

# Archaeological Monitoring at Radford House, No.54 St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.



Prepared for Mr & Mrs Gooden

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**Archaeological Monitoring at Radford House, 54 St John's Street,  
 Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. IP33 1SP.**

<b>Location:</b>	Bury St Edmunds
<b>Grid Ref:</b>	TL 8529 6469
<b>HES No:</b>	BSE 435
<b>Date of fieldwork:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2013, 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> of February 2014

## 1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Moore & Stone Carpentry & Building Ltd on behalf of the owners, Mr & Mrs Gooden, to undertake archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a cart lodge at the rear of No.54 St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds (Planning Ref. SE/12/1641/HHLBCA & APP/E3525/D/13/2197423).

This site lies in an area of archaeological interest, in the historic core of Bury St Edmunds (County Historic Environment Record BSE 241). It is located to the rear of St John's Street (historically known as Long Brackland), towards the frontage of Church Row which is also a medieval street.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Conservation Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service on behalf of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The aim of the monitoring work was to record the presence/absence, date, nature, and extent of any buried archaeological remains and features identified during groundworks. This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed and an archaeological interpretation of the results.

On completion of the project, the site archive will be offered for long term deposition with Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

## 2.0 Summary of Results

A medieval soil horizon was identified which contained residual pottery sherds of late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. A single medieval feature was revealed in the form of a probable pit which contained pottery of likely 13th century date. The medieval soil and pit were sealed below a post-medieval soil build-up of c. 0.5m in depth, below modern garden soils and rubble make-up. This appears to demonstrate a significant gap in domestic activity in the vicinity of the site until the establishment of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century garden soils relating to Church Cottage and the grounds of the former vicarage fronting St Johns Street, known as Radford House.

These results are similar to that encountered by previous mitigation work adjacent to the site at the Lathbury Institute site, where medieval features of a similar period were also found to be sealed below post-medieval soil deposits, with little continuity of any form of significant occupation activity from the medieval period until the development of terrace housing here in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Other noteworthy finds include a single sherd of well abraded Late Saxon pottery and two examples of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age worked flint.

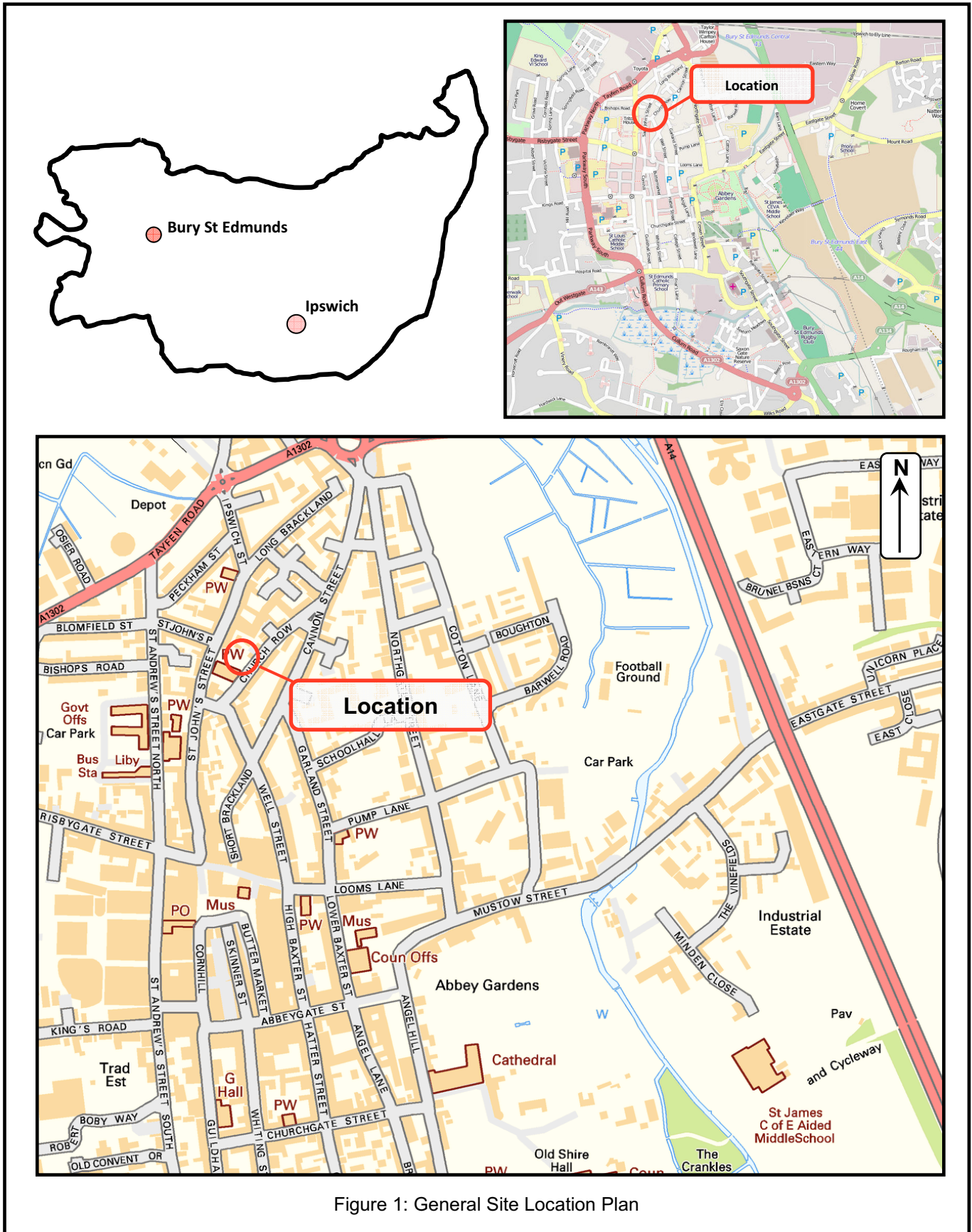


Figure 1: General Site Location Plan

### 3.0 Geology and Topography

The site is located within the northern area of the Bury St Edmunds on well sloping ground, falling down to the north-east along Church Row, situated c. 500m from the current course of the River Lark at c. 40m OD.

The underlying geology is Upper Chalk (cretaceous), overlain by superficial Quaternary period sands and gravels - Geology of Britain Viewer at a scale of 1:50 000 (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The sub-surface geology of the site encountered during the fieldwork can be characterised as yellow and orange sands overlaying firm, sandy-clays.

### 4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

This site lies in an area of archaeological interest, in the historic core of Bury St Edmunds (County Historic Environment Record BSE 241). It is located to the rear of St John's Street (historically known as Long Brackland), towards the frontage of Church Row which is also a medieval street.

Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring was carried out both prior to and during development of an adjacent plot at the Lathbury Institute, immediately to the north of the site in 1999 and 2003 (BSE175):

*The evaluation found evidence of medieval and early post-medieval activity indicated by pits, ditches and other features particularly in the south-west corner of the site. It also found evidence of a lost post-medieval boundary wall and possible quarrying activity. However, generally, there was only a small amount of pottery recovered which suggests that the area was not a major centre for domestic occupation in either the medieval or early post-medieval periods. The depth of overburden was unexpected and seems to show large scale dumping of material in this area in the later post-medieval period; this seems to correspond with the boundary change implied by the wall and may be contemporary with the development of these streets in the 19th century (Caruth 1999).*

*Monitoring of footing trenches during the construction of four houses on the site uncovered evidence for at least fifteen pits. A small proportion of the spoil was seen during work and just two sherds of additional pottery were recovered. Only one sherd was stratified in a pit but both were medieval coarseware and are dated 12th -13th century (Tester 2003).*

The investigations of the adjacent site demonstrated the presence of medieval features that were buried below some depth of later soils, suggesting a change in use; from urban to a more open nature. This observation is consistent with the depiction of the site as open space on Thomas Warren's map of 1741. This plan shows only a small number of buildings along Church Row, which essentially remained the case until substantial development of the area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This development coincided with a doubling of Bury's population between 1801 and 1901 (Meeres 147, 2002), with considerable housing expansion to the west and north of the city centre as part of a general pattern of 'railway development'. It has been suggested that the lack of activity here during the post-medieval period may reflect a decline in the wealth of the town (Tester 2003), which contrasts with what is believed to be a more densely populated/utilised area in the medieval period.

In 2005, monitoring work was undertaken immediately east of the cart lodge footprint, of the footing trenches for the modern Church Cottage at the street frontage along Church Row (BSE 243). No features were recorded or artefacts recovered but a deep make-up deposit appeared to seal 0.8m of soils/subsoils which lay above natural silty-sands.

No. 54 St Johns Street (Radford House) is a Grade II Listed former vicarage (English Heritage Building ID: 467271). This L-shaped, two storey, red brick house dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century with early 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern extensions. The house has an attic and extensive brick-lined cellars. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS plan of 1885 shows that the area of the cart lodge was formerly part of a formal path and driveway off Church Row, with the cart lodge specifically located partly across the rear of the original Church Row Cottage.

Contiguous with the southern boundary of Radford House is William Ranger's 1840 brick built church of St John the Evangelist, one of the first great Victorian Gothic churches in England.

## 5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)

The objective of the archaeological monitoring was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during machine excavation of the footing trenches for a cart lodge, which measures c. 11m by 6m in plan. A preliminary phase comprising of two test-pits, excavated under archaeological supervision and control was also monitored.

The trenching was carried out by a mini 'JCB'-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket, with spoil retained on site for removal at a later date. Access to the site from Church Row was limited to such small plant due to the relatively low height of the modern coach portal for Church Cottage (see cover image).

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector (Minelab XTerra 705). No metal objects were encountered which were not obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Norvic Archaeology pro forma sheets. The trench location, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

All levels were taken using a benchmark of 41.67m OD located on the most north-west buttress of St John's Church.



Plate 2: Test Pit 1(looking north-east) [1x1m scale]

## 6.0 Results *(Appendix 1a)*

- ***'Natural deposits'***

Natural sand (17) was revealed at a depth of 1.6m at the eastern end of the footings (revealed by hand auger) and 1.25m in the western corner of the footings trench. This was a very soft and fine pale-yellow sand which appeared to be aeolian rather than fluvial in nature. A sequence of geological deposits was recorded by Auger Test 2, which showed the yellow sand to be c. 0.3m in depth. Below (17) was a dark orange sand (18) which overlay a firm brownish-orange sandy-clay (19). This in turn overlay a particularly firm and dense, mid-yellow sandy-clay with occasional chalk inclusions (20).

- ***Lower Subsoil (05=12=13)***

Above the natural was a soft, mid-orangey-brown silty-sand with occasional stones and rare flecks of charcoal. This lateral deposit appears to be the remnants of a former medieval soil horizon which measured between 0.15 and 0.3m in depth. Ten sherds of medieval pottery were collected from this deposit, which indicate late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century activity.

- ***Medieval ?Pit***

A single deep feature was partly revealed which can be attributed to medieval activity ([25]). The pit was truncated medieval soils and sealed below a post-medieval soil (14=11). Only the southern edge was exposed by the groundworks, although investigation was augmented by the results of a hand auger test. This feature was steep sided and measured c. 1.2m in depth with an upper and lower fill able to be defined. The upper fill comprised of a friable, mid-grey silty-loam with rare flecks of degraded oyster shell and charcoal (21). This deposit was well-mixed and measured c. 0.65m. The lower deposit was a soft, mid-orangey-grey silty-sand with rare charcoal flecks and burnt clay flecks (22). A small number of medieval pottery sherds were collected from the fills, which suggest a 13<sup>th</sup> century date for deposition. A single highly abraded sherd of Late Saxon pottery was also collected from the pit fill.

The true nature of this feature remains uncertain, although on balance it seems more likely to be part of a pit than a ditch as it contained well-mixed deposits with no evidence for naturally accumulated fills.

- ***Upper subsoil (04=11=14)***

A 0.5m to 0.6m deep subsoil was recorded from which post-medieval pottery was collected that has been spot dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This deposit sealed the medieval horizon and appears to demonstrate a significant gap in domestic activity in the vicinity of the site.



Plate 3: Medieval soil (13) overlaying natural sand (17) & medieval ?pit [25]  
(looking north-east) [2x1m scale]

- **Modern horizons**

The uppermost soil horizon was a 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century sandy-loam flecked by chalk, brick and mortar (03=10). It measured c. 0.3m deep and was sealed below c.0.2m of modern make-up formed from compacted spreads of mortar waste and demolition rubble (02=07). This material appears to contain rubble that may well have derived from the demolition of the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage known to have existed at the street frontage. The modern asphalt surface lay above a levelling deposit of hoggin and compacted concrete and brick rubble (01).

- **19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century features**

The brick footings of the former 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage were encountered at the eastern end of the cart lodge footprint (06). These match well with the rear footprint of the house depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1885 OS plan. Later plans show that the house appears to have lost this rear extension by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

The shallow flint cobble and mortar footings for a small garden wall were recorded in Test Pit 2 (09). The footings were constructed upon a bed of roof tile fragments.

A large pit containing 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century rubble was encountered which included lenses of ashy material, crushed mortar and elements of building waste in the form of brick, flint and render ([15]).

The foul pipes serving the rear of Radford House were revealed and left intact, along with a soakaway pipe serving the modern Church Cottage.



## 7.0 Finds Analysis *(Appendix 2a)*

- **Pottery** *(Appendix 3)*

By Sue Anderson

### Introduction

Twenty-five sherds of pottery weighing 506g were collected from seven contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 3.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	1	17		1
<i>Total Late Saxon</i>			1	17		1
Bury sandy ware	BSW	3.30	1	2		1
Bury sandy fine ware	BSFW	3.31	1	22		1
Bury coarse sandy ware	BCSW	3.32	3	28		3
Bury medieval coarseware	BMCW	3.33	10	51		10
Late medieval and transitional	LMT	5.10	1	4		1
<i>Total medieval</i>			16	107		16
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	6.12	2	145	0.04	2
Tin glazed earthenwares	TGE	6.30	1	63		1
Staffs-type slipware on red earthenware	STAFT	6.411	1	58		1
Westerwald Stoneware	GSW5	7.15	1	5		1
<i>Total post-medieval</i>			5	271	0.04	5
Late post-medieval unglazed earthenwares	LPME	8.01	1	8	0.17	1
Refined white earthenwares	REFW	8.03	1	6	0.09	1
Late slipped redware	LSRW	8.51	1	97		1
<i>Total modern</i>			3	111	0.26	3
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>25</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>25</b>

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric.

### Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. The results were input directly onto an Access database.

### Pottery by period

#### *Late Saxon*

A single sherd of Thetford Ware was collected from the upper fill of feature [25]. It was abraded or worn externally and was residual in this context.

