

**Abbeygate Cinema and 4 Hatter Street,  
Bury St Edmunds, BSE 377**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2011/172**

**Client: Abbeygate Picture House/Haysom Ward Miller**

Author: Rob Brooks

August/2012



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# HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2011/172  
**Site Name:** Abbeygate Cinema and 4 Hatter Street  
**Planning Application No:** SE/11/0909  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 27/09/2011 - 11/10/2011  
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## Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Rob Brooks

Date: 06/08/2012

Approved By: David Gill

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date: 06/08/2012

Signed:



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



## **Summary**












A monitoring was carried out at 4 Hatter Street and Abbeygate Picture House, Bury St Edmunds, in Suffolk. This involved the recording of a section and small excavated area between the two buildings, which revealed evidence of postholes, floor/yard surfaces, occupation and demolition soils, other cut features and a brick structure, all of which were late medieval. Many of these were overlaid by the extant early 16th century timber building that still occupies the site. These contexts produced late medieval tile. In addition to this, the cellar of the building was also recorded. This revealed an intricately shaped, four-room cellar, which contained a reused Norman column, abbey stone and a set of ornate ceiling joists, complete with bridging beam, thought to originate from the above-ground structure. To complement the record of the site, a brief analysis was made of an exposed area of the timber hall's roof structure. This exposed a formerly hipped-roof of an open hall, that was later extended and modified to have a gable end. The analysis of the building as a whole has revealed that the property of 4 Hatter Street was originally an L-plan timber-framed building, with a front range that ran parallel to the street (presumably with a shop below and chambers above) and an open hall running at right angles to this, running back from the street.

# Drawing Conventions

## Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

## Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum  $\overline{\overline{18.45\text{m OD}}}$

## **1. Introduction**

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Underneath later alterations, the property at No 4 Hatter Street is based on a typical late medieval urban, timber-frame building layout, which retained some remains of its original open hall, including a crown-post roof. The open hall would have extended at right angles, and at the rear of, a cross-wing that would have fronted onto the street, containing a shop with chambers above (Harris, 1979).

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during works to extend and refurbish the Abbeygate Picturehouse and the adjoining property of 4 Hatter Street in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Abby Antrobus (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team – Appendix 1), to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/11/0909 and it was commissioned by the architect, Haysom Ward Miller, on behalf of the client. The work involved the recording of groundworks on the south-east side of the hall range at the rear of the building, as well as a survey of the cellar under the building frontage, which required some structural alterations. A cursory record was also made of the rear hall range's roof structure in order to give the monitoring context and because the framing had come to light as part of the building works.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The properties were located fronting on to the east side of Hatter Street, with an access lane to the rear of the site from Angel Lane. The site lies on the eastern-facing slope down Angel Hill to the Abbey at a height of c.42m above the Ordnance Datum.

The geology of the area consists of patchy superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation sand and gravel, overlying bedrock formations of Lewes nodular, Seaford, Newhaven and Culver chalk formations (BGS, 2012). On site, the geology presented itself mainly as pale yellow to mid orange silty-sand, with occasional chalk outcrops.

## **3. Archaeological and historical background**

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The site lies in the medieval core of the town, within the post-Norman Conquest gridded street system set up by Abbot Baldwin in the 1070s. During this time the Abbey precinct

was also enlarged over the grid in front of the Abbey, which can be seen in the interrupted alignment of Northgate Street and Southgate Street. In places, the street grid pattern is thought to have displaced earlier buildings but these were not thought to have extended as far west as High Baxter Street/Hatter Street. As such, the development of 4 Hatter Street was on a 'green field' site.

The property of 4 Hatter Street is listed as Grade II (list entry number 1246712) and the entry, which only covered the outside of the building, records an early 19th century shop with living accommodation (English Heritage, 2011a). The adjoining property at 3 Hatter Street (list entry number 1246711) is also recorded as a 19th century property, although the rear range is recognised as partly timber-framed, containing part of a moulded 16th century timber ceiling (English Heritage, 2011b). Chantry House, at 5 Hatter Street (list entry number 1246714) is listed as having a 17th or 18th century, or earlier core, with a timber-framed rear, although much of the exterior is red brick and the majority of the interior is Georgian (English Heritage, 2011c). Many of the other properties on the street are also detailed within the English Heritage listings. Medieval archaeological listings within the HER also surround the site and these are detailed on Figure 1 and in Table 1, below.

