSDW). Notable amongst the assemblage is the semi-complete, although fragmented, remains of a large unglazed EMW jug recovered from fill of ditch [24]. The jug has a heavy internal limescale deposit and extensive external wear to the base. A carbonised organic residue was also present, overlying the limescale, predominantly to the internal shoulder. This would suggest the jug is also likely to have been used to heat or cook food, probably liquid based, in addition to water. An oxidised, shell-dusted ware sherd was recovered from posthole fill [16] that may represent a variant of the local Bury Medieval Shelly ware tradition, although could have originated from further afield. A similar example was recovered from excavations at St Mary's Square (Goffin 2006).

The medieval assemblage is comprised of Bury sandy wares (BSW/ BSFW), the local wheel-thrown greyware tradition that eventually superseded the early medieval traditions in the town and its immediate hinterland sometime during the late 12th century. No diagnostic sherds were recovered. The range of fabric types identified for both the early and later medieval pottery can be well-paralleled within Bury St Edmunds (Anderson 2011; Goffin 2006).

Context	Fabric Code	Common Name	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Date Range	Spot Date
3	BSFW	Bury sandy fineware	Base sherd	1	11	L.12th - 14th C	L.12th - 14th C
13	EMW	Early medieval ware	Body sherd	1	4	11th - 12th C	L.12th - 14th C
	YARN	Yarmouth-type ware (non-calcareous)	Body sherd	1	16	11th - 12th C	
	BSW	Bury sand ware	Body sherd, wheel thrown and base?, sooted	2	35	L.12th - 14th C	
16	MSDW/BMSW	Medieval shell-dusted ware	Body sherd, shoulder	1	16	12th - 13th C	11th - 13th C
25	EMW	Early medieval ware	Semi-complete large rounded jug with sagging base. Heavy internal limescale and partial overlying burnt organic deposit. External wear to lower sides and base	19	1292	11th - 12th C	11th - 12th C

Table 1: Catalogue of the medieval pottery. No = sherd count, Wg = weight in grams, C = century

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Anderson, S., 2011. 'Pottery' in A. L. Antrobus and J. A. Craven 'Brewer's Garage, Honey Hill, Bury St Edmunds, BSE 262'. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Report No. 2011/55, 27-34.

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6.2 The Post-Medieval Pottery

Chris Jarrett

There is a total of 49 sherds/37 estimated number of vessels/4.026kg of post medieval pottery, which was found in four contexts.

The well [10] produced in its fill [11] mostly contemporaneous pottery and recorded as 29 sherds/20 ENV/2.774kg and vessels occur with complete profiles. The main pottery type recorded is glazed red earthenware (GRE) and clear-glazed examples are in the form of two deep flared bowls or pancheons, one of which has a complete profile with a collared rim and pouring lip. Additionally recorded in GRE is a straight-sided bowl, two dishes, including a small flared example and three chamber pots. The brown-glazed red earthenware (GRE) includes five sherds from a rounded jug. A Surrey-Hampshire border redware with brown-glaze (BORD) chamber pot is also present, while made in Staffordshire-type slipware (STAF) is recorded a rounded dish and a porringer base. Present in London stoneware (ESWL) is a tankard with part of an ale mark and the rim of a rounded jug or bottle and both are dated to the 18th century. The latest pottery type is the flat base of a creamware plate, dated c. 1740-1830, however its glaze colour indicates it is of a late 18th century date and together with the other pottery types found with it, indicates a deposition date of c. 1740-1800.

The post pad [17] produced in its fill [18] a single sherd of glazed red earthenware broadly dated to the 17th-19th century and the ditch [28]

produced in its fill [30] a fragment of an unglazed post-medieval redware (PMRW) flower pot dated to the 18th-19th century.

Layer [6] produced a total of eighteen sherds of pottery, much of which consisted of 18th-century glazed red earthenwares in the form of a small carinated bowl, flared and rounded dishes and rounded jars and jugs. Probable 17th-century pottery occurs as the base of a border ware vessel probably used for cooking and a sherd of a post c. 1670 London stoneware rounded jug. Two mid 18th century dated vessels are recorded as a simple plate made in tin-glazed earthenware (TGE) with a floral design and the base of a German Westerwald stoneware chamber pot with an applied lion motif. The latest pottery type is found as two sherds of Creamware (CRW), which includes the base of a plate. Together, the pottery from layer [6] gives a considered deposition date of c. 1760-1800.

6.3 The Animal Bones

Kevin Rielly

Introduction

The site was situated in the central part of Bury St Edmunds within the former medieval confines of this abbey town. The excavation consisted of three 10 metre trenches, two of which (Trenches 1 and 2) provided archaeological features dated to the medieval and post-medieval eras. A reasonable quantity of animal bones was recovered from three of these features within these two trenches.

Methodology

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

Description of Faunal Assemblage

The site provided a total of 25 hand recovered bones, all of which were well preserved although there were a small proportion of abraded bone fragments from the contents of pit [11]. These were taken from three main features, comprising an early medieval (dated to the 11th/12th centuries) as well as a probable late medieval ditch, [22]/[24] and [28] respectively, both in Trench 2; and a late post-medieval (18th century) pit [10] in Trench 1.

