

**Archaeological Monitoring  
at lacy Scott & Knight Risbygate Street  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk**

Grid reference: TL 850 643  
Planning Application No: DC/14/1366  
Oasis No. 221273

**Prepared for:  
Mr Edward Crichton  
Lacy Scott & Knight**

**Prepared by:**  
Dennis Payne BA (Hons)ACIfA

ARCHAEOSERV  
(Dennis Payne Archaeological Services)  
GREAT HEATH  
351 HIGH ROAD TRIMLEY ST MARTIN  
FELIXSTOWE SUFFOLK IP11 ORS

NOVEMBER 2016

## **Contents**

### Summary

1. Site Location and Description.....	1
2. Planning Background.....	2
3. Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
4. Results.....	4
5. Interpretation and Discussion.....	8
6. Conclusions.....	8
7. Archive Deposition.....	8
8. Acknowledgements.....	8
Bibliography.....	
Appendix I Digital Images.....	I-V

## **Summary**

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on ground-works at Lacy Scott & Knight, Risbygate Street Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, between the 5th-25th of October 2016. This was in advance of the erection of a new extension to the auction rooms. The work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Abby Antrobus of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated the 31st of July 2015.

A series of small trenches were excavated for the stanchions to erect the building upon with a continuous trench linking each stanchion trench; no archaeology was encountered except a series of layers interpreted as a disturbed modern build-up and a 19th century footing to a previous building.

