ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Cullum Road, Bury St Edmunds
BSE 187
FOR
Orbit Housing Association
(Planning app. no. E/99/1956/P)

Andrew Tester
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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SCCAS Report No. 2001/19

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List of Contributors

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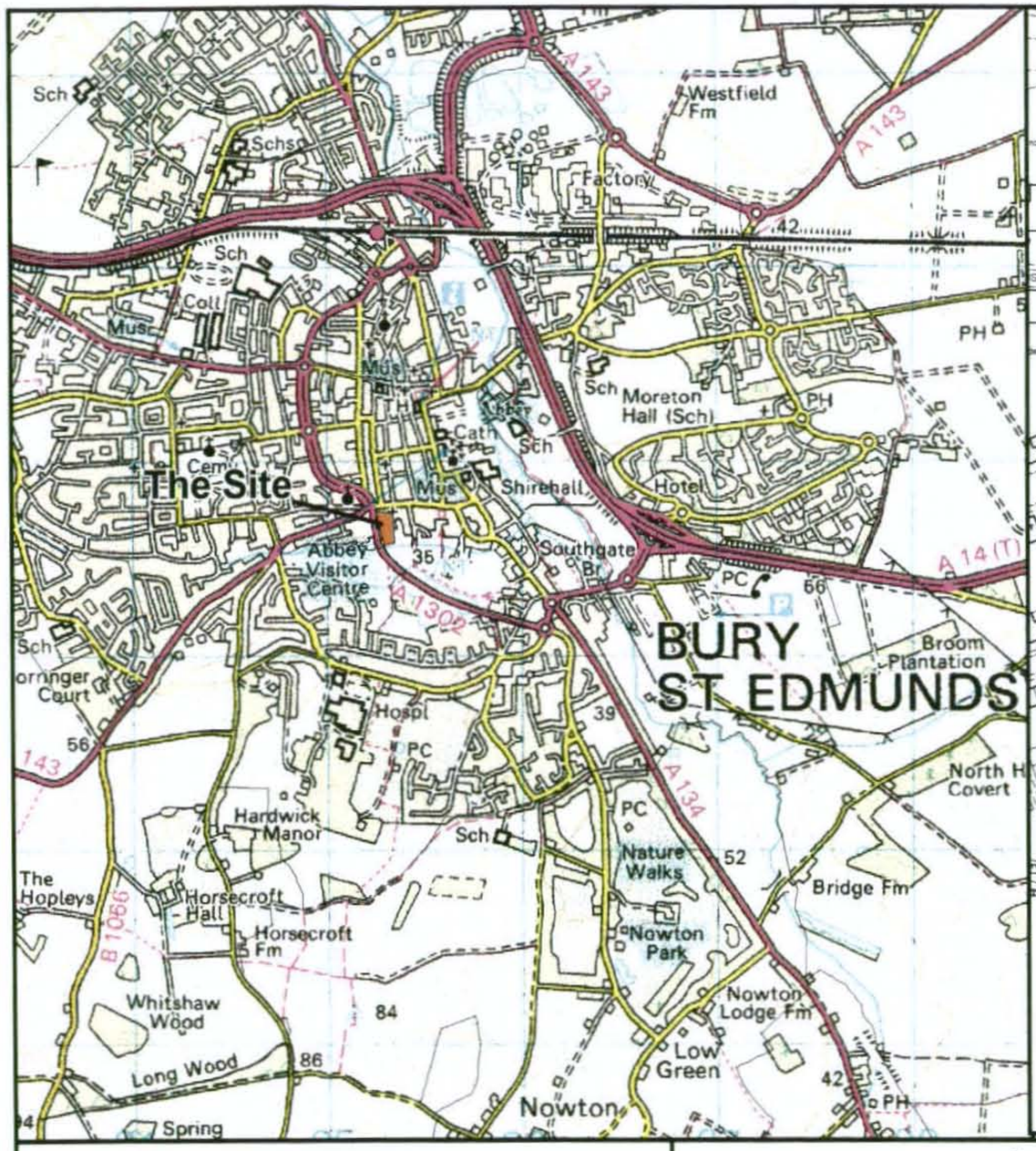
SMR information