The earliest of these bones, from ditch [22]/[24], comprise individual cattle (ulna), sheep/goat (tibia), pig (loose tooth) and cat (tibia) bones alongside a variety of cattle- and sheep-size fragments. These conceivably represent waste from an adjacent medieval household fronting onto Friars Lane. Relatively few bones were found in ditch [28] while the later fill (11) in pit [10] provided a small concentration featuring a juvenile cattle humerus (probable veal joint), a complete cattle metatarsus plus a cattle 1st and 3rd phalange from a notably large individual. There was also a mixture of sheep/goat bones consisting of head (mandible), dressed carcass (humerus, pelvis and femur) and foot parts (metatarsal). All of these parts are from adult individuals.

Cut:	10	22	24	28
Feature Type:	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Species				
Cattle	4	1		
Cattle- Size	1	1		
Sheep/Goat	5		1	1
Pig		1		
Sheep- Size		4	1	4
Cat		1		
Grand Total	10	8	2	5

Table 2: Distribution of hand collected animal bones by feature

Conclusions and Recommendations for Further Work

This collection is generally well preserved and well dated. While the quantities are not large, there does appear to be some potential for gaining

information from two main occupation periods – dating to the first half of the medieval era and the 18th century. The notably large size of some of the bones from the later deposit can be interpreted as ‘improved’ stock, these not available at the meat markets until the latter part of the 18th century (after Rixson 2000, 215). The available information is highlighted by the good recovery of limb bone articular ends which can provide age as well as size data.

Further excavation will undoubtedly provide more bones with the greatest potential for additional data likely to be recovered from that part of the site adjacent to Trenches 1 and 2, in the north-western and western parts of the site respectively. In addition, it is recommended that sampling should take place, with the good preservation of the bones as well as the hand recovery of some smaller bones (the cat tibia) indicative of the potential survival of other small mammal as well as bird and fish bones.

It can be stated that several comparative collections are available from Bury St Edmunds, some in the vicinity of Westgate Street, most notably the moderately sized assemblage from Brewer’s Garage, Honey Hill with reasonable quantities of bones from medieval and post-medieval deposits (Curl 2011, 44).

References

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Rixson, D, 2000 The History of Meat Trading, Nottingham University Press

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Medieval Activity (11th - 14th century)

The evaluation identified a medieval pit in Trench 1. The steep sides and greenish tinge to the fill suggest a likely function as a cesspit. As such, the feature is likely to reflect 'backyard' activity to the rear of medieval dwellings fronting onto Westgate Street, to the north. The pit was approximately 25m back from the modern street frontage. In addition, a ditch containing medieval pottery was found in Trench 2. The animal bone and large fresh sherds of pottery, representing an 11th- 12th century semi-complete smashed cooking jug, suggest occupation close by and the ditch may represent a medieval property boundary for houses facing onto Friar's Lane, to the west. A pit truncated by this ditch may also be from this period, but there was no associated dating evidence.

A small quantity of residual medieval pottery was found during the previous phase of trial trenching at the site, but no securely-dated medieval features or deposits were encountered.

7.2 Post-Medieval Activity (17th - 19th century)

An 18th-century cess pit or well truncated the medieval pit in the northern part of Trench 1. The quantity, condition and range of finds in the pit (abundant pottery, tile, clay pipe, animal bone and glass) indicates domestic activity in close proximity. A levelling deposit sealed the pit and was later truncated by a 19th-century brick drain/ culvert.

In Trench 2, a post-medieval ditch crossed the trench just to the north of the medieval ditch. This later ditch was on a west to east alignment, slightly offset from the west-south-west to east-north-east orientation of the medieval ditch just to the south, and might indicate that early property divisions along Friar's Lane had been repositioned by the late medieval or early post-medieval period.

A west to east line of three 17th-19th century post-pads was cut into the backfill of the later ditch in Trench 2, directly following the line of the ditch. They were large and are therefore likely to be the foundations of a timber

building, possibly a barn or other outbuilding.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Medieval and post-medieval archaeological features were identified in the north-west of the site, behind the Westgate Street frontage (Trench 1), and close to Friar's Lane, in the west of the site (Trench 2).
- 8.2 Both the medieval and post-medieval remains appear to represent 'backyard' activity to the rear of dwellings fronting onto Westgate Street and Friar's Lane. The fresh condition of the medieval pottery in Ditch Slot [24] (Trench 2) indicates that this trench is particularly close to areas of medieval occupation.
- 8.3 The archaeological features in Trench 2 are sealed by a deep accumulation of garden soil (c. 0.80m), which affords them a degree of protection.
- 8.4 Trench 3, in the south of the site, contained no features or deposits of archaeological interest. A deep garden soil was sealed by a layer of re-deposited natural chalk deriving from the terracing of the central part of the site to form the garden of Westgate House. The undisturbed natural chalk horizon was 1.2m below existing ground level.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Matthew Smith and Caroline Butler of CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work on behalf of Greene King Plc, and Nick Hazzard, Site Manager for Stability Property Solutions, for his assistance on site. PCA are also grateful to Dr Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for her advice and for monitoring the work. Figures were prepared by Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD Department. The author is grateful to Michael Page for machining the trenches.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