# 1. Site Geology Location and Description

Grid Reference: TL 850 643

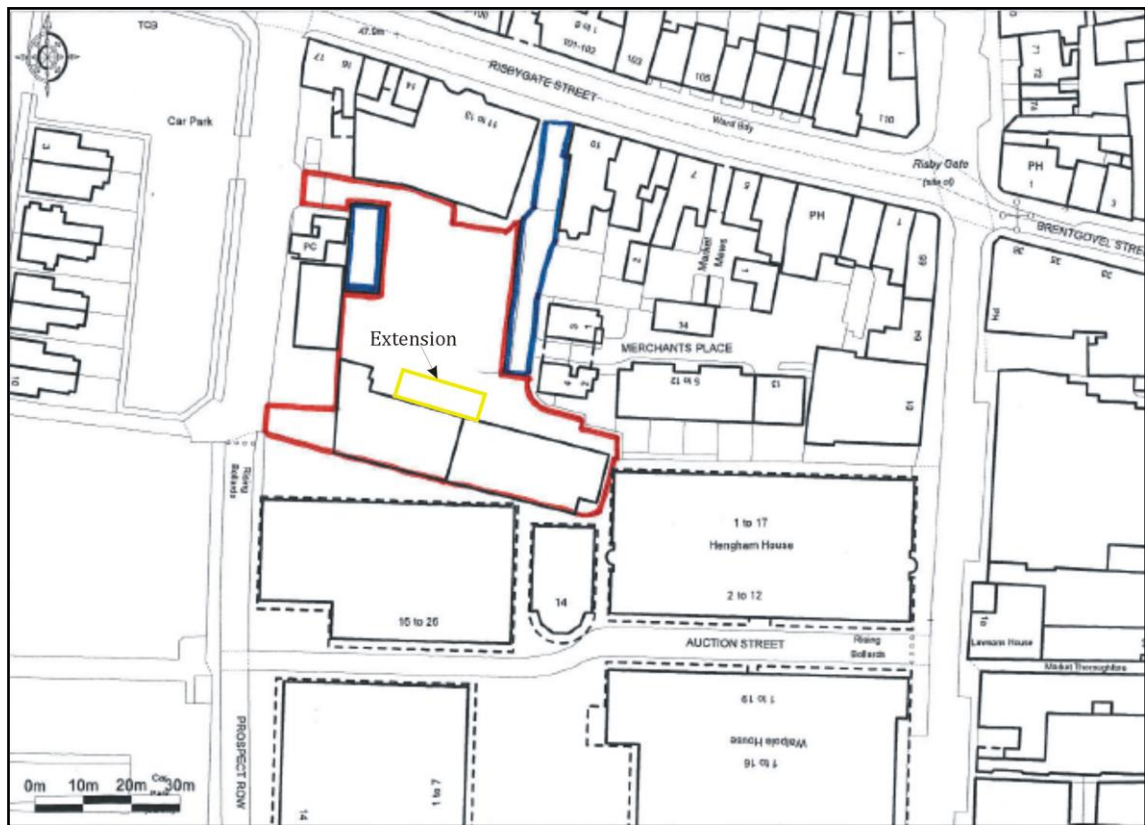


Ordnance Survey, licence No. 100047655

**Figure 1. Location of Bury St Edmund and Site**

The site is located off Risbygate Street, a medieval thoroughfare that would have led from the western gate of the originally walled town of Bury St Edmunds, a medieval market town, laid out on a grid system, dominated by the Abbey.

1.2 The geology of the area consists of patchy superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation chalky till, overlying bedrock formations of Lewes and Seaford nodular chalk (BGS, 2011).



Ordnance Survey, licence No. 100047655

**Figure 2. Block plan showing development location**

## 2. Planning Background

2.1 Planning permission has been granted, subject to a condition for a programme of archaeological work, in this case monitoring of all groundworks that would affect or damage any buried deposits of a historical and archaeological nature.

2.2 The planning application (DC/14/1366) is subject to a condition of archaeological works and forms part of the planning application process of the District Council Core Strategy and Development Control Policies.

2.3 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE 12.3) (which replaced PPG 16 in March 2010) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.

### **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

#### **Archaeological background**

3.1 The proposal to erect an extension to the auction premises affects an area of archaeological interest and potential, on the edge of the defined extent of the medieval town of Bury St Edmunds (County Historic Environment Record BSE 241).

3.2 Any groundworks associated with the proposed development have the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any archaeological deposits that exist.

3.3 The brief supplied by SCCA/CT states: *The proposed extension is on a site of archaeological sensitivity, within the historic core of Bury St Edmunds (County Historic Environment Record BSE 241). Risbygate Street was an early suburban street, and excavations in the area adjacent to the development site recorded ovens, pits, structures and other evidence of medieval life and work (BSE 305). The proposed works have the potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.*

#### **Interventions**

3.4 There have been several interventions around the location of the current development: at 100m north of the current proposal, monitoring identified at least 18 pits, the earliest pit group dates from the 13th-14th centuries, finds indicated basic domestic products (HER: MSF25069; BSE 210); at 100m north-west of the proposal, surviving floor levels were recorded in the rear ranges of two Mid-Late C16 timber framed building at 98a-100 Risbygate Street (HER: MSF17942; BSE 153); an evaluation at the cattle market identified a small amount of medieval and post-medieval features and evidence of the late 17th-early 18th century (HER: MSF 24888; BSE 252); at 150m north of the proposal at Eelsey's Yard, a former Malting Building is located; at this location earlier features were seen below the building during monitoring (MSF 24537; BSE 256) The most recent archaeological work is still in progress immediately west of the current proposal at the corner of Risbygate Street and the service road to the cattle market car park. An evaluation at 20m north-east of the current proposal conducted by Archaeological Solutions discovered several medieval pits and structures, ovens and other evidence of medieval activity (HER: BSE 305 - report in progress).

3.5 In addition to the above, any periods of occupation relating to the early settlement, for example from prehistoric periods to the Saxon period of the town may also be found at this location.

#### **Historical Background**

3.6 Risbygate Street was one of the main medieval roads leading out of what was presumably the west gate of the walled town. The area designated for development lies outside but fairly close to the walled extent of the town within the suburbs or extra-mural settlement(see fig. 2).

The town in general has its origins in the Saxon period and a mint was opened here during the reign of Edward The Confessor in 1040 AD.

Bury St Edmunds was probably populated during the Iron Age, from the 1st century BC with coins having been found around the town that are considered also to have originated here; the location of the Iron Age settlement is not clear.