HER Reference	Description
BSE 312	Site of medieval Chantry as listed on Warren map, 45m to the south
BSE 313	Site of medieval Chantry as listed on Warren map, 19m to the north-east
BSE 314	Site of medieval Chantry as listed on Warren map, 110m to south-west
BSE 315	Site of medieval Chantry as listed on Warren map, 95m to south-west
BSE 037	17th century timber framed two-storey building, 65m to north-west
BSE 133	Evaluation revealed medieval remains, 32m to south-east
BSE 148	Evaluation and excavation revealed medieval remains, 30m to east
BSE 168	Excavation revealed deep medieval deposits, 58m to east in the Angel Hotel extension
BSE 231	Medieval deposits including layers, extensive pitting, hearths and walls, 68m to east, within the Angel Hotel
BSE 241	The approximate extent for the medieval urban area of Bury St Edmunds

Table 1. HER listings around 4 Hatter Street, also shown on Figure 1

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 shows a largely similar building layout to that which survives today, although the construction of the cinema complex destroyed or altered many of the structures on the southern edge of the site and covered a large area of previously open land (Figs. 2 and 3). The alleyway leading through the Angel Hotel and to the rear of 4 Hatter Street is also clearly visible and appears to have served as the rear access to several buildings.



Figure 1. Location of site, showing development area (red) and Historic Environment Record entries (green)

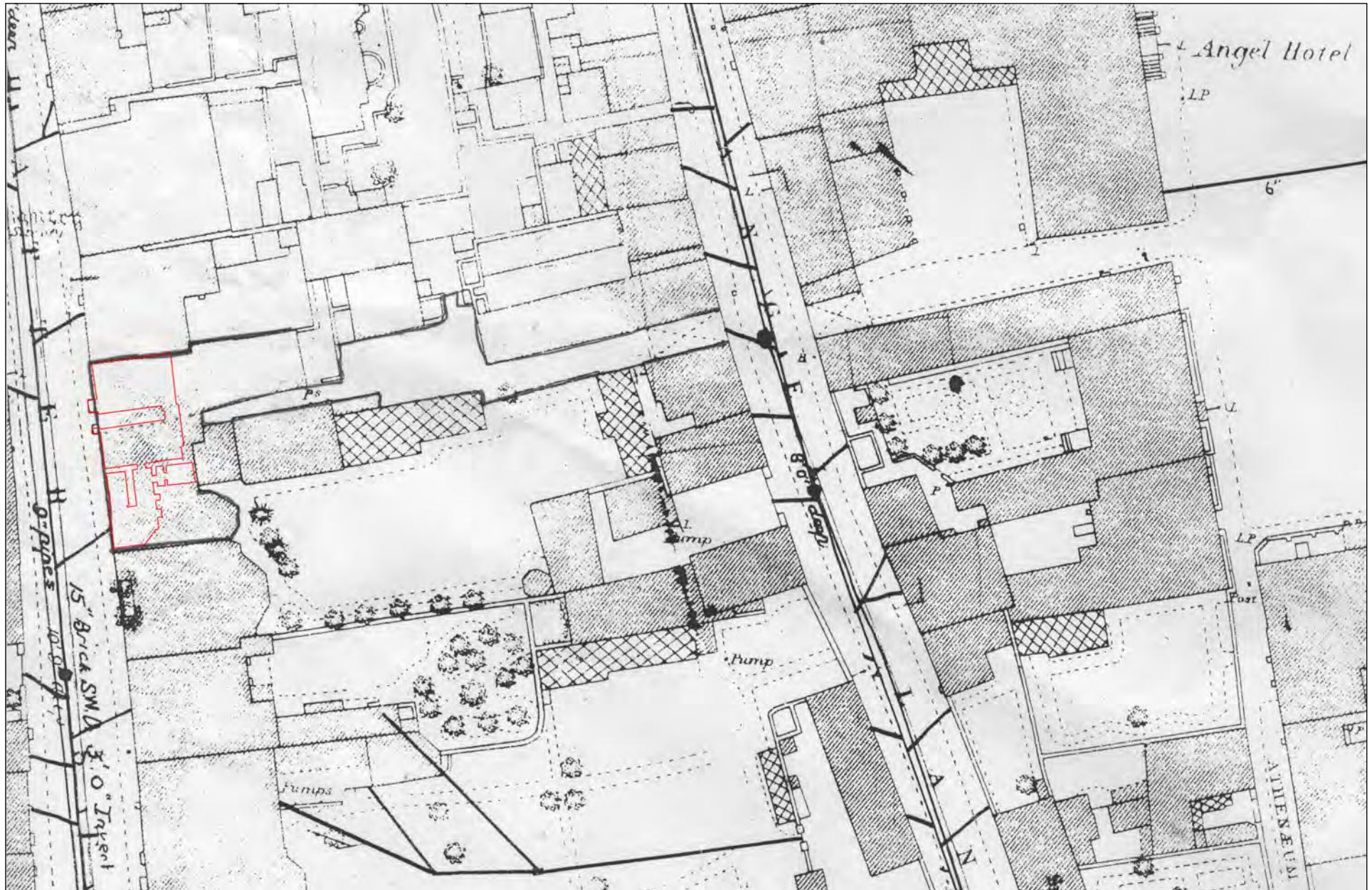


Figure 2. First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1885, showing cellar outline (red) and alleyway leading through the Angel Hotel to the rear of 4 Hatter Street