10.1 Printed Sources

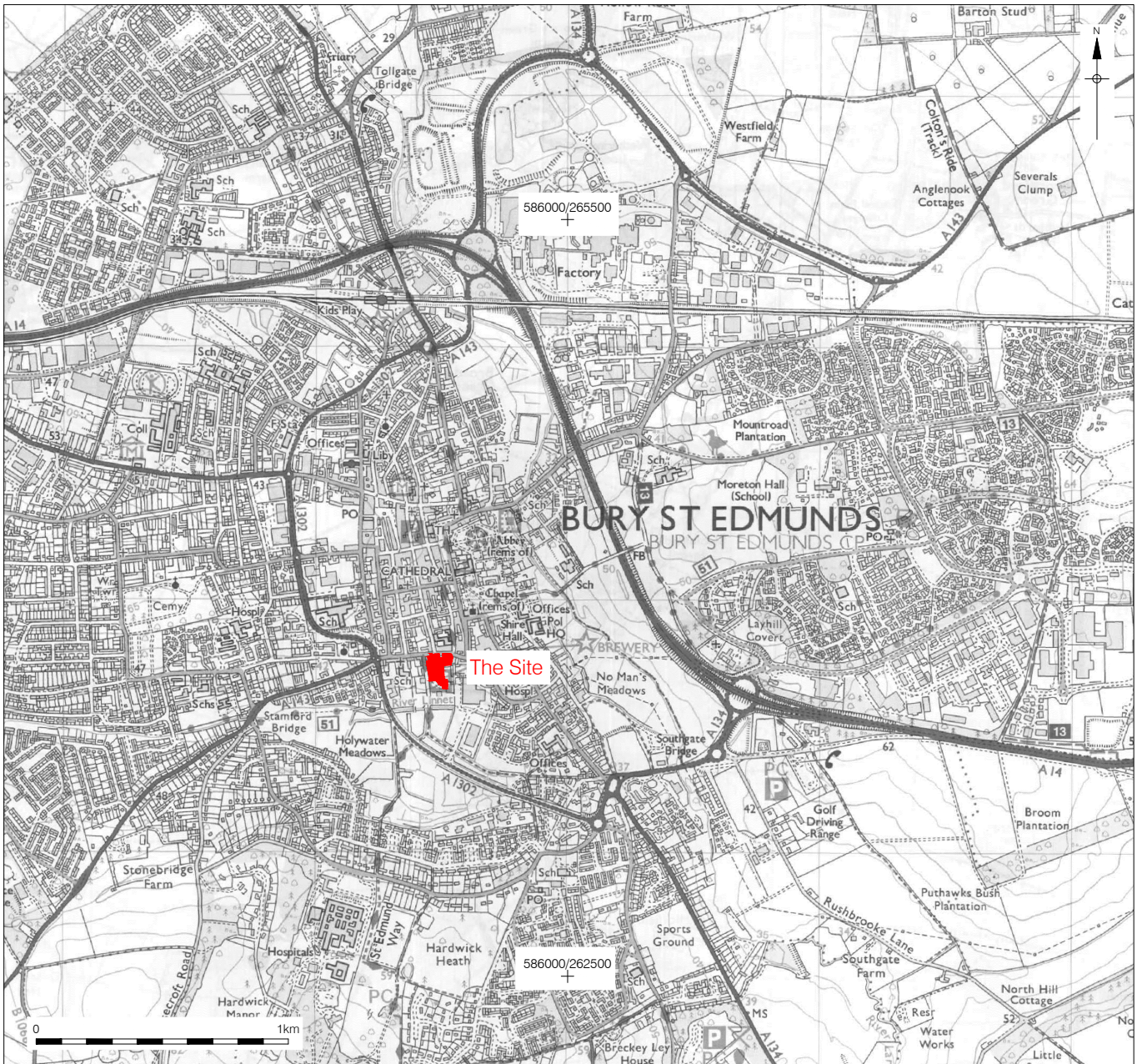
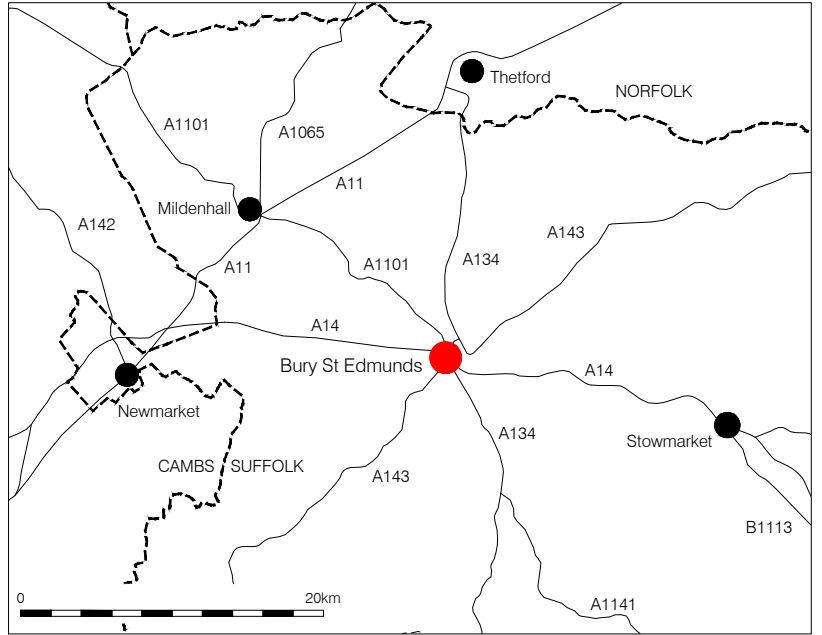
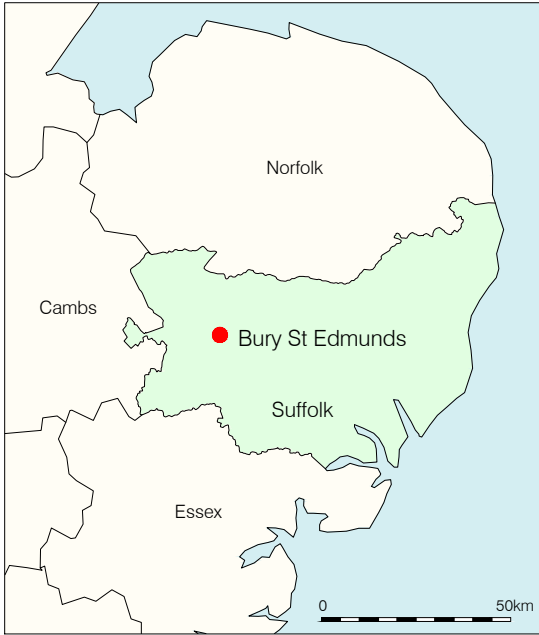