Bury's famous personage is Edmund, King of the East Saxons; in the early 10th century, the relics of the martyred king, St Edmund, were translated from Hoxne to Beodricsworth, afterwards known as St. Edmundsbury, the site had already been in religious use for nearly three centuries. To the small household of Benedictine monks who guarded the shrine the surrounding lands were granted in 1020, during the reign of Canute. Monks were introduced from St Benet's Abbey under the auspices of the Bishop of Elmham and Dunwich. Two of them became Bury's first two abbots, Ufi, prior of Holme, (d. 1044), who was consecrated abbot by the Bishop of London, and Leofstan (1044–65). After Leofstan's death, the king appointed his physician Baldwin to the abbacy (1065–97). Baldwin rebuilt the church and reinterred St Edmund's body there with great ceremony in 1095. The cult made the richly endowed abbey a popular destination for pilgrimages. The present abbey was built during the 11th-12th centuries.

## **4. Results**

### **4.1 Fieldwork**

A single footings trench of 0.60m wide by 0.50m deep connected a series of 13 rectilinear trenches for stanchion supports, consisting of 7 X 1.50m by 1.50m by 1.80m deep, a further stanchion trench stood alone at 1.50m by 1.50m at the centre of the trench arrangement, also 5 X 1.00m by 2.00m by 1.40m depth and 1 X 1.50m by 2.00m by 1.50m depth.

Sample sections of trenches 8 and 13 were drawn to a scale of 1:20.

A plan of the trenches was drawn at 1:50 scale.

A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project.

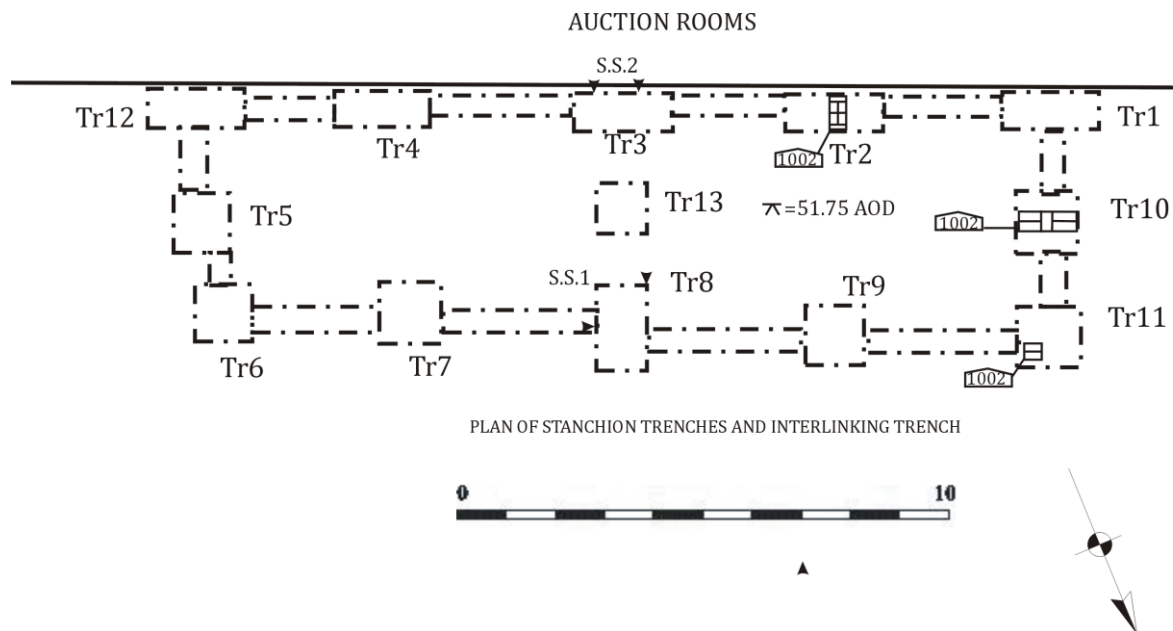
A digital image archive was produced and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

Site plans and sections were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

The monitoring was carried out using standard practices in archaeology to ClfA standards. The work also considered the eastern counties frameworks standards as laid down in : Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeology. Occ. Paper. 24

The only archaeology that was present in any of the trenches was a brick footing (1002) with an associated clay floor (1012) for an earlier 19th-20th century building which was dated by the bricks having frogs and was noted in trenches 1; 2; 10 and 11. A demolition layer (1005) was also noted, containing 19th century finds such as glass and stoneware pot fragments.

A pit [1009] was recorded in Trench 8, filled by (1008), a mid-orangey brown silt containing cbm and chalk inclusions; all finds were of a 19th century date in a very loose consistency.

