

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

28 Friary Meadow, Bury St. Edmunds BSE 261

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2005
(Planning app. no. SE/05/1075/P)

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

John Duffy
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

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All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

John Duffy Assistant Project Officer
Richenda Goffin Finds Manager

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mr E. Keymer and the archaeological work specified and monitored by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Tester and John Duffy from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed by Andrew Tester, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing was carried out by Richenda Goffin and Gemma Adams and the specialist finds report produced by Richenda Goffin. Post excavation assistance was provided by Gemma Adams.

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of footings for a garage on the southern side of 28 Friary Meadow. The development was located within the precinct of the medieval Babwell Friary and was approximately 17m north of the excavated site of the friary church. Two parallel walls were exposed forming a corridor with a tiled floor which may have been part of a cloister to the north of the church. A third wall was also identified and was part of a structure to the west. A heavily disturbed external cobbled surface was also identified to the north and west of the walls. All structural remains were left preserved *in situ* by the developer.

SMR information

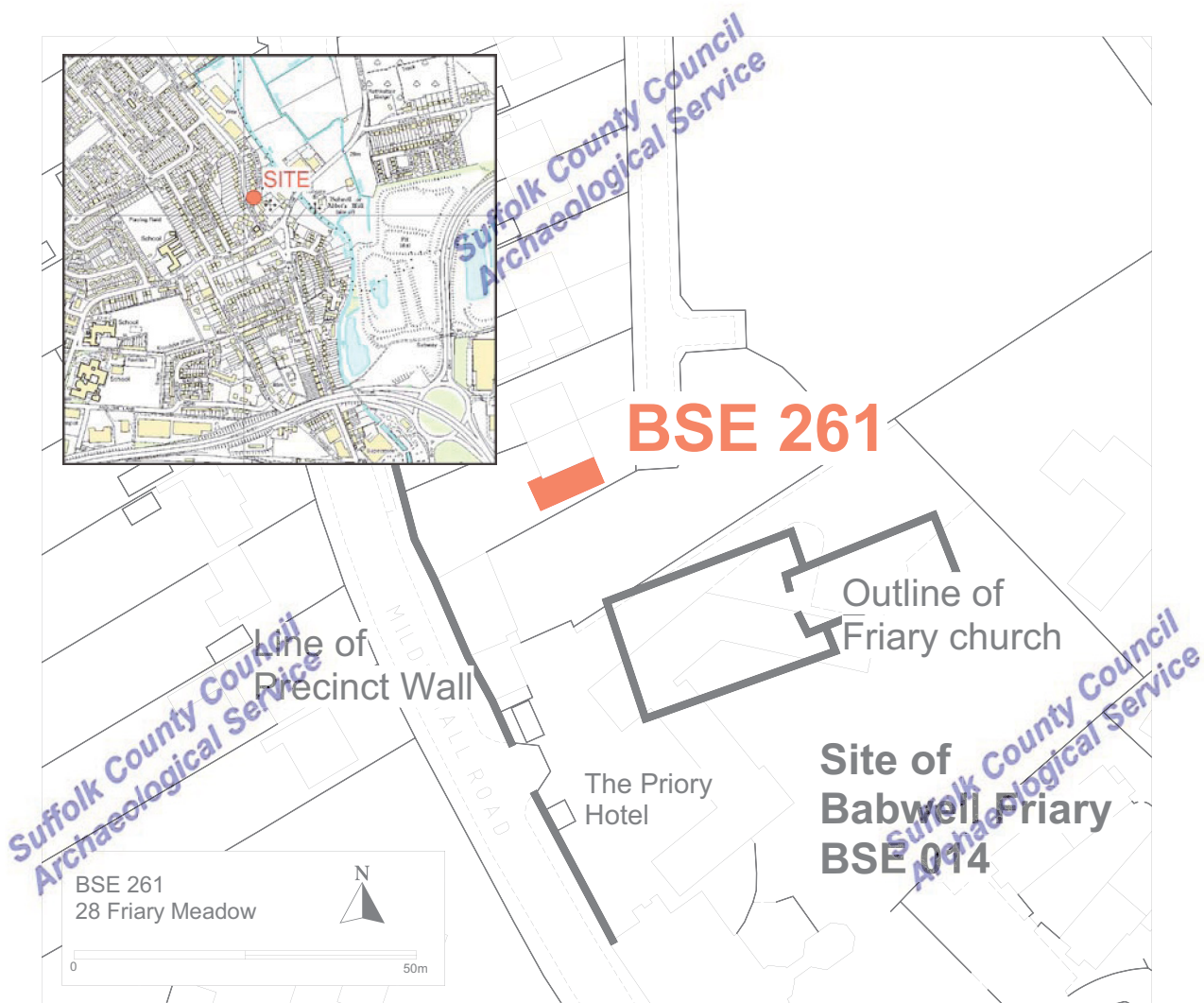
| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Planning application no. | SE/05/1075/P |
| Date of fieldwork: | 03/11/05 |
| Grid Reference: | TL 8503 6606 |
| Funding body: | Mr E. Keymer |
| Oasis reference. | suffolkc1-11046 |

Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of footings for a garage on the southern side of No 28 Friary Meadow, Bury St. Edmunds and was funded by the owner Mr E. Keymer. The archaeological work was monitored by and followed the brief and specification prepared by R. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) (Appendix 1).

The monitoring made provision for the recording of any surviving archaeological deposits and the preservation *in situ* of structural remains. A flexible approach to the development was maintained to allow for both the preservation of the archaeological remains and adequate footings to be excavated for the garage.

The development area was located to the north, and within the precinct, of the known site of the medieval Babwell Friary (BSE 014), a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 25400). The Franciscan Friary was founded in AD1263 and dissolved in AD1538. Excavations and geophysical survey in 1989 ahead of the second extension to The Priory Hotel revealed remains of the Friary church and associated burials, approximately 17m to the south (BSE 014 - unpublished archive report) (Figure 1).



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Figure 1. Site location

Methodology

The footing trenches were excavated using a small 360 degree machine excavator fitted with a 0.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. All of the machine excavation was under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. All overburden and modern disturbance layers were removed by machine and *in situ* remains were cleaned by hand. All identified archaeological deposits were given a unique four digit number starting at 0001 for unstratified finds. Sections were drawn of the archaeological deposits at a scale of 1:20 and a site plan was drawn at 1:50. Digital photographs were taken of all archaeological deposits.

The site archive is kept at the County Council Archaeological Store, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds under the code BSE 261.

Results

The archaeological monitoring of the footing trenches identified two parallel walls (0003 and 0004) and the heavily disturbed remains of a third wall at right angles to the other two (0005). The remains of two surfaces, one tiled and one cobbled, were also identified. Modern disturbance was identified on the western side of the footing trenches with a modern drain and inspection pit. To the east of wall 0004 there was extensive disturbance across the eastern half of the site and no archaeological deposits were identified within the excavated footing trenches.