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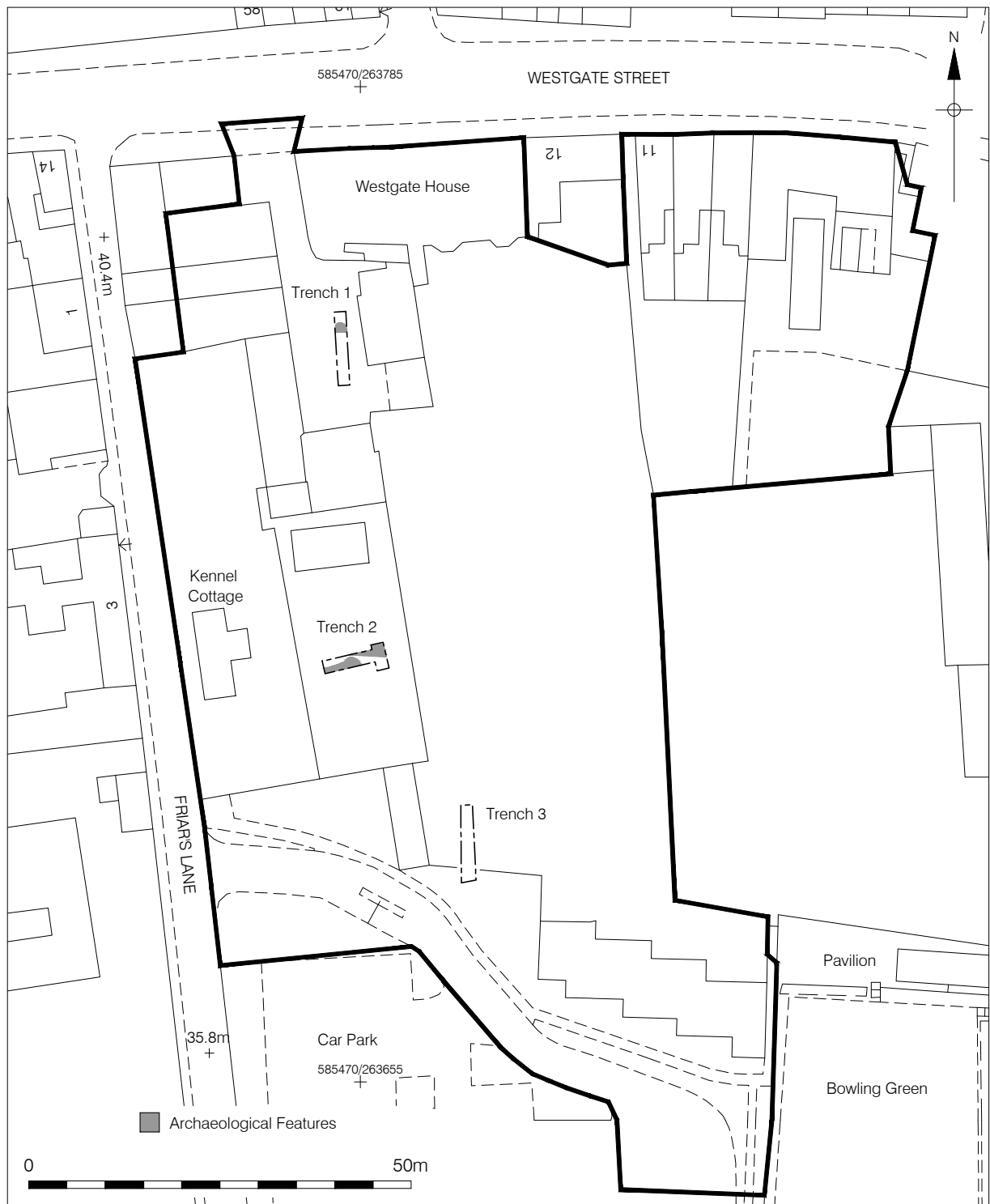
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 16/12/14 JS

Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:800 at A4

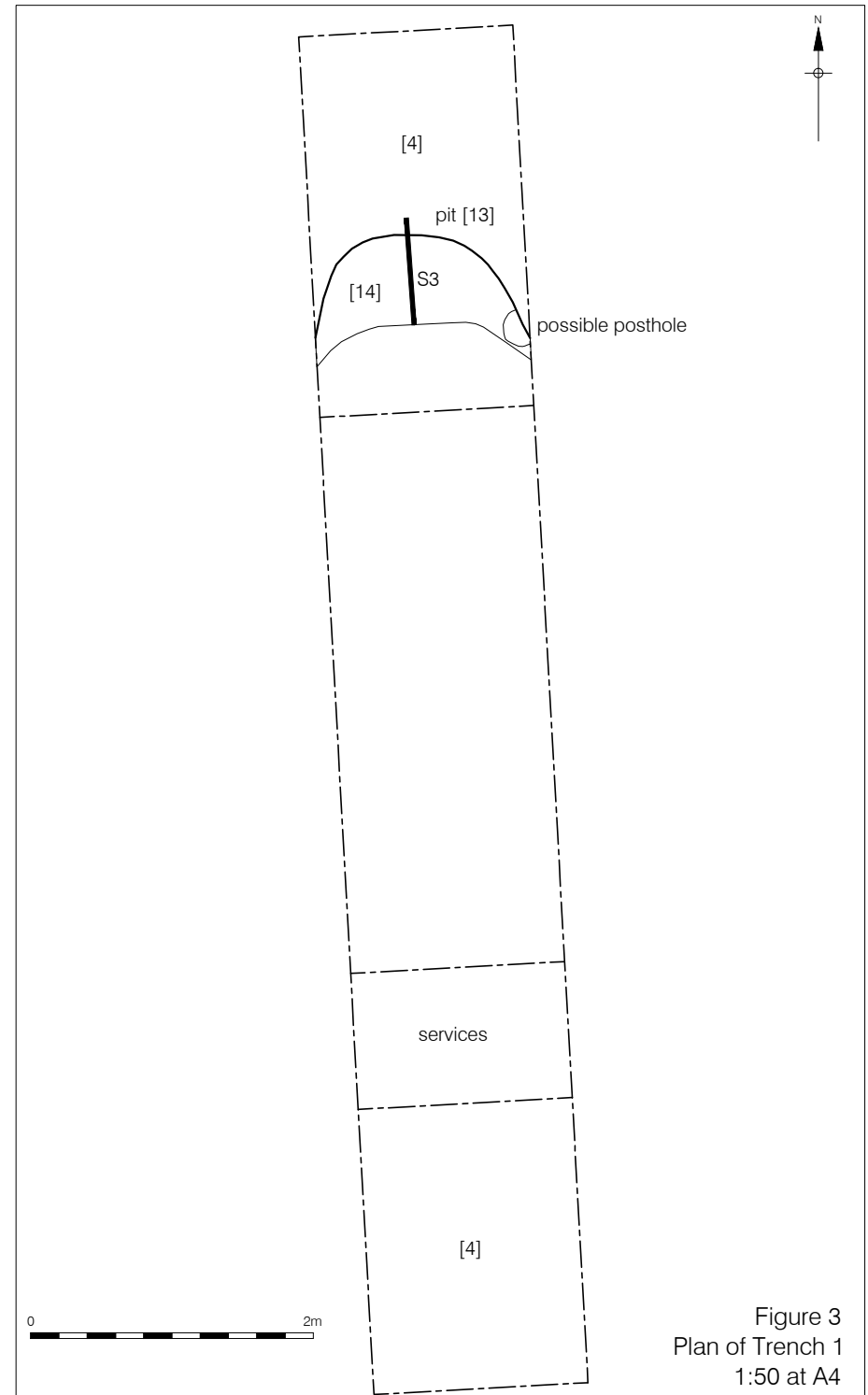
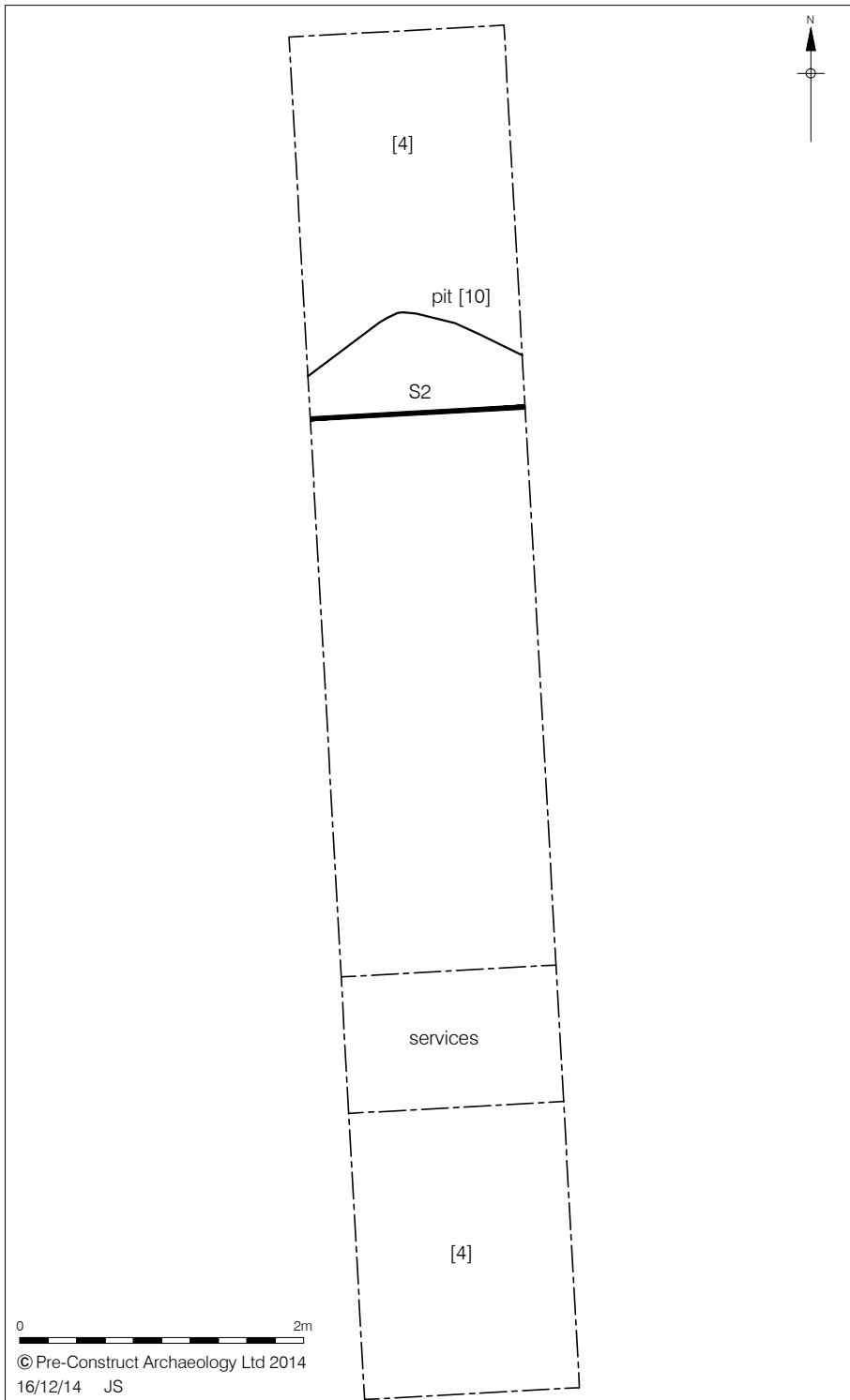


Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1
1:50 at A4

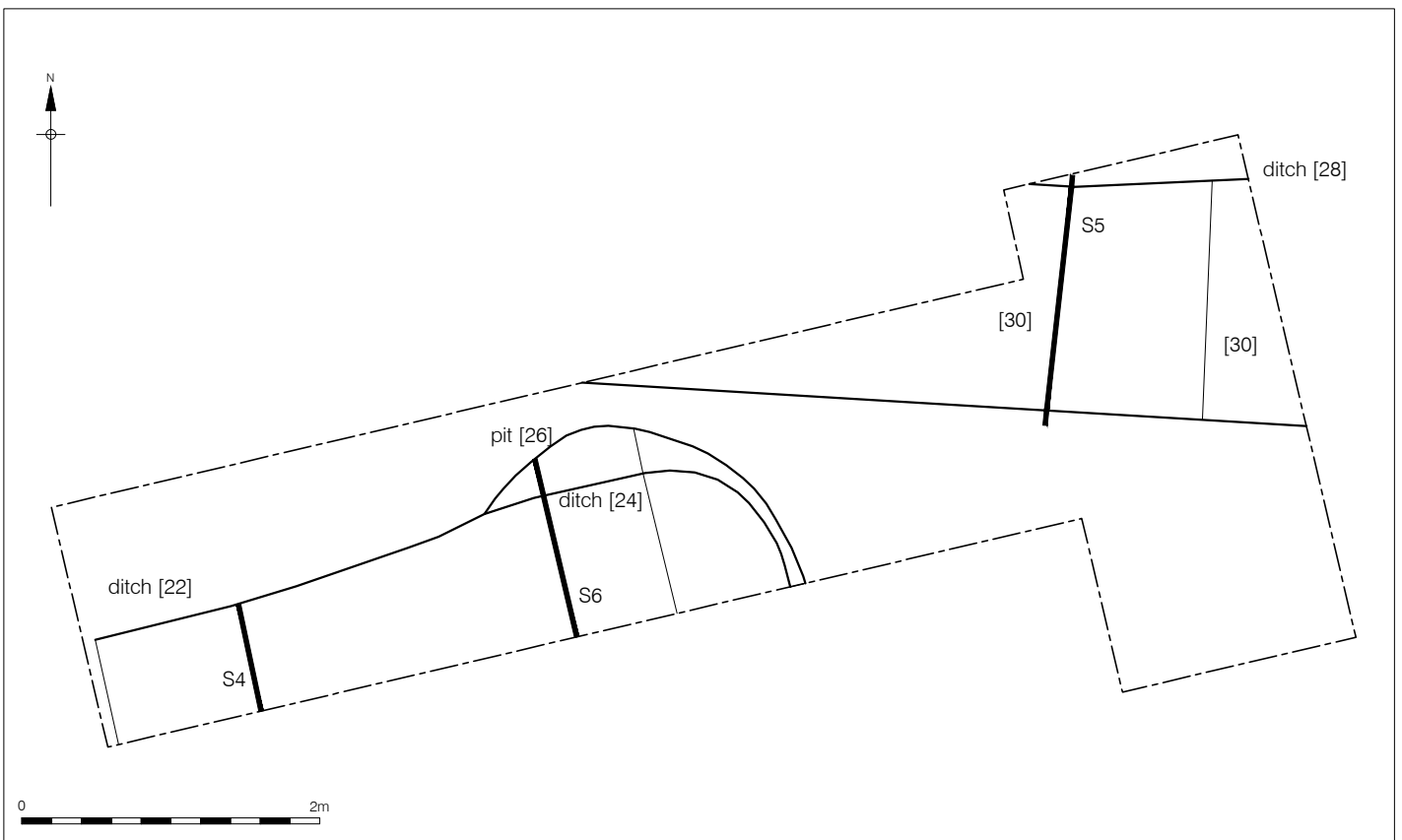