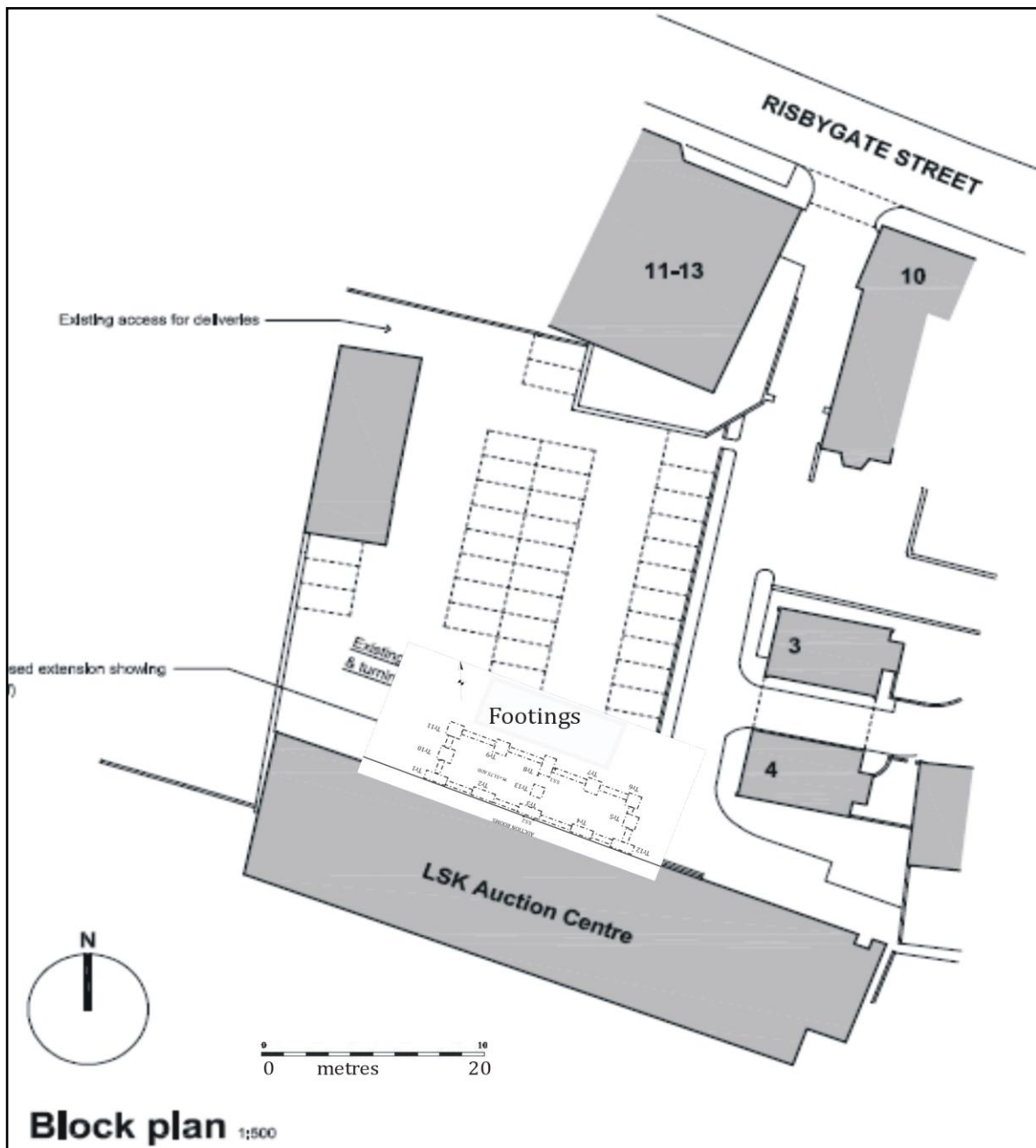


*Figure 3. Plan of Trenches*

#### 4.2 The Contexts

Context (1000) was the tarmac surface, to a depth of 0.05m; context (1001) was a modern mixed gravel base for the tarmac to a depth of 0.10m; context (1002) was a bonded wall structure consisting of red brick containing frogs, measuring 0.40m width by 0.50m depth (exposed); a clay floor layer (1012), 0.05 -0.08m depth associated with the brick footing was also recorded; context (1003) was a fill of wall cut [1004], at 0.30m width and 0.50m depth; context (1005) was a build-up layer of dark earth containing cbm and occasional chalk, this deposit contained 19th century glass and stoneware fragments and was evident across the site at a maximum depth of 1.0m, where this deposit was shallower and below this, mainly along the wall of the existing building, a sub soil was present (1007) of brown silty clay to a depth of 1.80m, which lay above the natural chalky clay (1006) exposed at 1.80m; a pit [1009] was recorded in Tr8 (possibly quarrying) to a depth of 0.80m with a width of 2m (not fully exposed); this feature represented the earliest phase of activity onsite as it lay beneath the made-up layer (1005), (see fig. 5); context [1010] was a cut for an unknown purpose (possibly quarrying) at 1.40m depth, it contained a fill (1011) of blackish-brown silty clay and extended upwards to a horizon beneath the modern footings of the auction rooms, therefore a relatively modern feature; it had the same fill as (1005), a made-up layer of dark earth with chalk inclusions and cbm.