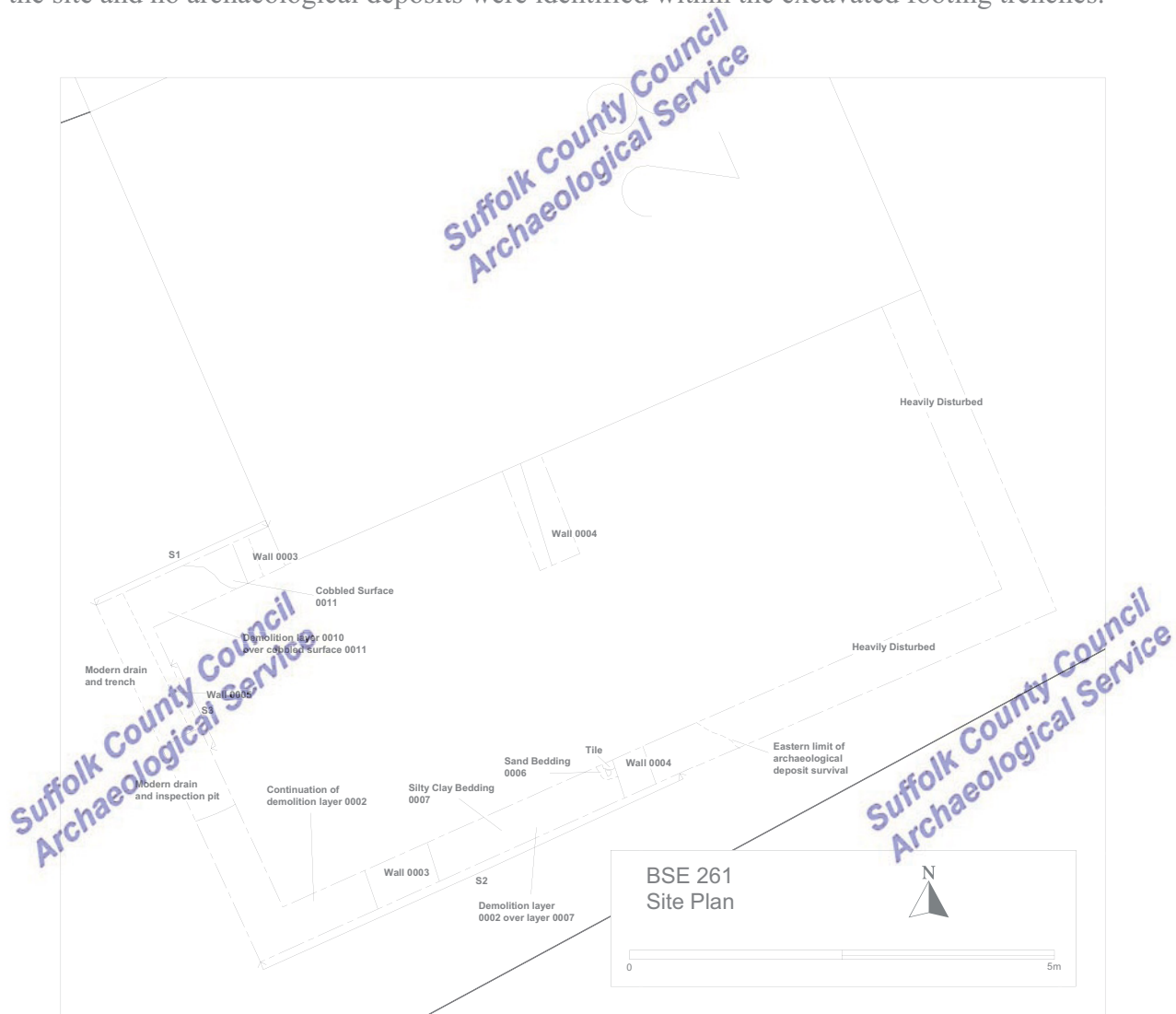


Figure 2. Site plan

Two walls were identified running parallel to each in a north-west to south-east direction (Figures 2 and 3). The westernmost wall, 0003, was constructed using flint and mortar with mortar rendering on both faces. The wall was visible at the northern and southern limits of the footing trenches and measured 0.8m wide and survived to a depth of 0.46m. Located 2.2m to the east was a narrower wall, 0004, which measured 0.4m wide and survived to a depth of 0.2m. It was constructed in an identical way to wall 0003 with a flint and mortar core with mortar rendering on both faces.

Between the two walls an orangey brown silty clay layer, 0007, was identified forming a flat surface over a natural orange sand and flint (Figure 3). Over layer 0007 were the surviving remains of a light brown sand layer, 0006, against wall 0004. This sand layer was the bedding for a tile floor, some of which survived *in situ*, with layer 0007 forming the level base below.