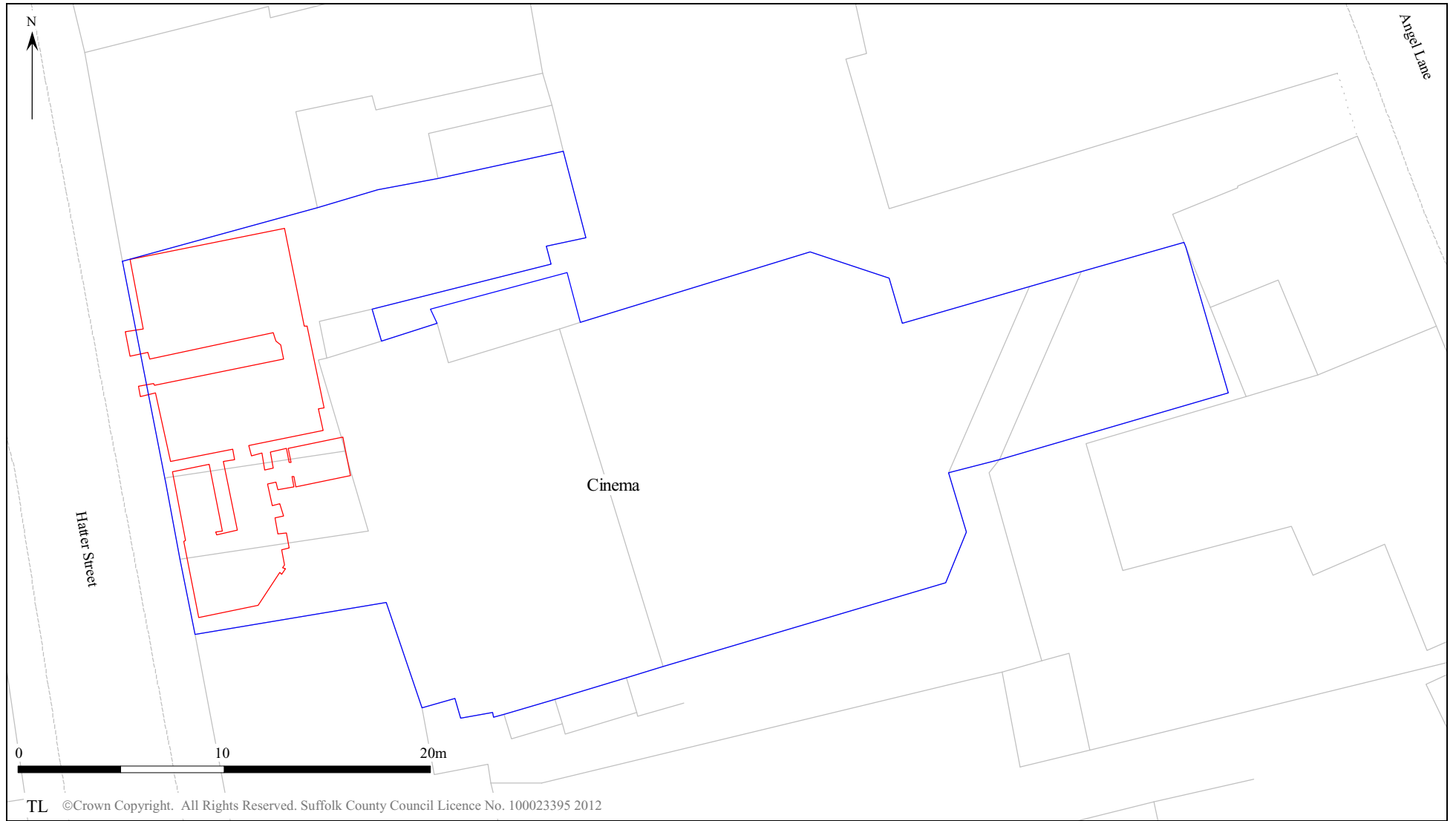


Figure 3. Map showing modern site layout, with cellar (red) and 4 Hatter Street, the cinema and associated buildings (blue)

## 4. Methodology

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One area of groundworks excavation was recorded, which measured up to 3m wide (NNW- SSE) x 14m long (WSW-ENE) x up to 0.8m deep and was excavated by a mechanical digger equipped with a toothed bucket. Sections 1 and 2 were recorded in this part of the works. The total area encompassed by this covered 42sqm (Fig. 2). The cellar ran under the majority of the existing building's footprint, covering 134.5sqm and measured 17.7m (NNW-SSE) x 7.6m (WSW-ENE).