*Figure 4. Block plan of site with footings trenches*

### 4.3 Sections

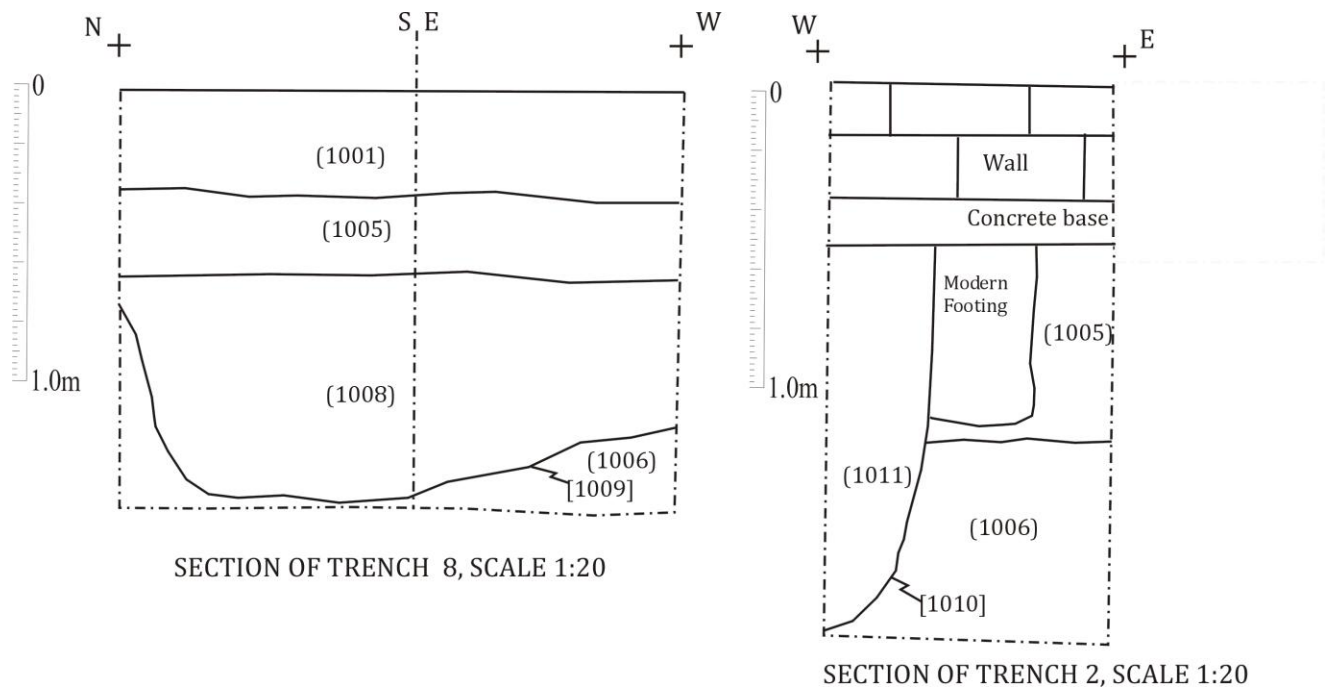


Figure 5. Sections of Trenches

### 4.4 Table of Contexts

Context	Type	Description/Dimensions	Interpretation	Find-Types, comments
(1000)	Layer	Tarmac 0.05m (max)	Surface	n/a
(1001)	Layer	Gravel/stone 0.10m	Base (modern)	n/a
(1002)	Brick	Bonded structure width 0.40m; depth 0.50m	Foundation wall	Bricks contained frogs
1003	Fill	Mid brown silt with chalk inclusions Width 0.30m, depth 0.40m	Fill of wall trench	n/a
1004	Cut	Wall foundation cut	Back-fill area of wall trench	n/a
1005	Fill	Dark earth with chalk and cbm inclusions	Late 19th c re-modelling of site	Glass, stoneware
1006	Layer	Sandy chalk with some clay	Natural	n/a
1007	Layer	Mid-orangey brown silt (max depth 1.80m)	Undisturbed plough soil	n/a
1008	fill	Pit, width 2m, depth 0.80m	Earliest feature on site	cbm
1009	Cut	Pit, width 2m, depth 0.80m	Possible quarry pit	n/a
1010	Cut	Pit? depth 1.40m, width 0.38m	Possible quarry pit	
1011	Fill	Mid dark greyish-brown silt Depth 1.40m, width, o.38m	Back-fill, similar to (1005)	cbm
1012	Layer	Re-deposited cay layer of 0.05-0.08m deep	Floor for structure (1002)	n/a

## **5. Interpretation and Discussion**

The area under development had been re-worked, mainly from the Victorian period; a layer of make-up consisting of dark earth (1005) contained mainly 19th-20th century finds in the form of cbm, glass, stoneware pottery and some printed wares. A pit [1009] also of similar date seen in Tr 8 contained a similar deposit (1008), which also contained 19th-20th century finds; a cut [1010] seen in Tr 2 was a large feature of indeterminable purpose, probably another pit, containing a deposit (1011), which was similar to (1008) and ((1005). A footing wall consisting of red brick (1002) was frogged suggesting a late 19th - 20th century date and was noted in Tr 2, 10 & 11, in 11 it consisted of a brick pillar, conclusively part of the same structure as (1002) as the bricks were identical. The structure had a contemporary clay floor (1012) confined to the area, presumably within the wall structure and could have represented a shallow cellar as a whole. The extent of the structure was unknown and certainly extended beneath the auction rooms. The natural (1006) was noted in all the trenches therefore no earlier archaeology was present within the area.