The walls and floor layers were sealed by a layer of flint and mortar rubble, 0002, identified in the southern area of the site (Figure 3). This appeared to be the demolition layer for the walls. Floortiles were also present in this demolition layer suggesting that the tiled floor was lifted prior to the demolition of the walls rather than left *in situ*. The floortiles were likely to have been removed for reuse though some were lost or discarded during the demolition of the walls. A similar layer, 0010, was identified in the northern area of the site adjacent to wall 0003. This layer was associated with two other probable demolition layers, 0009, a mid orange sand, and 0008, a mid brown silty sand with fragments of floortile. Layer 0008 was directly over a roughly laid flint and mortar layer, 0011, which although heavily disturbed were the remains of a cobbled surface to the west of wall 0003. Although demolition layer 0002 survived to the west of wall 0003 no surfaces were identified in the southern site section suggesting the cobbled surface did not continue south of wall 0005.

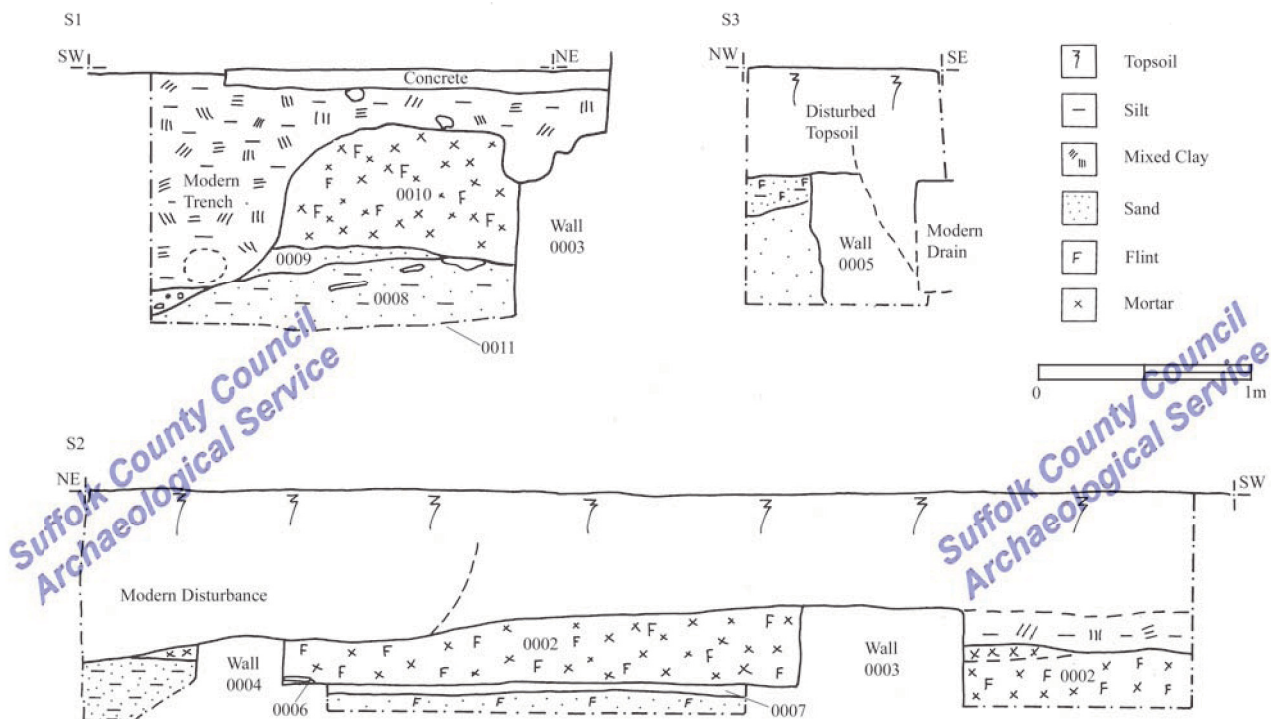


Figure 3. Sections

A third wall, 0005, was identified at the western limit of the site but was heavily disturbed by modern drains and associated inspection pits. The wall was constructed with flint and mortar and appeared to run in a north-east to south-west direction at right angles to walls 0003 and 0004 but too little of the wall survived within the footing trenches to be certain.