Planning application no.	E/99/1956/P
Date of fieldwork:	September 2000
Grid Reference:	TL 8526/6371
Funding body:	Orbit Housing Association



Suffolk County Council
Environment & Transport

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Scale 1:50,000

Scale 1:2500

Figure 1 Site location plan, Cullum Road, Bury St Edmonds

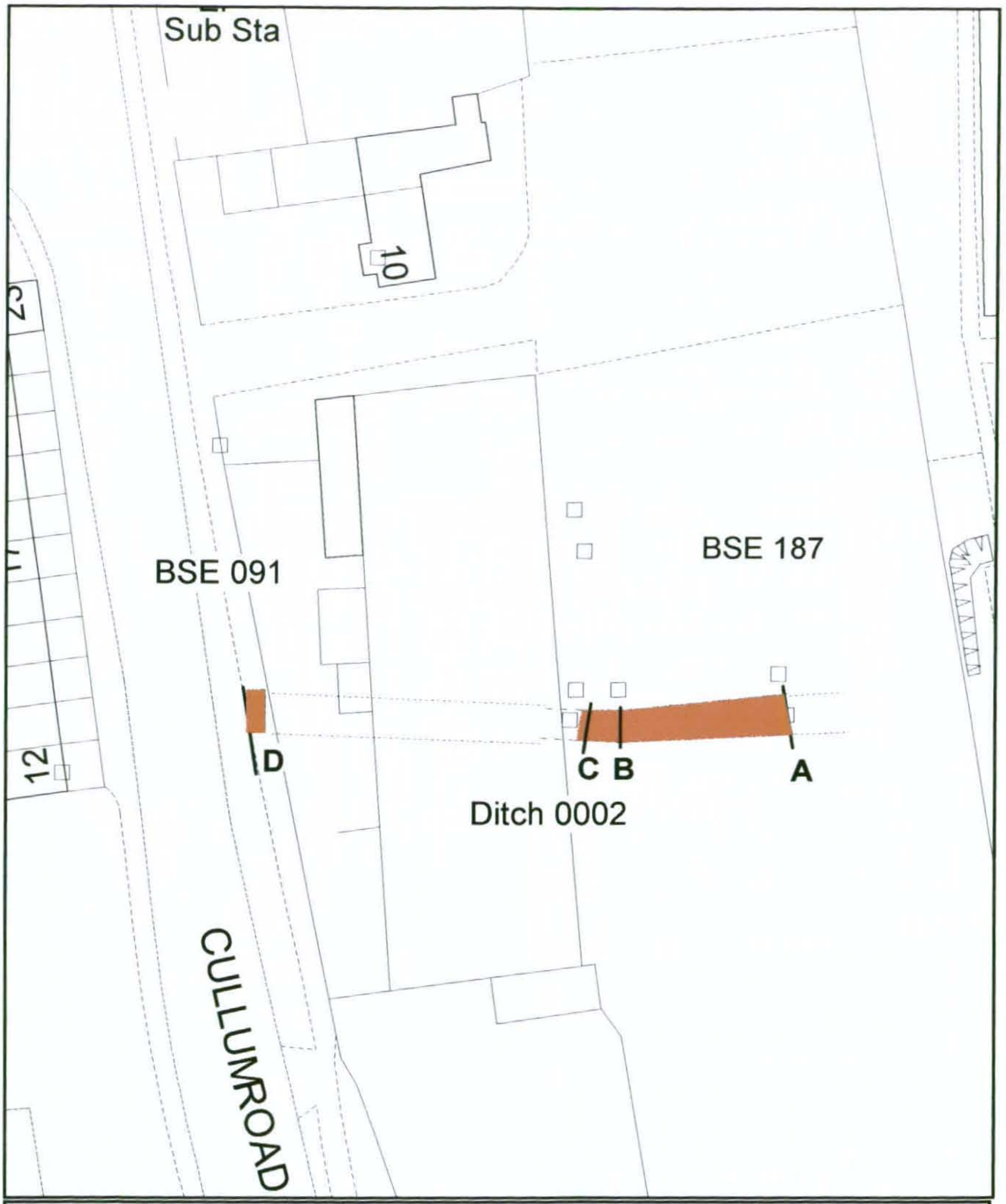

Figure 2 Roman ditch Cullum Road location of sections

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Scale 1:500

NORTH
Grid North

Summary

The monitoring of building work at Cullum Road, Bury St Edmunds uncovered a Roman ditch. An excavated segment produced finds which suggest it was open in the 2nd century and finally allowed to infill in the 4th century. The animal bone is thought to be domestic food waste, which combined with the pottery, suggests Roman settlement close by. The site also produced a small amount of unstratified Late and Post Medieval pottery. No evidence for the medieval town defences was uncovered.

Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the construction of flats on land to the east of Cullum Road, Bury St Edmunds. The monitoring was a condition attached to planning application E/99/1956/P and a detailed 'Brief and Specification' (Appendix 1) was produced by R. D. Carr for the local planning authority. The work was commissioned by The Johns Practice, Cleveland House, Newmarket, on behalf of the client Orbit Housing Association. The work was carried out with the full co-operation of the principal contractor, Sindall

The development area is strategically placed on a south-facing slope leading to the River Linnet, a tributary of the River Lark. The medieval status of this area of the town is of particular interest as it lies immediately to the south of the West Gate and along the line of the medieval defences. There is no evidence, however, to indicate that earthworks ever existed in this area. The Warren Map of Bury, drawn in the 1740s before the town gates were demolished, indicates that a wide strip of land identified as 'The Butts' lay under what is now Cullum Road. This suggests a plot of land used for archery practice in medieval times.

The recent history of the site includes a failed development in the 1990s in which buildings were demolished and some soil stripping took place. An east-west ditch was recorded (BSE 091) opposite 12/13 Cullum Road but could not be dated.

The current development has involved construction on two levels (Figure 1), the lowest of these involving the excavation of a platform into the side of the slope and the removal of topsoil and natural chalk.

Andrew Tester and Jonathan Van Jennians of the Suffolk County Council, Archaeological Service, carried out the monitoring.

Methodology

The site was visited during the early stages of soil removal. Following the identification of a Roman ditch the initial earth removal was closely monitored. A hand dug section was cut through the ditch at this time.

Monitoring visits took place during the excavation of footing trenches on the upper terrace but work was concentrated on the Roman ditch. Post medieval features and fragmentary building remains were not recorded.

Results

A large ditch was identified during the monitoring of topsoil and subsoil stripping (0002). Three sections were drawn of which two are illustrated (Sections A –B, Fig. 3). The bottom 1m of ditch fill between 'A' and 'B' was excavated by hand and produced both pottery and animal bone.

Section D was recorded in 1991. Although it was not exposed by the current development it was undoubtedly a continuation of the same ditch (Figure 4).

0001	Unstratified	Unstratified finds. Finds recovered were selective, most of this collection is likely to have come from over ditch 0002.
0002	Ditch	Ditch running east-west. Cut into chalk, 'v' shaped but with flat bottom. Recut at least once although fills could not be separated.
0003	Subsoil	Layer of mid brown loam over ditch 0002

Table 1. Context list

It is clear from the sections of Ditch 0002 that it was recut at least once.

The Finds

by Cathy Tester with contributions from Alexis M. Willett and Sue Anderson,

Introduction

Finds were collected from three contexts, as shown in Table 2 below.

OP	**0001**		**0002**		**0003**		**Total**	
Material	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	10	351	21	551	1	5	32	907
Animal bone	22	655	53	1245	2	18	77	1918
Tile	2	64			1	15	3	79
Oyster	1	6	6	152			7	158
Clay pipe	1	9	2	19			3	28
Glass	2	91					2	91
mortar	1	76					1	76
Spotdate	Post-med		4th c.		Post- med			

Table 2. Finds quantities

Pottery

Introduction

A total of 32 sherds of pottery weighing 907g was collected during the monitoring. It was found in all three contexts and consisted of a group of Roman wares from Ditch 0002, late and post-medieval wares from unstratified context 0001 and layer 0003.