The sections were cleaned down and drawn at scales of 1:10 and 1:20, respectively, with their positions being plotted on a site plan that was drawn at 1:50. A further plan was drawn up at 1:100 of the cellar layout and major structural features within it. The plans were located from known OS points and levels were taken using a Total Station Theodolite working from a local benchmark and also using a dumpy level. High resolution digital photographs were taken of all stages of the work, excluding Section 2, much of which was within a confined and poorly-lit area (Appendix 2). Archaeological contexts were recorded using a single continuous numbering system starting at 0001.

The timber structure of the late medieval hall range's roof was partially visible during parts of the monitoring works and several photographs were taken of this, although there was very limited access to this area. A summary by David Gill of this roof structure has been included within this report in order to put the other groundworks within their wider context.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-111370 – Appendix 3) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The site archive is stored in the SCCAS main store at Bury St Edmunds under HER no. BSE 377.



## 5. Results

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### 5.1 Introduction

The groundworks revealed several cut features (some of which were structural), as well as demolition layers, brick structures, chalk surfaces and reused abbey stone used for a foundation for the existing building (Fig. 4 and Appendix 4). Recording of the cellar identified a ceiling with ornate joists, probably reused from this building, as well as a reused stone column of early medieval date. The brief photographic record of the roof space revealed an early 16th century structure. This was evidence of an open timber hall with an originally hipped roof, with a later extension.

### 5.2 External groundworks

Excavation to the rear of the two properties involved the removal of layers of post-medieval or modern material overlying the archaeological and natural geological levels. The northern half of the area was heavily truncated by a drain pipe and a brick structure of post-medieval date, which had a vaulted ceiling. The function of this feature is unclear, but it measured 1.5m wide (SE-NW) x >2.4m long (SW-NE). The rest of this area had been excavated slightly into the natural geological levels and Section 2 ran along the northern edge of this, underneath the timber range of the standing building which was of 16th century date. The area of the groundworks to the south of the modern drain uncovered a post-medieval wall immediately south of the vaulted brick structure, as well as disturbed grey silty-sand with post-medieval rubble. However, there was also an area where a chalk surface had been preserved, cut by three probably post-medieval post holes.

#### Chalk surface 0016 and associated contexts

This measured up to 1.25m wide (SE-NW) x 3.4m long (SW-NE) x up to 0.15m thick (Fig. 4, Pls. 1 and 2). It had obviously been truncated by post-medieval and modern activity, but appeared to be the remnants of a fairly substantial compacted floor surface. Immediately underneath this was layer 0019, which consisted of a 50:50 ratio of compacted orange silty-sand and gravel, which was visible in Section 1 (Fig. 5). This

was up to 0.06m thick and overlaid an unexcavated layer of greyish-brown sandy-silty-chalky midden like material, recorded as 0011.

Overlying the chalk surface was layer 0020, which was grey sandy-silt containing frequent post-medieval CBM fragments. This deposit ran under the splayed brick foundations of the building to the south and west of chalk surface 0016. Three probable post holes also cut the chalk surface, numbered as 0012, 0013 and 0015. These were not excavated, but all contained several flecks or fragments of CBM fragments. Two of the larger fragments were sampled from fill 0014 of cut 0013. These pieces were of joining roofing tile (201g). The largest piece is a pegtile with a sub-circular peghole c12mm in diameter. The tile is fully oxidised and made in a medium sandy fabric with flint inclusions (msf) and can only be broadly dated to the late medieval and post-medieval periods (Goffin, pers. comm.).

## Section 2

This ran on an E-W alignment, starting from the eastern edge of the cellar to the eastern end of the open hall timber range. This structure sat on top of/sealed these contexts, giving them a date no later than the early 16th century. The basal layer revealed in this section consisted of the localised superficial and bedrock geology, collectively recorded as 0008, and consisting of yellowish-orange sand and chalk. Immediately overlying this was a layer of slightly disturbed geology, recorded as 0006, which consisted of yellowish-orange sand with occasional patches of grey silt. The remaining contexts above 0006 were archaeological and are thought to range from potentially as early as the late 14th century to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. The following table shows the details of all the contexts, in a proposed stratigraphic sequence for the site, comprising seven contexts of which the earliest is layer 0004 and the latest is layer 0005. Brick structure 0018 is included at the end of the table because it is uncertain where it falls within the stratigraphy. The western end of the section, starting from cut 0010, was within the standing building, which meant that there were very poor lighting conditions to record the section. None of the contexts were visible in plan.