To the east of wall 0004 there was only very limited survival of archaeological deposits. Identified against the eastern face of wall 0004 the flint and mortar demolition layer, 0002, continued and was over a dark brown silty sand which was heavily disturbed by modern activity on the site. These layers extended for 1.5m beyond wall 0004 before they were completely removed by modern ground disturbance. Further to the east no surviving archaeological deposits were identified within the excavated footing trenches.

Finds evidence by Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

| OP | CBM | | Spots/date |
|-------|-----|------|---------------|
| | No. | Wt/g | |
| 0002 | 4 | 466 | Late Medieval |
| Total | 4 | 466 | |

Table 1 Finds by context

Ceramic building material

Four fragments of ceramic floortile were recovered from 0002, a layer of rubble excavated between Walls 0003 and 0004. All the tiles were made from a medium sandy fabric with occasional inclusions of iron oxide. The two best-preserved examples measured between 115-118mm in length, and were between 13-14mm in height. One of the tiles had the remains of a dark green lead glaze on its upper surface but this was partially covered with a sandy coarse mortar, indicating that the tile had been re-used or redeposited. The second fragment had no surviving glaze on the upper surface, but spots of lead glaze on the edges, with evidence that it had been mortared on its sides but also on a slightly broken edge. Two other pieces were more fragmentary. One measured 16mm in height but had no surviving glaze. The fourth fragment was a small triangular chip of tile, the surface of which was honey-coloured with a white slip and yellow glaze. It had clearly been re-used or possibly relaid as there is mortar on two of the broken edges. The tiles are of late medieval 'Flemish' type. The slipped yellow glazed example was probably used as part of a chequer-board pattern, alternating with the dark green plain glazed tiles, and dates to the 14th-15th century (Drury 166).

Discussion

The tiles are late medieval in date and are likely to have originally been laid in a floor of one of the Friary buildings. Three out of the four tiles show evidence of re-mortaring, either on broken edges or on the upper surface, indicating the likelihood that the tiles were redeposited into the rubble backfill 0002.

Conclusion

The monitoring work at 28 Friary Meadow showed good levels of preservation of the structural remains associated with Babwell Friary and appeared to have been left *in situ* during previous development of the area. However, the monitoring also showed some areas of heavy disturbance especially in areas away from the structural remains. During the excavation of the footings the medieval walls were left *in situ* and were incorporated into the footing design for the garage. Any further development work in this area of the Friary should expect well preserved archaeological remains. Any further archaeological study would make an important contribution to the understanding of the medieval Friary and its layout.

The results of the archaeological monitoring showed two parallel walls with a tile floor laid between them forming a corridor. The western wall, 0003, was twice as thick as wall 0004 and was comparable to the size of walls identified during the excavation of the Friary church to the south suggesting a main structural wall (Figure 4). A possible interpretation of this structure is that of a cloister attached to the north wall of the church. If this interpretation is correct it appears it would be slightly offset from the church, as it is the thinner eastern wall that lines up with the end church wall.