#### *Medieval*

Fifteen sherds of pottery, all body fragments, were of high medieval date. All were in fabrics typical of the town and in the normally expected proportions. Bury coarseware (BMCW)

dominated and coarse sandy ware (BCSW) was also common. The latter may be a Fenland product made on the Cambridgeshire/Suffolk border as it occurs on rural sites to the west of Bury. The other fabrics are frequently found in the town but not outside it and may have been produced specifically for the Bury market. No vessels were identifiable, although most had traces of soot and were probably cooking pots. One BCSW vessel from soil horizon (13) had applied thumbed strips and one BSW sherd from ditch fill (22) had incised wavy line decoration. A BSFW sherd from the upper fill of ditch [25] was girth-grooved. This form of decoration is common on Ipswich Thetford Ware and it is possible that the sherd was an oxidised variant of that fabric, but girth-grooving is also a feature of medieval pottery in Essex and Cambridgeshire although it is less common in Suffolk. On balance this sherd is likely to be medieval.

A small abraded body sherd of LMT with a single spot of green glaze externally was recovered from (12).

*Post-medieval and modern*

Most of the pottery in these groups was probably of 18th/19th-century date and all was recovered from soil layer (14) and pit fill (16). There were two sherds of GRE, a large orange-glazed pancheon rim and a flat base fragment with internal brown glaze and external sooting. A bowl base fragment of tin-glazed earthenware with bluish glaze and a hand-painted blue floral design was probably of English manufacture. A Staffordshire-type rim was from a large straight-sided dish and had white slip and brown line decoration under a clear glaze internally, and was also (unusually for this fabric) glazed externally. A small body sherd of Westerwald stoneware had patchy cobalt blue paint and moulded decoration of unclear form. A slipped redware rim was from a large sub-rectangular dish or bowl. A plantpot rim and a transfer-printed saucer rim completed the group.

**Pottery by context**

A summary of the pottery by feature, with spot dates for each context, is provided in Table 2.

SSD	Context	Cut No.	Feature Type	Fabrics	Fabric Spot date
TP1	5		Soil layer	BMCW	12th-14th c.+
TP2	12		Soil layer	BMCW, LMT	15th-16th c.
Mon	13		Soil layer	BCSW, BMCW	12th-14th c.
Mon	14		Layer	GRE, GSW5, LSRW	18th/19th c.
Mon	16		Pit fill	TGE, STAFT, LPME, REFW	19th c.
Mon	21	[25]	Pit/ditch upper fill	THET, BSFW	13th c.
Mon	22	[25]	Pit/ditch lower fill	BCSW, BSW	13th c.

Table 2. Pottery types present by trench and feature.

The soil layer represented by contexts (5), (12) and (13) produced several sherds of high and late medieval pottery. Demolition layers contained largely later post-medieval and modern sherds. Pit/ditch [25] contained pottery of probable 13th-century date and one residual fragment of Late Saxon pot.

**Discussion**

This is a small assemblage and a high proportion of the medieval group was collected from a medieval soil layer, with exception of medieval wares from a pit or ditch. Post-medieval and modern wares are all of 18th/19th-century date and may relate to occupation of the former cottage whose footings were uncovered. The group is too small for further interpretation.

- **Oyster Shell**

Five oyster shells from common oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) weighing a total of 43g were collected during the monitoring work. All are in fair condition with no shucking damage present, three of the shells are bases. This small assemblage represents residual food waste collected from medieval deposits. Three were collected from the medieval soil horizon (05=13) and two from the upper fill (21) of medieval ?pit ([25]).

- **Flint**

Two struck flints weighing a total of 41g were collected as residual finds from the medieval soil horizon (13). Each piece was examined by eye and with the aid of a hand lens (x6 magnification) before being catalogued according to a basic typology using standard lithic terminology where possible.

Both pieces are of the same medium grained fabric, greyish-yellow honey coloured when viewed through a strong white light, with common interclasts and flaws. The pieces are in relatively fresh condition. This normally indicates that they have been recovered close to where they were originally discarded/buried.

They are both thick, incidentally produced 'heavy' flakes produced by hard hammer methods with no signs of further retouch or modification, although both pieces have been briefly utilised for minor scraping or cutting tasks. Their method of manufacture, general form and ad hoc use as tools suggest a Late Neolithic to Bronze Age tradition.

These pieces were recovered from the lowest soil horizon above natural and represent minor residual evidence for prehistoric activity at the site.

Context	Type	Qty	Weight (g)	Context Type
13	Flake –utilised	1	20	Medieval soil horizon
A thick incidentally manufactured flake, no cortex. Hard hammer struck, irregular form, ad hoc platform. Minor use-wear, unilateral. Mod. fresh condition.				
13	Flake/shatter – utilised	1	21	Medieval soil horizon
A thick, broad incidentally manufactured flake/shatter fragment, some cortex (thin). Hard hammer struck, irregular form, no true platform. Minor use-wear on distal edge and unilaterally where an invasive and irregular notch has formed. Mod. fresh condition.				

## 8.0 Conclusions

Although limited in scale this monitoring project has elucidated further on the extent and date of medieval activity encountered previously in the area of Church Row. Hand auger testing was also able to characterise the superficial geological deposits here as thin, aeolian cover sands overlaying dense sandy-clays.

A medieval soil horizon was identified which contained residual pottery sherds of late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. A single medieval feature was revealed in the form of a probable pit which measured 1.2m in depth and contained pottery of a likely 13th century date. The medieval soil and ?pit were sealed below a post-medieval soil build-up of c. 0.5m in depth from which pottery of an 18th century date was collected. This appears to demonstrate a significant gap in domestic activity in the vicinity of the site until the establishment of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century garden soils relating to Church Cottage and the grounds of the former vicarage fronting No. 54 St Johns Street, known as Radford House.

These results are similar to that encountered by previous mitigation work adjacent to the site at the Lathbury Institute site, where medieval features of a similar period were also found to be sealed below deep soil deposits, with little continuity of any form of significant occupation activity from the medieval period until the development of terrace housing here in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The footing trenches for the cart lodge also revealed brick footings from the original 19<sup>th</sup> century Church Cottage, along with a large pit filled with demolition waste which may be associated with its destruction or modification.

Other noteworthy finds include a single sherd of well abraded Late Saxon pottery collected as a residual find from the medieval ?pit and two examples of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age worked flint. These were both collected from the medieval soil horizon, which lay directly above the natural sand.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Matt Stone and Jack Mawford of Moore & Stone Carpentry & Building Ltd who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. Thanks are also due to Jake Orr who operated the machine. The monitoring and post-excavation analysis work was carried out by the author, with Sue Anderson reporting on the pottery.