Roman pottery (22 sherds, 571g)

Ten Roman fabrics or fabric groups were identified and they include a range of local, regional and provincially traded wares. The sherds are in good condition and it is a well-dated group. Local and regional wares are represented by grey micaceous wares (GM) probably from the Wattisfield area, a Horningsea ware (HOG) storage jar and miscellaneous grey and oxidised wares of unknown but presumed local origin. Provincially traded specialist wares include a Late shell-tempered (LSH) jar type 4.5 with a possible source in the south or east Midlands such as Harrold (Beds.) and a black-burnished ware jar and dish (BB1 and BB2 respectively). Other specialist wares come from the lower Nene Valley — a reed-rimmed whiteware mortarium and a colour-coated necked jar.

Post-Roman pottery (10 sherds, 336g)

Identified by Sue Anderson

One medieval coarseware (MCW) sherd and nine post-medieval sherds were collected. Four late and post-medieval fabric groups were identified. Most common were Late Medieval and Transitional wares (LMT), which included a probable Cambridgeshire variant, dated 15th-16th century. Also found was a Borderware (BORD) pipkin rim and Glazed red earthenwares (GRE) with broad 16th-17th century dates, and a 19th century English stoneware jar base that has a pre-firing stamp above the wall/floor junction that reads "Lovatts / 10 / Langley Mill."

Pottery by feature

The pottery by feature is as follows:

OP No	Fabric	Sherd	Form	No	Wt/g	Notes	Spotdate
0001	BORD	rim	pipkin	1	15	Pipkin rim	16-17th
	ESW	base		2	125	"Lovatts 10 Langley Mill"	19th
	GRE	b/s		1	14		16-17th
	GRE	base		1	28		16-17th
	LMT	base		1	37	LMT (Cambridge)	
	LMT	rim	jug	1	23		15-16th
	LMT	base		1	76		15-16th
	BB1	b/s		1	13		Rom
	WSO	base	1.flagon	1	20		Rom
0002	MCW	base		1	13	Flat base	Med
	BB2	profile	6.19.1	3	62	Lattice dec	MC2+
	BSW	b/s		2	6		
	GM	b/s		5	22	(SV) very fine burnished	
	GX	b/s		3	16	burnished	
	HOG	rim	SJar 5.5	1	75	White slip	MC2+
	LSH	rim & b/s	4.5	3	12	rim type 11	LC3/4
	NVC	b/s	jar	1	56	Necked jar, dark slip	C4
	NVWM	rim	7 mort	1	287	Reed-rimmed mort - Going D14, OHF 35; cream slip	LC3/4
	RX	b/s		1	2		
0003	GRE	b/s		1	5		

Table 3. Pottery by context

Ceramic building material

Three fragments of post-medieval tile were found and include a glazed roof tile from 0001 and two miscellaneous tile fragments from 0001 and 0003.

Miscellaneous

Clay pipe stem and bowl fragments were collected from 0001 and 0003. One bowl was of 19th century date.

Two glass fragments, a blue green glass rim, probably post-medieval, and a 19th century bottle neck were both unstratified (0001).

Seven oyster shell fragments were collected; six came from ditch 0002 and one was unstratified (0001).

A lime mortar fragment was was collected from 0001.

Animal bone

by Alexis M. Willett

Introduction

A total of 77 animal bone fragments, weighing 1.918kg, was recovered. Approximately two-thirds of the bone came from Ditch 0002 and was found in association with middle and late Roman pottery. Two fragments came from layer 0003 above the ditch and the rest of the bone was unstratified but associated with post-medieval pottery. The general condition of the bone was good although some of the surfaces have been affected by root activity. While the majority of the bones were fragmentary, a number of whole elements were also present.

Methods

All fragments were examined by eye and, for each taxon, were assessed in terms of skeletal elements, total numbers, and where possible numbers of identified specimens (NISP), and weights. Signs of immaturity, pathology, cut marks and any other observations were noted. The results were recorded on SCCAS faunal remains forms and entered into a Microsoft Access database. A full list of the data recorded is available in the archive. References used for identification can be seen in the bibliography (Hillson 1992; Jepson 1938 and Schmid 1972).