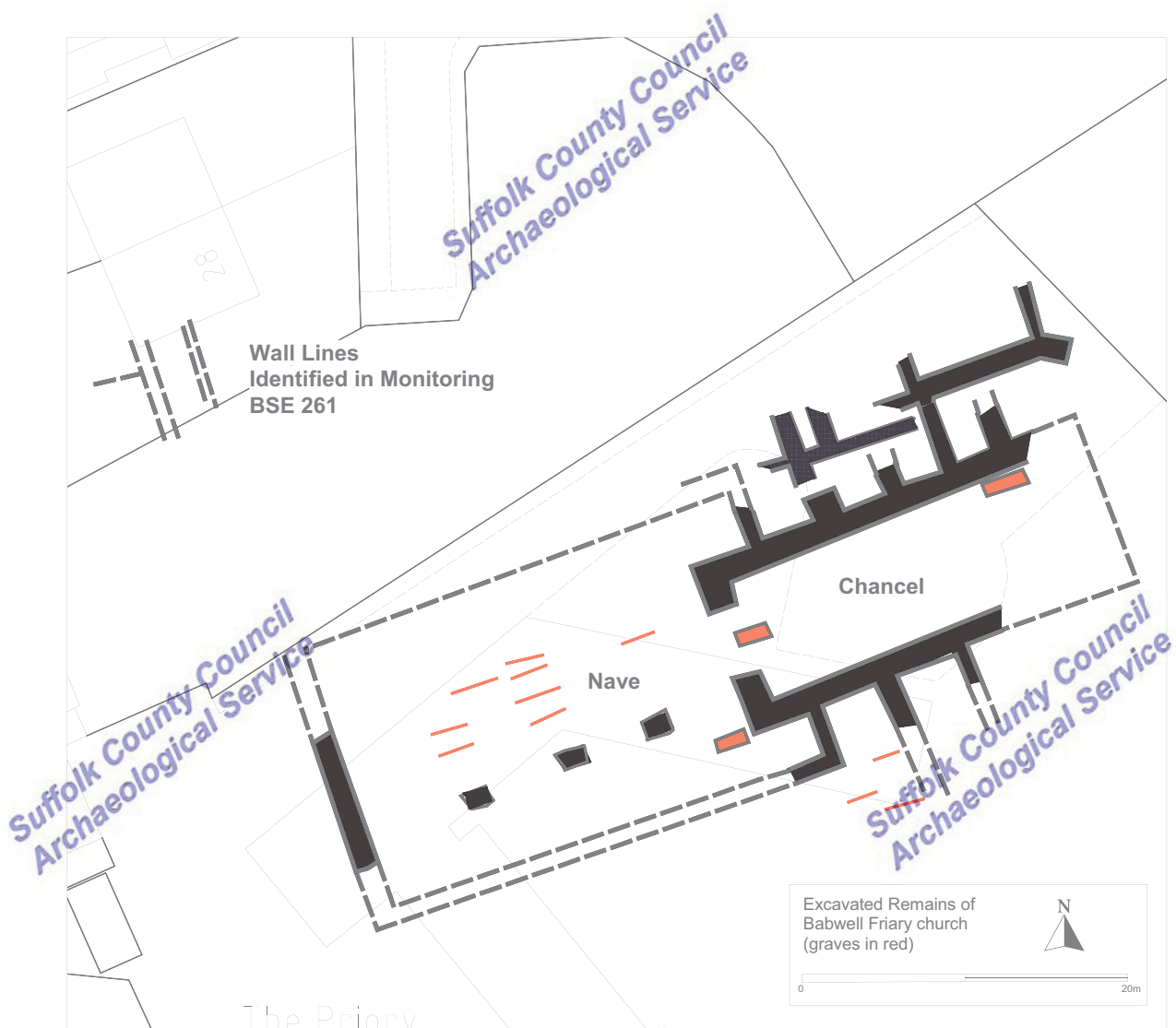


Figure 4. Plan of Babwell Friary church

The third wall, 0005, and the cobbled surface, 0011, were heavily disturbed and are difficult to understand and interpret. Wall 0005 may represent a further structure located to the west of the possible cloisters with the cobbles forming an external surface to the north and west of these structures. The structures and surfaces were all part of the medieval friary and were located within the friary precinct (Figure 1).