## 10.0 Bibliography

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**Appendix 1a: Context Summary**

Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
01	Deposit		Modern asphalt surface above compacted hoggin/concrete/rubble. c. 0.2m deep	Modern surface	<i>Modern</i>
02	Deposit		Layers and spreads of compacted brick rubble/crushed mortar and soil c. 0.25 deep	Demolition/make-up layer	<i>20<sup>th</sup> century</i>
03	Deposit		Friable, mid yellowish-brown v.sandy loam, oc. chalk /brick /mortar flecks, occ. coal, occ. roots	Garden soil	<i>Modern</i>
04	Deposit		Friable, mid greyish-brown v.sandy loam, occ. charcoal/stones. 05 to 0.6m deep	Subsoil	<i>Post-medieval</i>
05	Deposit		Same as 13		
06	Masonry		Red brick footings bonded with chalk y lime-mortar	Footings	<i>19<sup>th</sup> century</i>
07	Deposit		Same as 02		
08	Cut		Sq. profiled construction cut for 09		<i>19<sup>th</sup> century+</i>
09	Masonry		Linear flint & mortar (chalky) footings with roof tile frags at the base	Garden wall footings	<i>19<sup>th</sup> century+</i>
10	Deposit		Same as (03)		
11	Deposit		Same as (04)		
12	Deposit		Same as (13)		
13	Deposit		Soft, mid orangey-brown silty-sand, rare charcoal flecks, occ. stones c. 0.15 to 0.3m deep	Soil horizon	<i>Medieval</i>
14	Deposit		Same as (04) and (11)		
15	Cut		Large, steep sided pit 2.8m wide, >1.3m deep	Pit	<i>Modern</i>
16	Deposit	[15]	Demolition waste (19-20 <sup>th</sup> brick, mortar & render) with ashy lenses, occ. bottle glass	Pit fill	<i>Modern</i>
17	Deposit		V.soft, fine grained pale yellow sand c. 0.3m deep	Natural sand	
18	Deposit		Soft, mid brownish-orange medium grained sand, mod. stones c. 0.2m deep	Natural sand	
19	Deposit		Firm, mid-brownish-orange sandy-clay, occ., chalk flecks c. 0.10m deep	Natural sandy-clay	
20	Deposit		Hard/dense, mid yellow sandy-clay, mod. chalk flecks, occ. stones	Natural sandy-clay	
21	Deposit	[25]	Friable (sticky), mid grey silty-loam, rare flecks oyster shell/charcoal, occ. chalk flecks c. 0.65m deep	Upper fill of [25]	<i>Medieval</i>
22	Deposit	[25]	Friable, mid-orangey-grey silty-sand, rare flecks charcoal/burnt clay, c. 0.55m deep	Lower fill of [25]	<i>Medieval</i>
23	Deposit		Same as (18)		
24	Deposit		Same as (19)		
25	Cut		Steep, even sided, c. 1.2m deep	?Pit	<i>Medieval</i>

**Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table**

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Pit	1
Modern (1900 to 2050 AD)	Pit	1

**Appendix 2a: Finds by Context**

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)
05	Pottery	1	17
	Shell – oyster	1	3
12	Pottery	2	10
13	Flint – worked	2	41
	Pottery	7	50
	Shell- oyster	2	27
14	Pottery	4	247
16	Pottery	4	135
21	Pottery	2	39
	Shell - oyster	2	13
22	Pottery	4	47

**Appendix 2b: Finds summary table**

Period	Material	Quantity
Late Prehistoric (4000 BC to 42 AD)	Flint – worked	2
Early Medieval (851 to 1065AD)	Pottery	1
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Pottery	16
	Shell – oyster	5
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Pottery	5
Modern (1900 to 2050 AD)	Pottery	3

**Appendix 3: Pottery**

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	Sherd date range
5	BMCW			4	17	L.12th-14th c.
12	BMCW			1	6	L.12th-14th c.
12	LMT			1	4	15th-16th c.
13	BMCW			4	21	L.12th-14th c.
13	BMCW			1	7	L.12th-14th c.
13	BCSW			1	9	L.12th-14th c.
13	BCSW			1	13	L.12th-14th c.
14	GRE	pancheon	thickened everted	1	68	18th c.?
14	GRE			1	77	18th c.?
14	LSRW	bowl	plain	1	97	18th-19th c.
14	GSW5			1	5	E.17th-19th c.
16	LPME	plantpot	beaded	1	8	18th-20th c.
16	TGE	bowl		1	63	18th c.
16	STAFT	dish	flaring	1	58	L.17th-18th c.
16	REFW	saucer	plain	1	6	L.18th-20th c.
21	THET			1	17	10th-11th c.
21	BSFW			1	22	L.12th-14th c.
22	BSW			1	2	L.12th-14th c.
22	BCSW			1	6	L.12th-14th c.