Results

Table 4 below shows the summary of quantification for each taxon. Eight taxon categories were identified in this assemblage, although two of these are broad groupings in order to narrow down the classification of those fragments that were readily identifiable. The broad groups can be defined as:

Large mammal - an animal approximately the size of cattle / horse / large deer;
Medium mammal- an animal approximately the size of sheep/goat / pig / small deer.

Taxa	NISP	No.	Wt/g
Cattle (*Bos taurus*)	9	10	944
Sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*)	7	10	78
Pig (*Sus scrofa*)	-	2	24
Equid (*Equus* sp.)	1	1	82
Dog (*Canis familiaris*)	6	7	103
Deer (Cervid)	1	1	23
Large mammal	7	38	602
Medium mammal	5	8	62

Table 4. Animal bone quantification by taxa.

The most abundant taxon, in terms of the number of fragments, was that of large mammal but the NISP figures reflect the similar proportions of cattle, sheep/goat, dog, large mammal and medium mammal. Larger animals are more abundant in this collection due to recovery and preservation factors. The minimum numbers of individuals have not been calculated for this group due to the small sample size.

The cattle, large mammal and medium mammal categories are represented by a large range of skeletal elements whereas it is the long bones of sheep/goat that were recovered and mainly the mandibles of dogs. Such patterns in element preferences may merely be a result of the small sample number and much larger quantities would be needed to assess these patterns accurately.

Many of the bones were affected by gnawing, indicating post-depositional activity by canids living on or around the site. A significant number of the fragments show chop marks, suggestive of butchery. Only one dog mandible showed signs of pathological change: extra pitted bone growth probably as a result of infection / abscess. No evidence of burning was noted.

Discussion

This animal bone assemblage appears to be typical food waste deposits probably accumulated over a period of time. The range of taxa present and the chop marks help to emphasise this interpretation. The gnaw marks suggest that bones were lying exposed for a time, either straight after their initial deposition or were disturbed and re-exposed at some point during this site's use.

Discussion of the finds assemblage

The finds assemblage suggests that activity took place at this location from the mid 2nd century to the end of the Roman Period. The pottery is a typical late Roman assemblage consisting of local, regional and provincially traded specialist wares which include a high proportion of fabrics and forms that are exclusive to the late 3rd and 4th centuries. In the post-Roman period there is a gap until the late and post medieval period which is represented by a range pottery, tile, glass and clay pipe which date from the 15th through 19th centuries. Animal bone and shell appear to be mostly the remains of food waste.

Conclusions

Despite the extensive nature of the soil stripping no evidence was found of the medieval town defences. If the St Andrew's Street ditch continued beyond the Westgate it must now be under Cullum Road.

There are signs of Roman activity at Horringer, but Ditch 0002 provides the first clear evidence of Roman settlement within the area of the town. It should come as no great surprise to find that good agricultural land on a south-facing slope was settled, and recent work along St Andrew's Street exposed a pre-town plough soil containing Early Saxon, Roman and Bronze Age pottery (Tester 2000). Although little excavation work has taken place within the town itself the medieval town has undoubtedly masked earlier settlement.