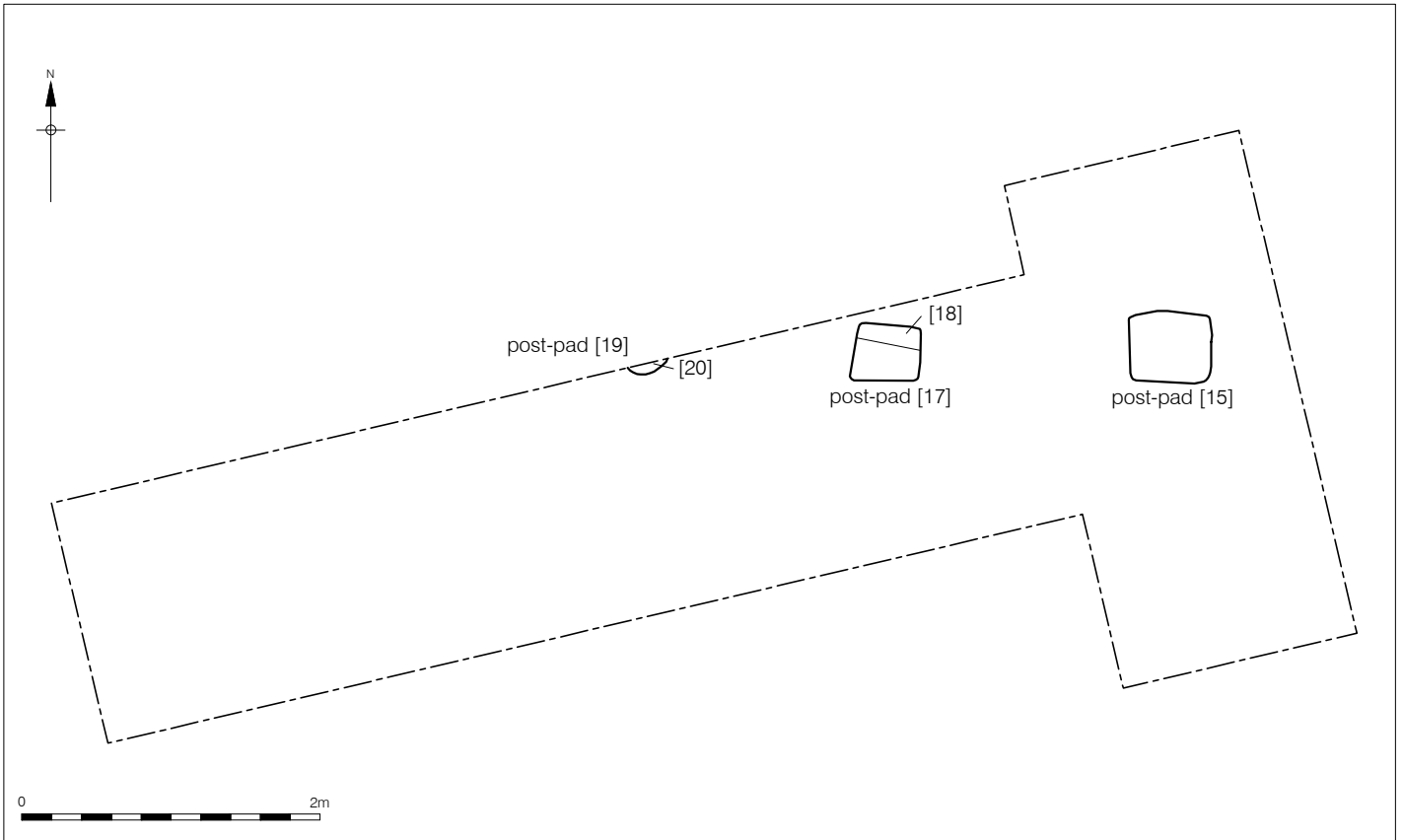
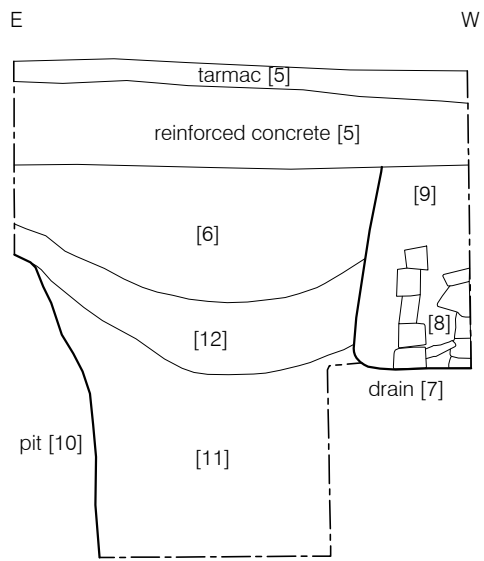
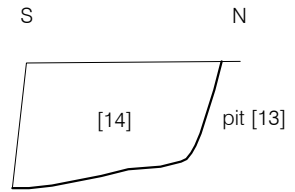