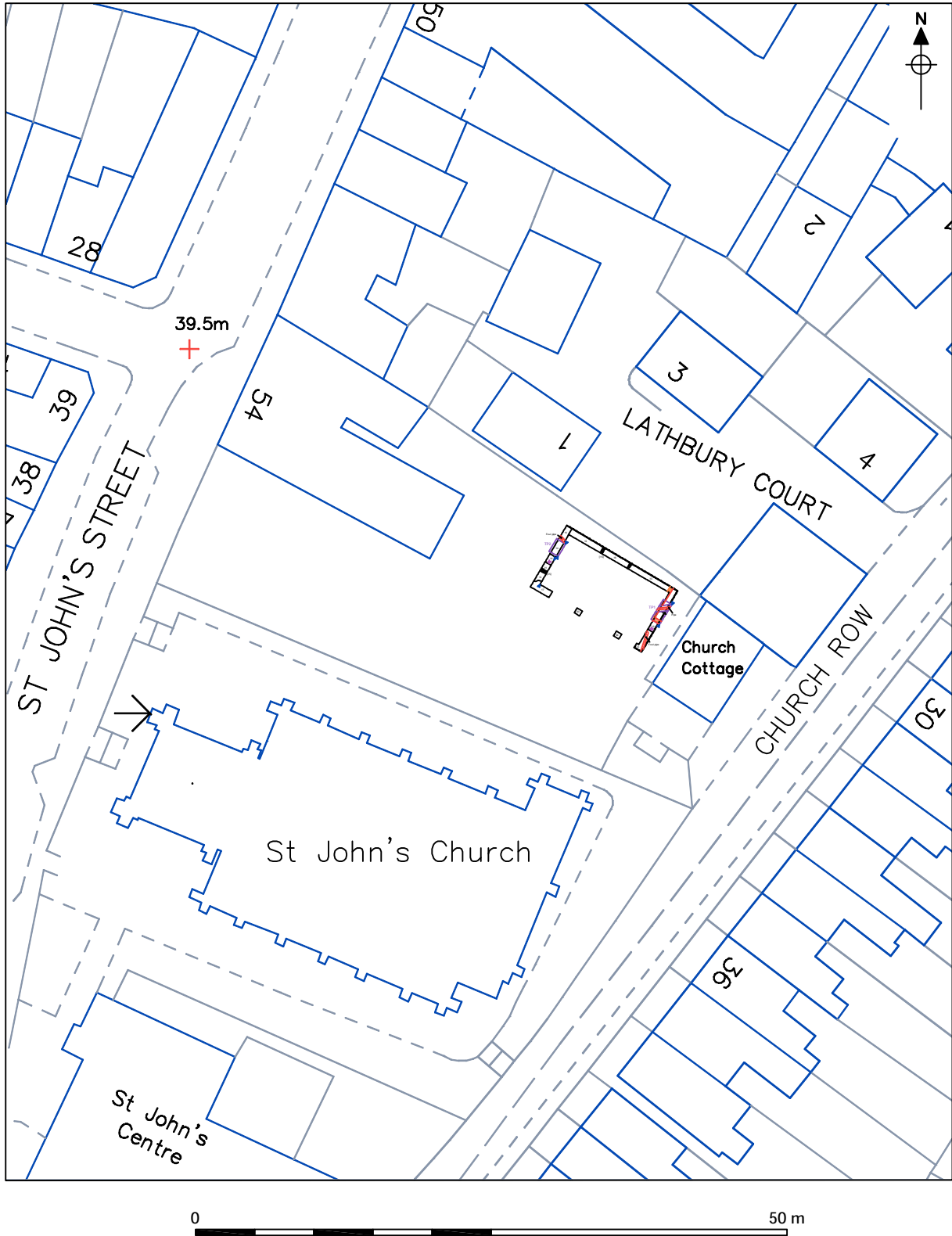


Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:500

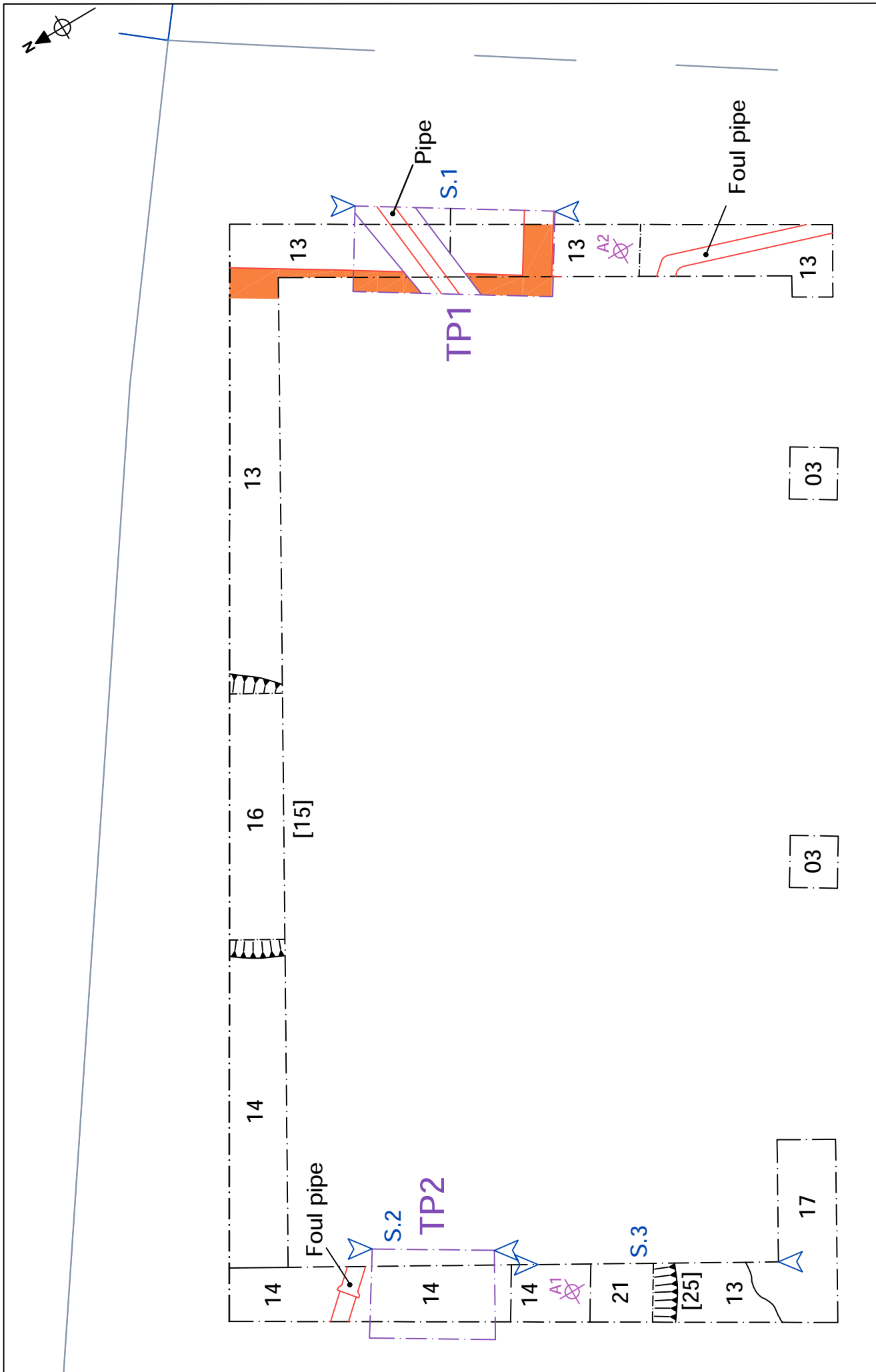


Figure 3. Groundworks Plan. Scale 1:50



### Test Pit 1 (Section 1)

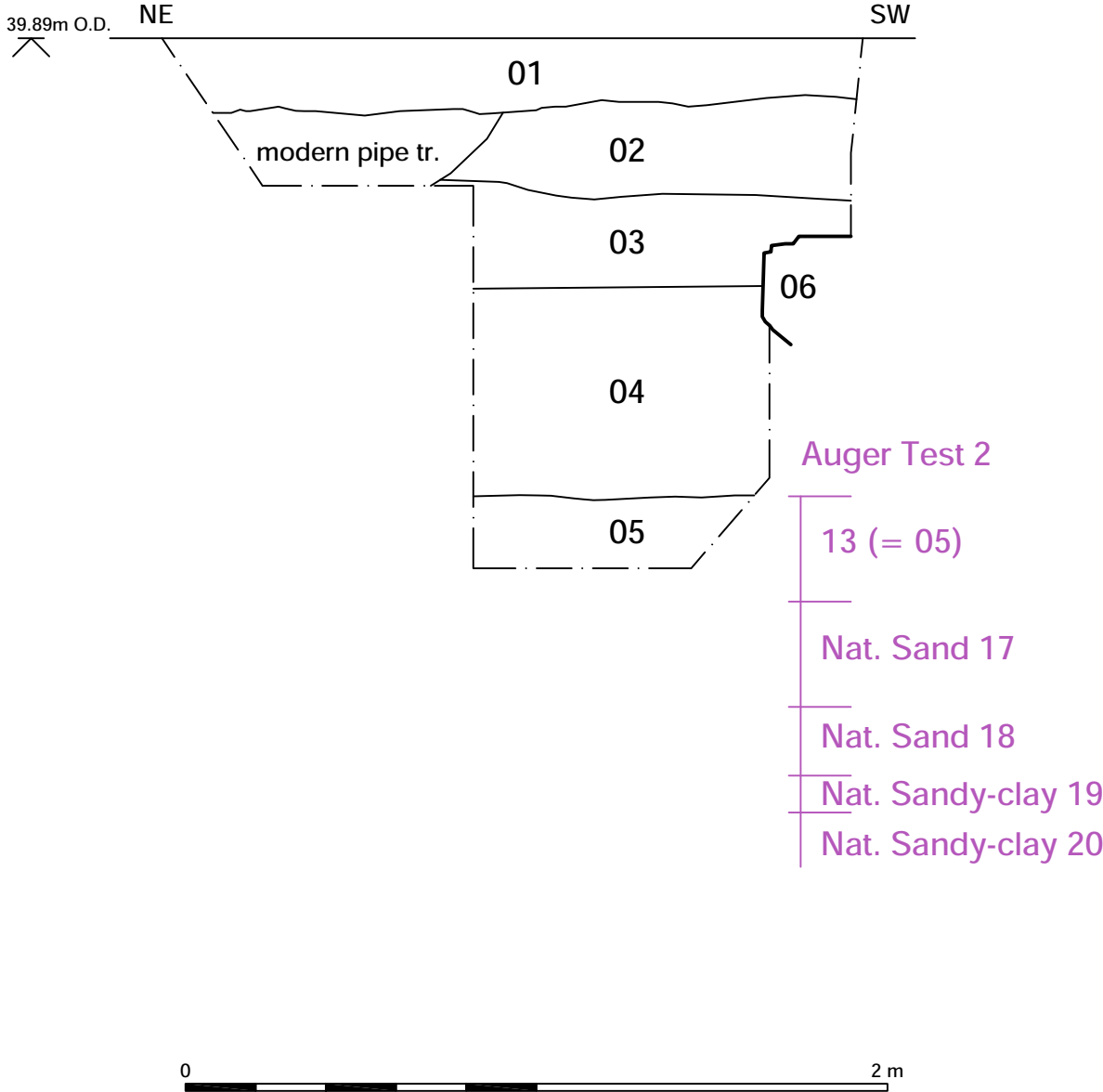
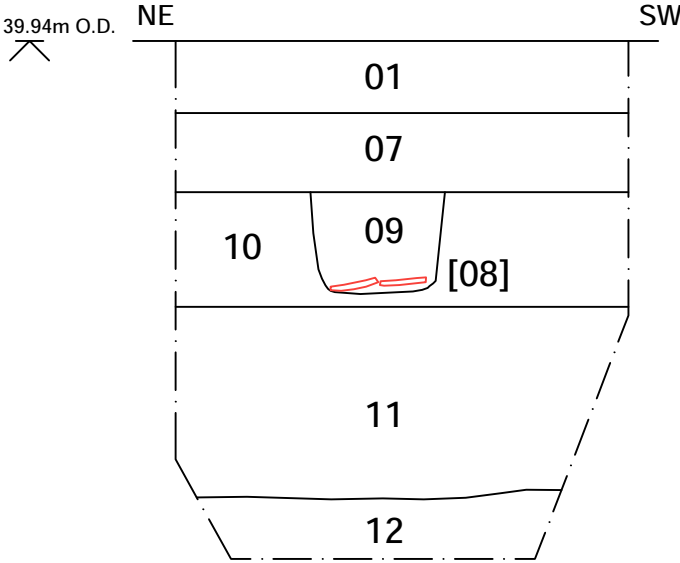