Andrew Tester March 2001

References

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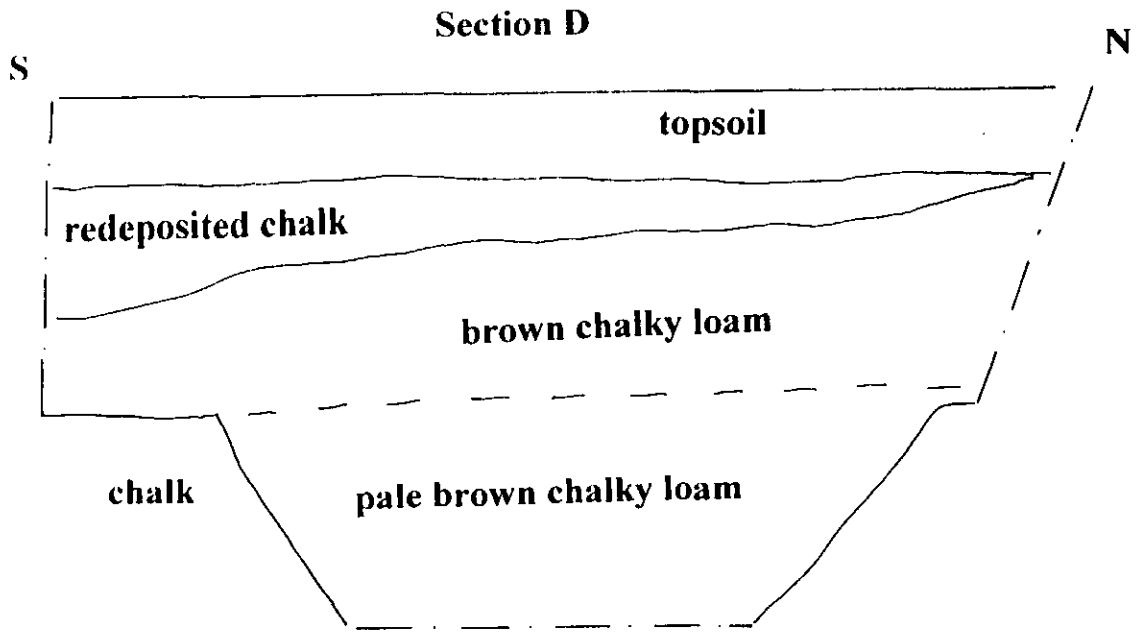
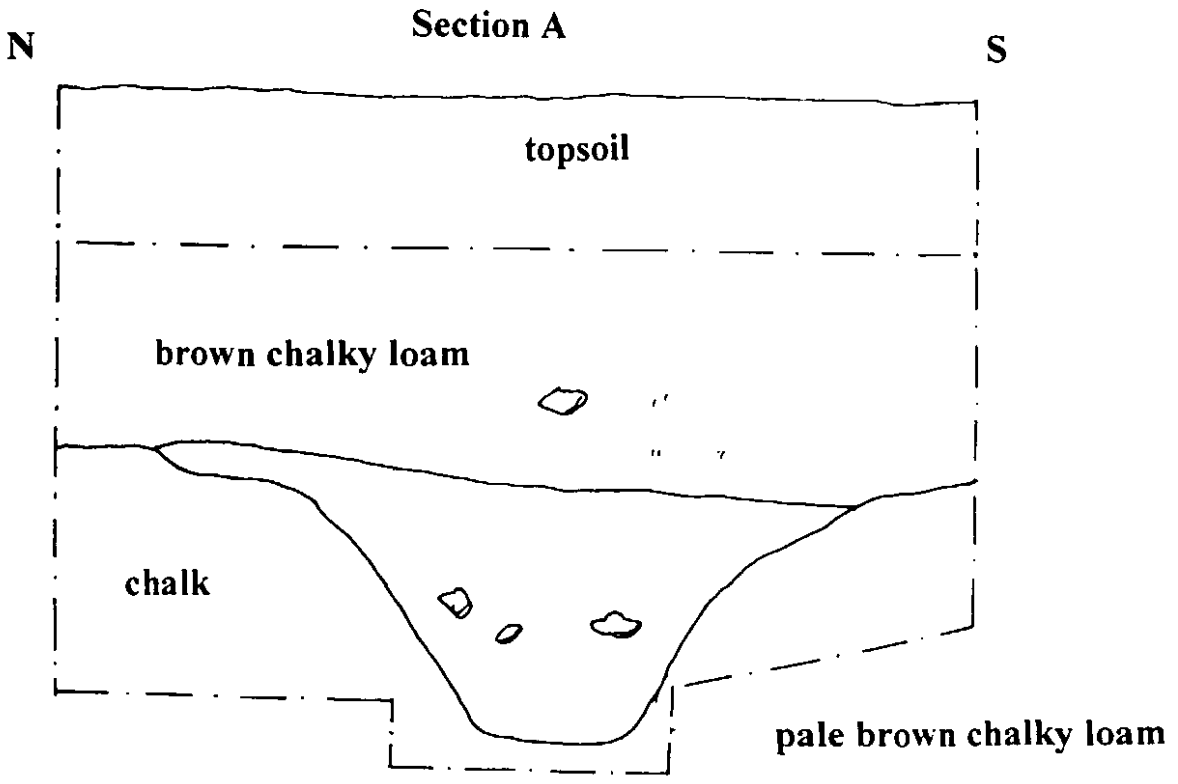