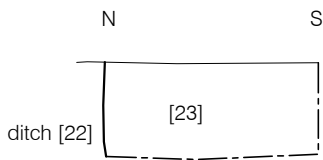
Figure 4
Plan of Trench 2
1:50 at A4



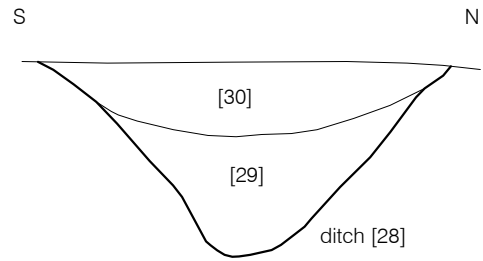
Section 2
Trench 1
North Facing



Section 3
Trench 1
East Facing



Section 4
Trench 2
West Facing



Section 5
Trench 2
East Facing



Section 6
Trench 2
East Facing



11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1 during breaking of reinforced concrete, view south



Plate 2: Trench 1, north end, view south showing medieval Pit [13] cut by post-medieval Cess Pit [10]



Plate 3: Trench 1, north end, view west showing medieval Pit [13] cut to south (left) by post-medieval Cess Pit [10]



Plate 4: Trench 1, north end, view west showing shallow Pit [32]



Plate 5: Trench 1, south end, view north (no archaeological deposits)



Plate 6: Machining Trench 2, in walled garden, view north-west



Plate 7: Trench 2, view north-west showing Post-pads [15] and [17], cut into Ditch [28]



Plate 8: Trench 2, Post-pad [17], view north-east



Plate 9: Trench 2, Ditch [22], view east



Plate 10: Trench 2, Ditch [24], view east showing semi-complete broken medieval cooking jug



Plate 11: Trench 2, view west



Plate 12: Trench 3, view south (no archaeological deposits)



Plate 13: Central part of site, view north showing terracing of garden behind Westgate House

12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
1	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	3
2	-	Layer	Made Ground	Levelling Deposit	3
3	-	Layer	Made Ground	Garden Soil	3
4	-	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	3
5	-	Layer	Made Ground	Modern	1
6	-	Layer	Made Ground	Levelling Deposit	1
7	7	Cut	Drain	Drainage	1
8	7	Fill	Structure	Drainage	1
9	7	Fill	Drain	Infill	1
10	10	Cut	Pit	Refuse Pit	1
11	10	Fill	Pit	Fill of Pit	1
12	10	Fill	Pit	Fill of Pit	1
13	13	Cut	Pit	Cess Pit	1
14	13	Fill	Pit	Cess	1
15	15	Cut	Posthole	Outbuilding	2
16	15	Fill	Posthole	Outbuilding	2
17	17	Cut	Posthole	Outbuilding	2
18	17	Fill	Posthole	Outbuilding	2
19	19	Cut	Posthole	Outbuilding	2
20	19	Fill	Posthole	Outbuilding	2
21	-	Layer	Garden Soil	Garden Soil	2
22	22	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	2
23	22	Fill	Ditch	Boundary	2
24	24	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	2
25	24	Fill	Ditch	Boundary	2
26	26	Cut	Pit	Unknown	2
27	26	Fill	Pit	Unknown	2
28	28	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	2
29	28	Fill	Ditch	Boundary	2
30	28	Fill	Ditch	Boundary	2
31	-	Layer	Made Ground	Made Ground	1
32	32	Cut	Pit	Unknown	1
33	32	Fill	Pit	Unknown	1

13 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-198224

Project details

Project name Land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Short description of the project This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds (NGR TL 85475 63726) between the 8th and 12th December 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area by targeting areas of the site which were not sampled during a previous phase of evaluation in 2011. Three trenches were excavated. Trench 1, in the north-west of the site, contained a medieval pit and a post-medieval cess pit or well. Trench 2, in the west of the site, contained a medieval boundary ditch aligned broadly perpendicular to Friar's Lane and a post-medieval ditch on a slightly offset alignment. The earlier ditch contained a semi-complete broken pot, indicating proximity to domestic dwellings and suggesting that the ditch was the boundary of a medieval house plot fronting onto Friar's Lane. The later ditch was cut by a row of clay post-pads for a barn or outbuilding. All the features in Trench 2 were sealed by a deep garden soil. Trench 3, in the south of the site, contained no significant archaeological deposits but did show evidence of past landscaping in the gardens of Westgate House.

Project dates Start: 08-12-2014 End: 12-12-2014

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes BSE454 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing

Monument type DITCH Medieval

Monument type PIT Medieval

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Monument type POST-PADS Post Medieval

Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Methods & "Sample Trenches"
techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the Not known / Not recorded
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS Westgate
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Site coordinates TL 85475 63726 52.2399606583 0.716794888034 52 14 23 N 000 43
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Physical Archive Suffolk County Council
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Physical Archive ID BSE454

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Metal"

Digital Archive Suffolk County Council
recipient

Digital Archive ID BSE454

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital
available photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive Suffolk County Council
recipient

Paper Archive ID BSE454

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section"
available

Project
bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk:
An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Woolhouse, T. and Slater, M.

Date 2014

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or Cambridge
publication

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