Figure 4. Test Pit 1 Recorded Section. Scale 1:20

### Test Pit 2 (Section 2)



### Test Pit 3 (Section 3)

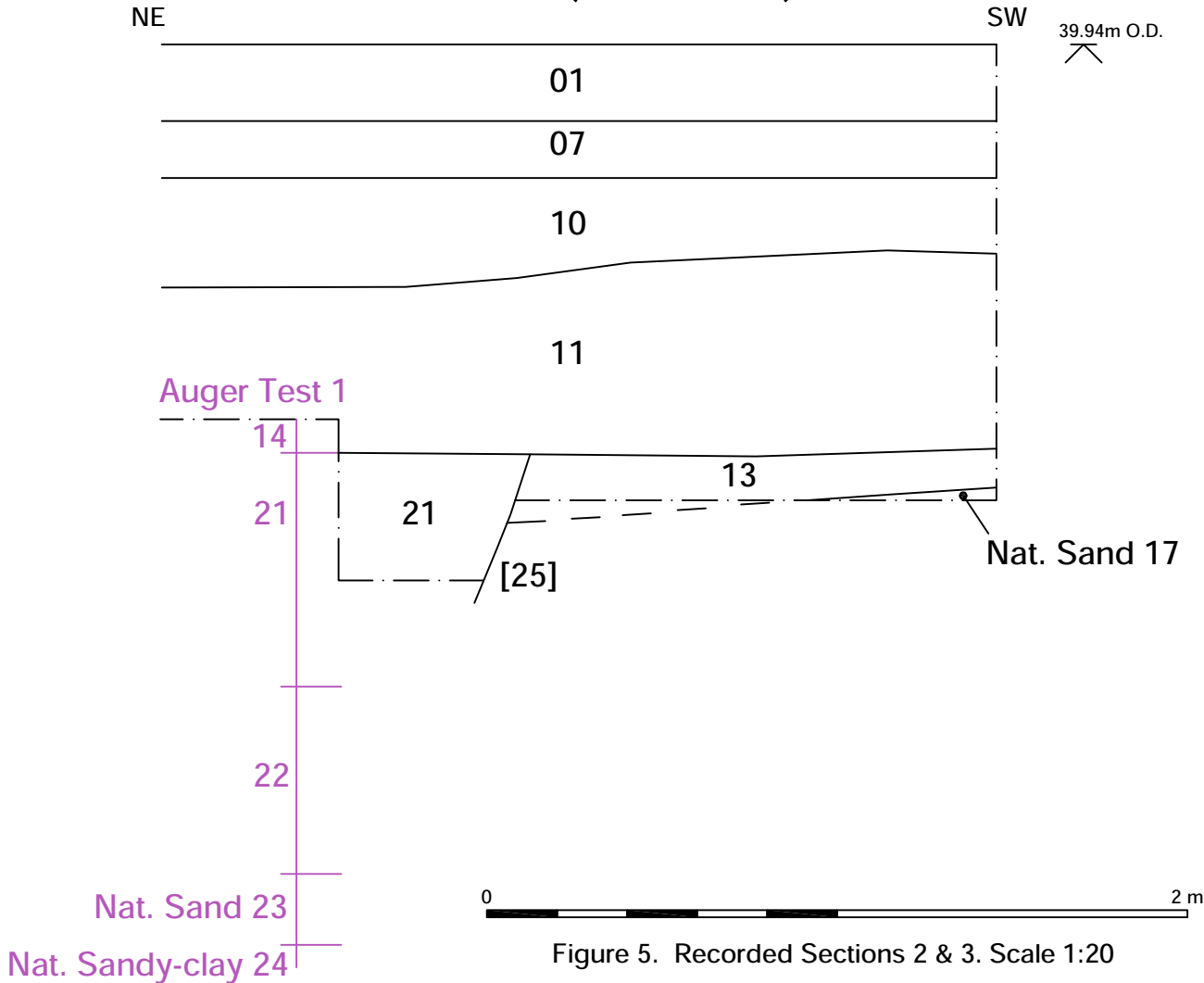


Figure 5. Recorded Sections 2 & 3. Scale 1:20

Archaeological Mitigation associated with the construction of a Cartlodge at  
No.54 St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

**SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF CONTINUOUS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

Prepared for  
Tom Stebbing of JSA Ltd

By



October 2013

**Planning Authority:** St Edmundsbury Borough Council  
**Planning Application No.** SE/12/1641/HHLBCA & APP/E3525/D/13/2197423  
**SCC Conservation Team Ref:** HS/Pre 54 St Johns St  
**HER No. for this project:** to be arranged  
**Development Proposal:** Cartlodge & new access gate  
**Conservation Team Contact:** Abby Antrobus (Archaeological Officer)

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The SCC Conservation Team has requested that a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring Work with provision for continuous archaeological recording be undertaken as a mitigation strategy in response to proposals for the construction of a Cartlodge at the rear of No.54 St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

*This site lies in an area of archaeological interest, in the historic core of Bury St Edmunds (County Historic Environment Record BSE 241). It is located to the rear of St John's Street (historically known as Long Brackland), towards the frontage of Church Row which is also a medieval street.*

*Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring was carried out both prior to and during development of the Lathbury Institute, immediately to the south-east and north-east of the site. These investigations revealed the presence of medieval features dating to the 12th-16th centuries (BSE 175 and BSE 243). These were buried underneath some depth of later soils, suggesting a change in use from urban to a more open nature. The observation is consistent with the depiction of the site as open space on Thomas Warren's map of 1741. There were also large post-medieval and modern disturbances recorded, although they had not obliterated all earlier archaeological remains.*

*There is therefore high potential for development to encounter archaeological remains relating to historic urban activity at this location, and aspects of the proposal will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.*

*We would advise the Planning Authority that there are no grounds to consider refusal of permission in order to achieve preservation in situ of any important heritage assets. However, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 141), which replaced PPS 5 in March 2012, any permission granted should be the subject of a planning condition to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed'.*

*Abby Antrobus, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012.*

1.2 This monitoring work is expected to take any reasonable opportunity to examine and record any archaeological deposits revealed by the groundworks. This requires that provision and allowance be made for monitoring, with appropriate levels of investigation and recording, of all groundworks associated with the development, including, where appropriate, the following:-

- all areas of below-ground disturbance, including excavations, foundation trenches, service trenches, drains and soakaways.
- pipeline and cable trenches
- areas subject to landscaping where appropriate

1.3 This document has been prepared in response to an invitation from Tom Stebbing of JSA Ltd. It provides a method statement for a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring.