Context number	Description
Deposit 0004	<p>Deposit 0004 comprised a series of lenses of chalk, medieval tile and oyster shell within mid brown silt. The lenses of chalk, tile and shell seemed to be quite level and may indicate a roughly formed surface. On site this was interpreted as a layer of demolition rubble and occupation material, possibly from a building that was located on site prior to the current structure. It was up to 0.21m thick and abutted structure 0007. However, it is uncertain whether the layer was cut by 0007, or simply formed up against it. As it is not present to the west of structure 0007, it may have formed against it.</p> <p>Two joining fragments of roofing tile weighing 98g were retained from Section 2 (0004a). The tile is made in a fully oxidised pink/orange medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions and occasional flint (msfe), which dates from the late medieval to post-medieval period. Four other fragments of roof tile (0004b) were sampled from the same section (99g). Three of these are made in a finer, more orange fabric which also contains ferrous inclusions (fsfe). The fourth fragment is sandier with silty bands (mscp). These are dated to the late medieval or post-medieval period. Potentially this material is dated as being from the late 14th century through to the post-medieval period, if taken in comparison with the last firings of the Grimwade Street kilns in Ipswich, which ran from 1375-1420 and produced fully oxidised roofing tiles (Goffin, pers. comm.).</p>
Structure 0007 (Pl. 3)	<p>A brick structure, consisting of pale red bricks set amongst pale yellow lime mortar may have cut layer 0004 or 0004 may have formed soon after 0007, butting against it. The shape in section was a flat base flanked by two upright walls and it had the appearance of a culvert, although there were no deposits to indicate that it had functioned as such. It was 0.72m wide and 0.32m high. None of the bricks were loose to be removed, but measurements taken from one brick suggested a thickness of 50mm x 220mm long. A similar brick had to be measured for the width, which was 100mm.</p>
Pit/post hole 0010	<p>This was a shallow feature cut, with fairly gently sloping concave sides and a flat base, but a distinguishable break in slope into the solid chalk natural 0008. The fill was indistinguishable from/recorded as 0009, a layer of mixed grey, orange and yellowish-grey silty-sand (which is thought to probably be the same as layer 0001). The western end of the section, which encompassed layer 0009 and cut 0010, was very poorly lit and was therefore hard to record clearly. The cut was thought to be a pit or post hole as its position close to boundaries and buildings indicated that it was unlikely to be a ditch. Its width also suggests it was unlikely to have been a post hole. The lack of clarity over the feature's fill and subsequently its stratigraphic position makes dating the feature difficult, although it is thought likely to pre-date or be contemporary with layer 0009.</p>
Layer 0001/0009	<p>Layer 0001 was a 0.3m thick deposit of mottled patches of pale yellow chalky-sandy-silt and brown sandy-silt. In two places chalk lenses ran through it at different levels, which may have been the remnants of disturbed surfaces. Layer 0009 was a similar context, consisting of mixed patches of mid-dark grey, dark orange and pale yellowish-grey sandy-silt, also with a small lens of chalk. Both layers contained small CBM fragments and are probably the same material. However, it was difficult to be sure of this as context 0009 was within the poorly-lit part of the section. These layers are interpreted as having been mixtures of degraded mortar, presumably from demolition and build-ups of refuse, perhaps with short-lived chalk surfaces.</p>
Post holes 0003 and 0017	<p>Post hole 0017 cut layer 0001 and was filled with material that was indistinguishable from layer 0002. The feature had sloping, slightly irregular sides and a flat, fairly wide base. Despite the similarity of its fill to layer 0002, it was noticeably covered with pieces of abbey stone and brick fragments. It was therefore interpreted as having been open only shortly before the abbey stone foundation construction (associated with layer 0002 and the timber range). Then it was backfilled with 0002 as well as being covered and partially infilled with stone and brick to stop slumping. The feature was cut into chalk subsoil, which would have made an ideal base for a post hole and it may have functioned as a scaffold feature during the construction of the existing building.</p> <p>Near the eastern end of the section was a rather poorly-defined cut thought to be another post hole. It had vertical sides, which curved sharply to a flat base. Similarly to post hole 0017 the fill was indistinguishable from layer 0002, suggesting that the cut had backfilled whilst this material formed.</p>
Layer 0002	<p>Layer 0002 formed a significant part of the recorded section and was made up of dark greyish-brown sandy-silt with charcoal, CBM and flint inclusions. There were also twenty pieces of abbey stone and 5 brick fragments within the matrix. This appears to be a loosely formed rubble and soil foundation for the timber range above.</p>
Layer 0005	<p>This layer consisted entirely of a thin lens of pale yellow sandy-mortar. It overlaid some of the abbey stone and clearly formed a setting for the range above. It was unclear whether it was associated with the timber range, or the later post-medieval alterations to the building.</p>
Structure 0018	<p>A brick structure was located at the west end of the section. It consisted of a course of a floor brick laid as a stretcher, below two larger bricks laid as headers, and so on for another six courses. The bricks were obviously reused and somewhat damaged. It was not clear due to bad lighting how this structure related to the abbey stone and brick immediately to the west, though it may well have been contemporary. It is unclear what purpose such a feature performs in the section, although it may have related to the end of the timber range above.</p>