Figure 4 Section D, ditch recorded in 1991 adjoining Cullum Road



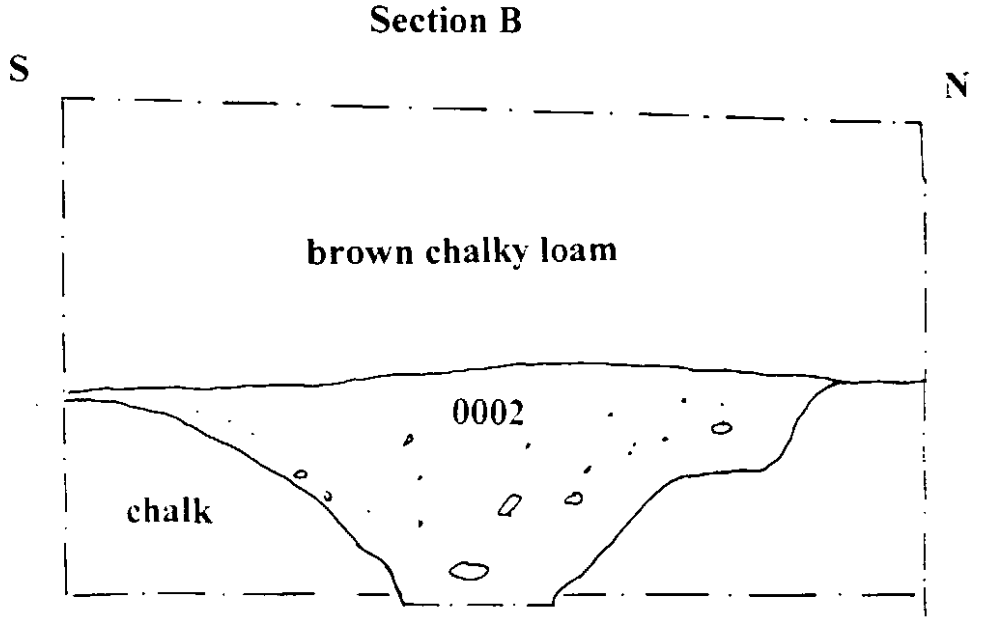


Figure 3 Sections A & B of Ditch 0002

Appendix 1 Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

◆

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

CULLUM ROAD, BURY ST EDMUNDS

1. **Background**

1.1 An application to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application E/99/1956/P). An outline plan of the proposed development is shown at Figure 1.

1.2 The area involved is within the Area of Archaeological Interest defined in the Local Plan. This location is within the area of the Medieval town close to or over the probable site of a boundary ditch which continues the line of the known wall which ran north from a formal gateway at the end of Westgate Street. The development area also has the potential to include Medieval occupation areas within the area of the town. The development area appears to have been badly disturbed by earlier land use which has reduced the likelihood of good surface preservation, otherwise formal archaeological excavation would have been required.

2. **Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.

2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the existence, line and form of any Medieval town boundary and any associated Medieval occupation.

2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed whilst they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).

3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Suffolk County Archaeological Service (Suffolk County Council, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone/Fax: 01284 352443) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 and paragraph 4.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

4. Specification

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.2 Opportunity must be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.

4.3 The area which has the highest potential for remains of a Medieval boundary are indicated on Figure 2, which also shows the area with the highest potential for surface remains to exist. It is expected that monitoring will concentrate on these areas, and that the need for archaeological presence in other areas will be minimal.

4.4 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of two hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

4.5 Other than those previously defined (eg. paras. 4.1 to 4.3) the 'observing archaeologist' will not be entitled to enforce specific delays and hold ups to the work of the building contractor. If delays prove desirable to the archaeological recording process they should be arranged by mutual agreement with the contractor; the developer's architect may be approached as an arbitrator.

4.6 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

4.7 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context

4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

5. **Report Requirements**

5.1 An archive of all archaeological records and finds is to be prepared and must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.

5.3 A project report must also be prepared summarising the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, a period by period description of contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation.

5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.

5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

Specification by: R D Carr

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 24 November 1999 Reference: /cullum11.doc

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.