## 2 AIMS

2.1 A defined Programme of Archaeological Monitoring Work is required to ensure that any archaeological deposits encountered during the works are recorded via controlled monitoring to recognised standards. The general objectives of the monitoring work is to recover as much information as possible on the origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, significance and the nature of social, economic and industrial activities of any archaeological information encountered.

2.3 Period resource assessments set out in the document Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medleycott 2011) pose specific research questions for periods ranging from the Palaeolithic to the Modern period which may be of relevance to this programme of work.

2

2.4

Most significantly, this project may provide additional evidence relating to historic urban development and land use along a street with a known medieval antecedent within the historic core of Bury St Edmunds.

2.5 The aims of the archaeological monitoring work can be summarised as follows:

2.5.1 *To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed area.*

2.5.2 *To determine the extent, condition, nature, quality and date of any archaeological remains occurring within the site.*

2.5.3 *To ensure that any archaeological features discovered are identified, sampled and recorded.*

2.5.4 *To establish, as far as possible, the extent, character, stratigraphic sequence and date of archaeological features and deposits, and the nature of the activities which occurred at the site during the various periods or phases of its occupation*

2.5.5 *To explore any evidence for social, economic and industrial activity.*

2.5.6 *To present the archaeological data recovered by the monitoring works in the form of an archive report that may provide the basis for further dissemination of the data if appropriate.*

## 3 METHOD STATEMENT

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A standard three-stage strategy will be undertaken:

**Archaeological Monitoring & Recording** - If previously unrecorded archaeological features and deposits are encountered during groundworks appropriate levels of excavation and recording will be made.

**Post-Fieldwork Processing & Assessment** - The cleaning and cataloguing of any artefactual and ecofactual materials recovered will be carried out upon completion of the fieldwork. The finds will be cleaned, marked and packaged in accordance with the archive requirements of the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

**Final Analysis, Reporting and Archive** - The post-fieldwork analysis will be completed detailing the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental evidence recovered during the fieldwork, presented as an Archive Report.

3.1.2 The procedures and methodology for each of the stages outlined above are described in detail below.

### 3.2 Archaeological Monitoring

3.2.1 The footing trenches for the Cartlodge and any other below-ground disturbance associated with the development will be subject to archaeological monitoring.

3.2.2 Spoil from topsoil, subsoil, *in situ* soil horizons and any hand-excavated deposits will be scanned by metal detector.

3.2.3 Stripped surfaces will be investigated through manual cleaning where appropriate, except in areas clearly devoid of archaeological features.

3.2.4 Archaeological masonry, deposits, features and layers will be recorded using Norvic Archaeology's pro-forma recording system. The records will include written, graphic and photographic elements. Plans and sections will be made at suitable scales, depending on

the complexity of the archaeological deposits and the level of detail required. A suitable photographic record will be maintained of all archaeological deposits, layers and features to record their characteristics and relationships. A photographic record will also be taken to record the pre-excavation condition of the site, the progress of the excavation and the appearance of the site following the completion of the excavation.

- 3.2.5 Artefactual and ecofactual materials may be collected and, where possible, related to the context from which they derived. All retained materials will be stored in stable conditions until arrangements for their processing and analysis are made.
- 3.2.6 Detailed strategies for levels of sampling of buried soils, structures, pits, post-holes and ditches will be determined on site with allowance made for recovery rates as appropriate; percentage sampling will normally apply if areas of complex stratified deposits are encountered. In general, the following feature/deposit sampling strategy will be employed wherever site conditions allow in accordance with the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003)
- 3.2.7 If previously unrecorded archaeological features and deposits are encountered, appropriate levels of excavation and recording will be made. Guidelines for watching briefs set out in the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology 2003) will be followed. The discovery of complex archaeology or highly significant remains, such as the discovery of human burials, will require further discussion between the SCC Conservation Team and the client to ensure that appropriate strategies can be employed.
- 3.2.8 If, during the groundworks archaeological deposits are not encountered at the depth required for construction, the surrounding areas may, in consultation with the SCC Conservation Team, be excluded from further monitoring.
- 3.2.9 Where areas of significant archaeological remains are encountered that cannot be recorded safely or to the appropriate standard within the normal limitations of archaeological monitoring methods, consultation will take place between the client and the SCC Conservation Team to reach an agreement on any need for further archaeological excavation.

### 3.3 Post-Fieldwork Processing and Assessment

#### *Initial processing of the site archive*

- 3.3.1. The purpose of this phase is to ensure that all elements of the site record from the various phases of fieldwork are cross-referenced and compatible with each other for the post-excavation assessment and reporting phases.
- 3.3.2 All retained materials will be cleaned, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the Suffolk Archaeology Service. Finds data will be catalogued to allow summary listings of artefacts by category and context to provide basic quantification.
- 3.3.3 An archive structured in accordance with guidelines laid out in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007) will be initiated
- 3.3.4 A provisional stratigraphic matrix and accompanying text sections will be prepared where appropriate in order to establish the stratigraphic sequence and provisional phasing of the archaeological remains.
- 3.3.5 Analysis of the finds data will be undertaken in line with the procedures set out in the document *Standards and Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). This will involve the identification and summary description of the artefactual materials by relevant specialists. All finds work will follow the procedures set out in the document *Guidelines for*

*Finds Work* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1992). Where appropriate, finds data will be stored on a database to expedite analysis and report preparation.

- 3.3.6 An assessment of any specific artefact conservation requirements will be undertaken with advice from the Conservation Department at Norwich Castle Museum or an appropriate specialist/ICON registered conservator. In all instances, conservation assessment procedures will follow the frameworks set out in the documents *Excavated Artefacts and Conservation* (UKIC *Conservation Guidelines* No 1, 1988) and *A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds* (Ancient Monuments Laboratory 1995).
- 3.3.7 Environmental samples taken during the course of the excavation or selected sub-samples from the overall assemblage will be assessed in relation to the project's stated research objectives. The assessment of environmental material in all instances will follow the guidelines set out in the document *Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Evaluations* (Association for Environmental Archaeology Working Papers No 2, 1995).
- 3.4 Final Analysis, Reporting and Archive
- Archive Report*
- 3.4.1 The final post-fieldwork analysis will be undertaken on the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental evidence recovered during the fieldwork. The results of the analysis will be presented as an Archive Report.
- 3.4.2 Background research, commensurate with the results of the field work, will be undertaken to place the results of the work within their local archaeological context. This information will form part of the final report. Guidelines set out in the documents *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological/Desk-Based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) will be followed. The study may include the following sources of information as appropriate to the objectives of the research: Historic Environment Records; Historical maps; Aerial Photography Sources; other relevant documentary sources.
- 3.4.3 A draft copy of the final report will be supplied to the SCC Conservation Team for comments. Following any necessary amendments two hard copies and a .pdf copy of the report on CD will be supplied to the Historic Environment Service. A copy will also be submitted to the client at this time.
- 3.4.4 A single integrated archive for all elements of the work will be prepared according to the recommendations set out in Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites (UKIC, Conservation Guidelines 3, 1984) and Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (Walker 1990), and in accordance with the Suffolk Archaeology Service's own requirements for archive preparation, storage and conservation.
- 3.4.5 All archaeological materials, excepting those covered by the Treasure Act, 1996, will remain the property of the landowners. Norvic Archaeology will seek to reach a formal agreement with the landowners for the donation of the finds to the Suffolk Museums and Archaeology Service or an appropriate educational body.
- 3.4.6 Norvic Archaeology supports the OASIS project. An online record will be initiated immediately prior to the start of fieldwork and finalised when the final archive is submitted to the Historic Environment Service. This will include a .pdf version of the final report.