Table 2. Contexts within Section 2

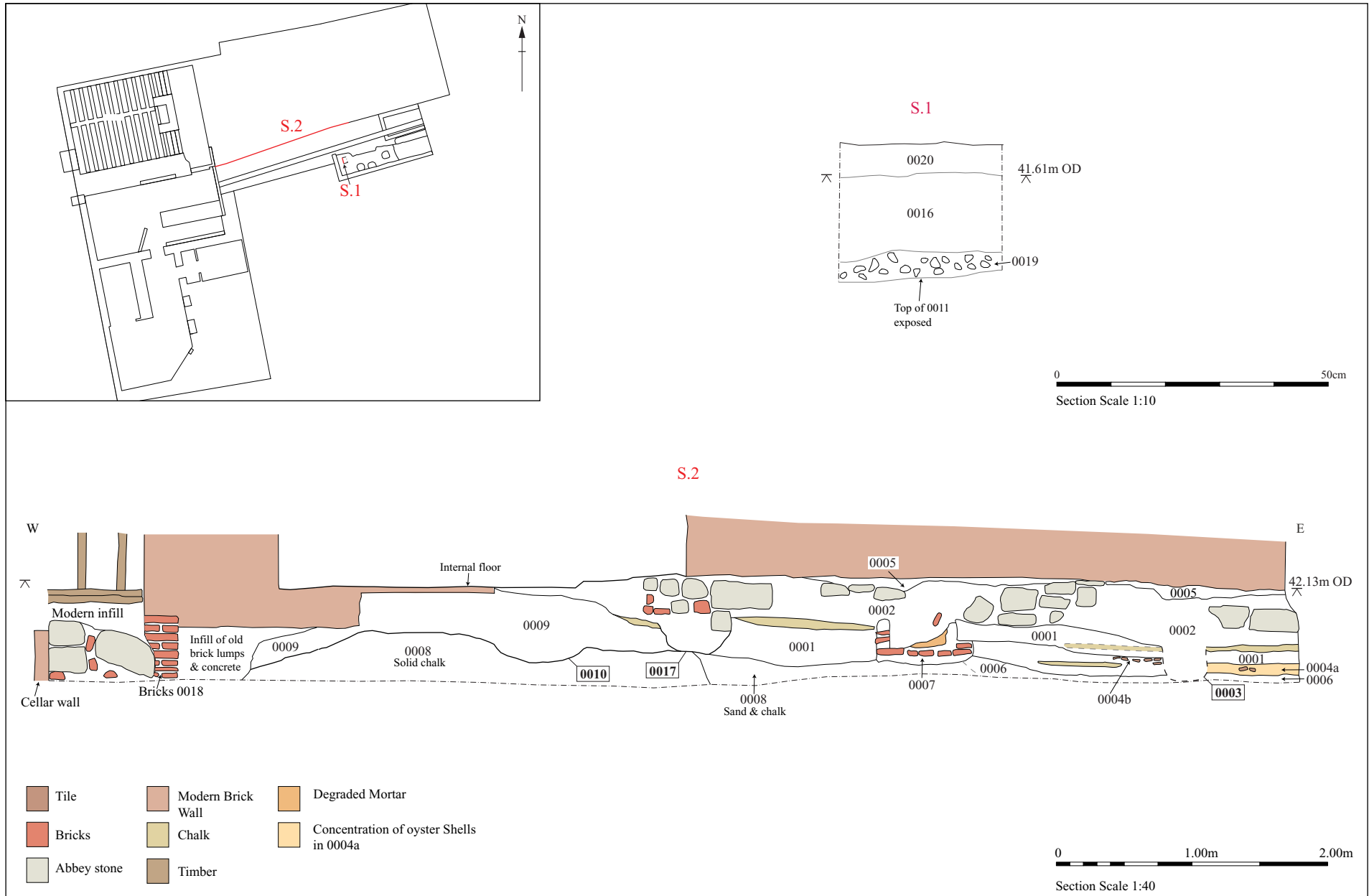


Figure 4. Sections

### 5.3 Cellar recording

The cellar consisted of four rooms that fit within the building layout shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2). It ran beyond the full width of 4 Hatter Street's frontage, with Rooms 3 and 4 extending into the main cinema building to the south-east. This suggests that these rooms were originally part of a separate cellar. The structure was made up of a mixture of brick and abbey stone, with timber occasionally used within wall/supporting structures and within the ceiling. Much of the layout had been altered and repaired since its original construction (Fig. 5). The flooring varied from brick to bare earth.

#### Room 1

Entrance to the cellar was via a trapdoor in the ceiling of Room 1 onto a small platform, which led to the main part of the room down sets of steps, which ran under brick archways, flanking a fireplace foundation. It was the largest individual room, measuring 7.6m (WSW-ENE) x 4.9m (NNW-SSE). The walls were largely constructed of painted/white washed brick with some abbey stone. The ceiling consisted of ornate molded joists with chamfered edges and stops carved with a leaf motif. These were clearly of higher quality than would have originally been used in a cellar (PI. 4). The joists running across the width of the roof were also slightly somewhat too short for the room and as such it is clear that these timbers were reused, probably from the room above. The main central bridging beam ran WSW-ENE in this room and was also molded, with five later iron hooks attached (PI. 5). A small half-light window recess ran out from the west side of the cellar under Hatter Street, which was externally paved over.