References

- Drury, P.J., 1993, 'Ceramic Building Materials', in Margeson, S., Norwich Households: the medieval and post-medieval finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-78, EAA Report No 58.
- Sommers, M., 1998, Babwell Friary (The Priory Hotel), Bury St Edmunds (BSE 014). S.C.C.A.S. Evaluation Report 98/58.
- Tester, A., 2000, The Construction of a Breakfast Room, The Priory Hotel, Bury St Edmunds (BSE 014). S.C.C.A.S. Monitoring Report 2000/72.

Appendix 1 Brief and specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

28, Friary Meadow; Bury St Edmunds

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

1. Background

- 1.1 Consent has been given for an extension to this dwelling (SE/05/1075/P). The site has high archaeological potential and the consent is conditional on a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.

- 1.2 The area is immediately adjacent to the site of the medieval friary church and is within the Friary precinct.

The extension lies mostly on the site of an existing concrete hard standing, whilst the west wall is on the line of an existing drain and outhouse wall which will have caused some damage to any archaeology which exists. The principal impact will be a strip foundation which runs up the south wall of the new structure. No works which will have a significant new impact are proposed within the building footprint.

The applicant intends to do the ground works himself and has agreed that coupled with the monitoring there will be a flexible approach to the footing design such that any archaeological structures can be bridged and preserved in situ.

- 1.3 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

Appendix 1

- 1.4 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.

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 monastic occupation of the site.

- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal will be the excavation of the strip footing, this is to be observed as it is excavated by the applicant. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

Solid archaeological structures e.g. wall remains will be preserved in situ where possible.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.

- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

Appendix 1

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 In the case of the foundation trench unimpeded access at the rate of one hour per 3 metres must be allowed for archaeological.

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

4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context.

4.6 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 records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This 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 Report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

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.

Appendix 1

- 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.
- 5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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: 20 May 2005

Reference: /Friarymeadow BSE05

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.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

Appendix 2 Context List

| Context | Section | Identifie | Description | Interpretation | Under | Over | Find |
|---------|---------|-----------|---|---|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 0001 | | Find | Unstratified finds from across the site. | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0002 | 2 | Layer | Layer of flint and mortar rubble excavated along the southern trench of footings between walls 0003 and 0004. | Demolition rubble from walls 0003 and 0004. | | 0003 0004 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 0003 | 1 2 | Wall | Flint and mortar constructed wall with mortar rendering on both faces. Runs approximately NW-SE. Visible in north (under modern building) and south trenches of the footings. | Large medieval wall associated with Babwell Friary. Possible cloisters to north of former church. | 0002 | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0004 | 2 | Wall | Flint and mortar constructed wall with mortar rendering surviving on both faces. Runs parallel and to east of wall 0003. | Medieval wall. Smaller than 0003 and thought to possibly be arcade base for cloister. | 0002 | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0005 | 3 | Wall | Flint and mortar constructed wall. Very heavily truncated by modern drain and inspection pit. Appears to run SE-NW at right angles to wall 0003. | Medieval wall. | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0006 | 2 | Layer | Small patch of light brown sand located up against west face of wall 0004. Some floor tile fragments appear in situ on top of this sand. | Appears to be sand bedding for a tile floor. | 0002 | 0007 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0007 | 2 | Layer | Orangey brown silty clay layer. Located between walls 0003 and 0004. Appears to form a flat surface under sand layer 0006. | Appears to be base of tile floor directly below sand bedding material 0006. | 0006 | Natural | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0008 | 1 | Layer | Mid brown silty sand with fragments of tile. Located in north trench of footings to west of wall 0003. | Demolition layer. | 0009 | 0011 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0009 | 1 | Layer | Mid orange sand. | Build up layer during demolition of wall 0003. | 0010 | 0008 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0010 | 1 | Layer | Flint and cream coloured mortar later. | Demolition layer from wall 0003. | Modern build up | 0009 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0011 | 1 | Layer | Roughly laid flint and mortar layer. Heavily disturbed. | Possible cobbled surface outside of wall 0003. | 0008 | | <input type="checkbox"/> |