## **6. Conclusion**

6.1 The only archaeology was a 19th-20th century structure and two pits, all of these appeared to be of similar date (19th-20th c.).

6.2 Monitoring on this site has shown that only relatively modern activity survived beneath the area and the project was successful in demonstrating that no significant archaeology was present within any of the footing and stanchion trenches.

## **7. Archive Deposition**

The paper and photographic archive will be held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at The Historic Environment Record office, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds and online at:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>.

## **8. Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Mr Ed Crichton Of Lacy Scott and Knight who appointed Archaeoserv and funded the project.

This report for archaeological monitoring was written by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) ACIfA (Archaeoserv), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work.

Abby Antrobus of the SCC/ACT produced the brief for this project.

## **Bibliography**

**British .Geological. Survey. 1990; sheet 207**

**Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeology. Occ. Pap. 24**

**Morris, J., Domesday Book, (Suffolk), Phillimore, Chichester, 1986**

## **ONLINE REFERENCES**

*PastScapes* <http://www.pastscape.org/homepage/index.htm>

## Appendix I: Digital Images



*Plate 1. Pre-excavation, general site view from the north*



*Plate 2. Brick footing (1002) in Tr2*





*Plate 3. Tr. 1 Showing made-up layer (1005) extending down to the natural*



*Plate 4. Trench 3, modern footing to centre with cut [1010] to the left*





*Plate 5. part of development area after surfaces removal*



*Plate 6. Tr 5., looking east*





*Plate 6. Tr 4. against building, from the north*



*Plate 7. Tr 2. Showing footing (1002) below auction rooms, from the north-east*





*Plate 8. Tr 4, natural (1006) revealed at base, from the north-west*