#### 4 TIMETABLE AND RESOURCES

4.1 The different stages of archaeological monitoring work may have different time and staffing requirements depending upon the results of initial monitoring visits. A suitable day rate is provided in Norvic Archaeology's Terms and Conditions document for this project, along with contingency budgets to provide suitable resources for additional analysis, dissemination and archiving of particularly large or significant assemblages of finds.

#### 5 ON SITE AND SPECIALIST STAFFING

5.1 The monitoring work will be conducted or managed by Giles Emery, T/A Norvic Archaeology. Any additional staff will have a similar level of archaeological experience.

5.2 Norvic Archaeology reserves the right, because of its developing work programme, to change its nominated personnel at any time. Subcontracted archaeologists will be of a similar level of experience and knowledge in this type of project.

5.3 The following organisations/individuals may, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide relevant specialist work or advice in respect to detailed analysis and/or reporting on any artefactual and ecofactual materials recovered during the investigation that requires their expert knowledge and advice. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements. This list is not exhaustive and only seeks to demonstrate that Norvic Archaeology is able to provide access to a network of specialists in order to meet the requirements of the Brief if significant assemblages or materials are recovered.

##### Specialist

Sue Anderson

Sarah Percival

Alice Lyons

Andrew Barnett

Adrian Marsden

Jane Cowgill

Sarah Bates

Kate Emery

Matthew Pope

Mick Boyle

Julie Curt

Jennifer Wood

Francesca Boghi

Stephen Heywood

Roland Harris

John Percival

Dave Bescoby

Val Fryer

Fran Green

Richard Macphail

Cheryl French

Debbie Forkes

Julia Park-Newman

Kenneth Penn

##### Fields of Specialism

Ceramic Building Material, Post-Roman Pottery,

Humans Skeletal Remains

Prehistoric and Saxon Pottery, Fired Clay

Roman ceramics, Kiln materials and Personal

Items

Numismatic Items, Portable Artefacts

Numismatic Items

Portable artefacts, Ironworking

Lithics

Lithics (Palaeolithic Specialism)

Lithics & Consultancy

Post Roman Glass Vessels

Faunal Remains

Human Remains, Faunal Remains

Human Skeletal Remains

Architectural Stonework

Architectural analysis and metric survey

Metric Survey

Environmental analysis, Geomatics

Macrofossil Analysis

Pollen & Diatoms and General Environmental

Micromorphology & Consultancy

Micromorphology

Conservation Services

Conservation Services & Consultancy

Secondary Source Documentary Material

#### 6. GENERAL CONDITIONS

6.1 Norvic Archaeology fully endorses the *Code of Practice* and the *Code of Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA). All staff employed or subcontracted by Norvic Archaeology will be employed in line with The Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Practice*.

6.2 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health & Safety requirements in operation at the time of the project.

6.3 Should the Historic Environment Service require any additional investigation beyond the scope of this specification, then the cost and duration of any such supplementary work will be negotiated between the client and Norvic Archaeology. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Historic Environment Service.

6.4 Norvic Archaeology currently maintains:

Employers Liability Insurance	£10,000,000
Public Liability Insurance	£2,000,000

Copies of these certificates are available on written request.

Email: [giles.emery@norvicarchaeology.com](mailto:giles.emery@norvicarchaeology.com)

Tel: 07759016372

Norvic Archaeology is the registered trading name of Giles Emery, Freelance Archaeologist.

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: **norvicar1-164183**

### Project details

**Project name** Archaeological Monitoring at Radford House, No.54 St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

**Short description of the project** Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Moore and Stone Carpentry and Building Ltd on behalf of the owners Mr and Mrs Gooden, to undertake archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a cartledge at the rear of No.54 St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds (Planning Ref. SE/12/1641/HHLBCA and APP/E3525/D/13/2197423). This site lies in an area of archaeological interest, in the historic core of Bury St Edmunds (County Historic Environment Record BSE 241). It is located to the rear of St John's Street (historically known as Long Brackland), towards the frontage of Church Row which is also a medieval street. A medieval soil horizon was identified which contained residual pottery sherds of late 12th to 14th century date. A single medieval feature was revealed in the form of a probable pit which contained pottery of likely 13th century date. The medieval soil and ?pit were sealed below a post-medieval soil build-up of c. 0.5m in depth, below modern garden soils and rubble make-up. This appears to demonstrate a significant gap in domestic activity in the vicinity of the site until the establishment of 19th to 20th century garden soils relating to Church Cottage and the grounds of the former vicarage fronting St Johns Street, known as Radford House. Other noteworthy finds include a single sherd of well abraded Late Saxon pottery and two examples of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age worked flint.

**Project dates** Start: 18-11-2013 End: 03-02-2014

**Previous/future work** No / No

**Any associated project reference codes** BSE 435 - HER event no.

**Any associated project reference codes** NVC/2013/GE:177 - Contracting Unit No.

**Any associated project reference codes** SE/12/1641/HHLBCA - Planning Application No.

**Type of project** Research project

**Site status** None

**Current Land use** Residential 1 - General Residential

**Monument type** PIT Medieval

**Monument type** PIT Modern

**Significant Finds** FLINT Late Prehistoric

**Significant Finds** POTTERY Early Medieval

**Significant Finds** POTTERY Medieval

**Significant Finds** OYSTER SHELL Medieval

**Significant Finds** POTTERY Post Medieval

**Significant Finds** POTTERY Modern

**Investigation type** "Watching Brief"

**Prompt** Conservation/ restoration

### Project location

**Country** England

**Site location** SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS Radford House, 54 St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

**Postcode** IP33 1SP

**Study area** 0 Square metres

**Site coordinates** TL 8529 6469 52.2486811053 0.714617040036 52 14 55 N 000 42 52 E Point

### Project creators

**Name of Organisation** Norvic Archaeology

**Project brief originator** Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

**Project design originator** Norvic Archaeology

**Project director/manager** Giles Emery

**Project supervisor** Giles Emery

**Type of sponsor/funding body** Developer

**Name of sponsor/funding body** Moore and Stone

### Project archives

**Physical Archive recipient** SCCAS

**Physical Contents** "Ceramics"; "Worked stone/lithics"; "other"

**Digital Archive recipient** SCCAS

Digital Contents "Survey"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  
Paper Archive recipient SCCAS  
Paper Contents "Survey"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Map", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Monitoring at Radford House, 54 St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. IP33 1SP.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Emery, G.

Other bibliographic details Norvic Archaeology Report No. 44

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