#### Room 2

Room 2 was constructed of unpainted brick and abbey stone. It measured 7.7m (WSW-ENE) x 3.8m (NNW-SSE) and had been heavily repaired with post-medieval and modern brick and timber supports. A single passage led onto Room 4, although another had clearly also been bricked-up at some point. On the west edge of the room a smaller recess to that seen in Room 1 ran out under Hatter Street.

### Room 3

A small room ran off the east side of Room 4, which was constructed of soft red brick and soft pale mortar, with abbey stone blocks. It measured 3.6m (WSW-ENE) x 1.9m (NNW-SSE), consisted of two subdivisions, and had a rounded vaulted ceiling (Pl. 6). The floor had also been partially compartmentalised by a series of upstanding brick enclosures, suggesting it had been a storage area.

### Room 4

Room 4 had the most complex layout, essentially forming a U-shape and measuring 7.2m (NNW-SSE) x 4.4m (WSW-ENE). A noticeably higher amount of abbey stone had been used in the construction of this part of the cellar, although many varied bricks were still present. When entering the room in the area next to Room 3, the ceiling was vaulted in a gently rounded arch form, similar to that in Room 3. This construction style was also present in the area of Room 4 immediately to the west. However, the southern half of the room's roof had been removed and replaced with a flat concrete construction. This suggested a large amount of alteration had taken place in this area, as was further indicated by the two bricked-up arches present in the western wall, which may show that originally the cellar extended underneath the street (Pl. 7). There were several other features of particular note within this room, the first of which was a reused and heavily weathered Norman column inset within the south-east wall. It is of similar style to those still present on the Norman Tower within the town centre today (Pls. 8 and 9). There were also two chutes or half-lights immediately north of this, which presumably show the position of the original external wall of the above-ground building (Pl. 10).



Figure 5. Plan of cellar and chalk surface

## 5.4 Timber roof structure

David Gill

The hall range at the rear of the building retains its original, late medieval, crown post roof (Pls. 11 and 12). The rear range (and the roof ridge) runs at right-angles to (what would have been) a cross-wing at the front of the building which paralleled the street. The once open roof has been enclosed by the insertion of a ceiling; the roof space was inaccessible and unlit and was recorded quickly by a series of snap-shots through a small hatch.

The roof is typical of a crown-post type, built without purlins and each pair of opposing common rafters joined together close to the apex by pegged collars. The collars sit on a crown-plate, a long timber that runs longitudinally down the centre-line of the roof, supported on vertical crown posts which are jointed into the top of the tie-beams. Pairs of arch braces between the crown post and crown plate prevent the roof from 'wracking'; the bracing runs only longitudinally and the roof was built without transverse braces between the crown post and collar. The roof was originally hipped at the eastern end (rear). The hip was enclosed when the building was lengthened but the sloping rafters and the battens of the former roof have been left in place. The pitch of the roof is about 45° indicating that it was likely to have been tiled but the battens on which they would have been are set quite far apart. At the west end, where the roof would have joined the roof of the front cross-wing, there is no brace (or mortise for one) on the west side of the crown post where it must have butted against another feature. From this point westward (forward) the rafters have been replaced with sawn pine. The roof would have been originally open to the floor below but there was no sign of sooting to any of the timbers.

The roof dates to no later than the start of the 16th century. They are most often found within urban contexts and because of this are associated with the merchant class. In wealthier buildings the crown posts would be decorated with carved mouldings, but here they were plain square-sectioned and unadorned, suggesting that the building was either modest or the posts were not a prominent part of the building.



## 6. Discussion

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The monitoring revealed several elements to the site's later medieval to post-medieval development. Where the soil stratigraphy remained undisturbed by later activity there were several archaeological deposits surviving in the area of the groundworks. The uppermost of these was the base of the 16th century timber range, which sat on top of the section that had been bricked over. Immediately underlying this and layer 0005, deposit 0002 contained reused abbey stone. This building material would have been obtained during one of the many rebuilds and changes to the monastic buildings throughout the medieval period and does not closely date this layer. However, the reused column recorded in the cellar is 12th century in style (Gill, 2012).

Several of the remaining deposits indicate that the site was laid out and functioned differently prior to the construction of the overlying timber range, including the presence of several surfaces and occupation/demolition deposits. A number of chalk deposits indicate surfaces being laid out in the area, presumably showing that the site was used as a yard area to the rear of the property. Chalk layer 0016 (Section 1) appears to correspond fairly closely in terms of its level with the chalk lens recorded within deposit 0001 (Section 2). This suggests that they are part of the same context and that the chalk surface covered at least all of this area, if not the whole area to the rear of the property. Layer 0019 presumably acted as a screed and consolidating layer above midden deposit 0011. Layer 0004 is slightly enigmatic; it is unclear whether this was a purposefully created layer of tile and oyster shell (perhaps a screed for a now truncated floor surface), or a demolition and occupation soil mix. The role of structure 0007 within the section is uncertain, but it does suggest a different function for that particular part of the site. The postholes within Section 2, as well as those cut through chalk surface 0016 also indicate a different layout or use for the site, although they could equally be scaffold supports for the construction of the existing structures.

The medieval/post-medieval cellar is a well-preserved example of such a structure. Its layout is interesting due to its complexity, and it is likely that it was originally the cellar for two properties, as it bridges the existing property boundary to the south-east. The presence of the chutes/half-light windows probably show that the above ground structure was originally laid out differently to match the position of these, although Room

3 extends well beyond them to the east-north-east. The vaulted arches within Room 4 show that the cellar at one time extended under Hatter Street, which is not unusual for medieval cellars. Its construction date is uncertain, although the presence of reused abbey stone would again suggest a post-dissolution date, or that repairs/alterations were made to the structure after this time. The presence of the reused Norman column within Room 4 is of aesthetic interest, but it does not help to date the cellar further. Of particular note within the cellar is the presence of a near complete ceiling with molded joists used within Room 1. Their length did not match that of the room's width and it would be unusual to see such ornate material used within a cellar. As such they were clearly reused and may have been taken from the above-ground building when it was modified during the various alterations that have clearly befallen the building since its original construction.

The timber roof structure is in keeping with the archaeological deposits as a whole, indicating an open hall, which is no later than first half of the 16th century and probably belonged to a merchant. However, the construction was not as ornate as might otherwise be expected in comparison with the timbers recorded in Room 1 in the cellar. This may show that they were retrieved from a part of the structure that was more clearly visible than the roof timbers.

## **7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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The groundwork monitoring and structural records made during these works have revealed the survival of a later medieval L-plan timber building with an open hall and cellar, as well as a yard, all of which have been modified on several occasions during their lifespan. There was also evidence for earlier features and deposits surviving within the section underneath the rear range which suggested earlier structures, and occupation or demolition layers.

The level of preservation indicated by these works, even in areas that may appear to possibly be disturbed, indicates the potential for the survival of important archaeological deposits within urban Bury St Edmunds.

## 8. Archive deposition

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Bury St Edmunds\BSE 377 4 Hatter Street

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HPA-HPZ\HPM 82-99 & HPN 1-35

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

## 9. Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was carried out by Rob Brooks and David Gill and directed by Rob Brooks.

Project management was undertaken by David Gill who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by David Gill and Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians. Specialist finds advice was provided by Richenda Goffin.

The report illustrations were created by Gemma Adams and Ellie Hillen and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin and David Gill.

## 10. Bibliography

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### **Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording**

#### **ABBEYGATE CINEMA AND 4 HATTER STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK**

*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*

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Partial infilling of a courtyard and the creation of conservatory is to be undertaken behind Abbeygate Cinema, York House and Number 4 Hatter Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (TL 854 641). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service will advise St Edmundsbury Borough Council that there is a need for a programme of archaeological investigation, in accordance with PPS5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3), to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset during development, before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 This proposal lies within the historic settlement core of Bury St Edmunds as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER no. BSE 241), in an area of high archaeological importance. It is located on Hatter Street, one of the main streets in the medieval grid. Excavations in the near vicinity have identified below ground medieval deposits and features (BSE 133 and BSE 128). There is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location. Any groundwork associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets.
- 1.4 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological recording during all groundworks.
- 1.5 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The 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. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'*; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern

Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>).

- 1.6 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the fieldwork, a post-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.7 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.8 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.9 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.10 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.11 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **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 significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal are any groundworks associated with this planning permission. Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping 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 archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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 this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

#### **4. Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment 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 Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.

- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.4 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.5 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.6 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.7 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.8 A 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, including, where relevant, palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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).
- 5.9 An unbound hard copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.10 Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.13 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.



5.14 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Abby Antrobus

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Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
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Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR  
Tel. : 01284 741231  
E-mail: [abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk)

Date: 14 July 2011

Reference: Bury St Edmunds/2011/Cinema

**This brief and specification remains valid for six 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. Photographic record



Plate 1. Left – Surface 0016, postholes 0012, 0013 and 0015, 2x1m scales, facing WSW

Plate 2. Above – Surface 0016 to left vaulted brick structure bottom right and section 2 following right hand wall, facing WSW



Plate 3. Western half of structure 0007, showing vertical wall stub going down to horizontal base



Plate 4. Molded timber in Room 1



Plate 5. Above – Molded timber in Room 1 with iron hooks

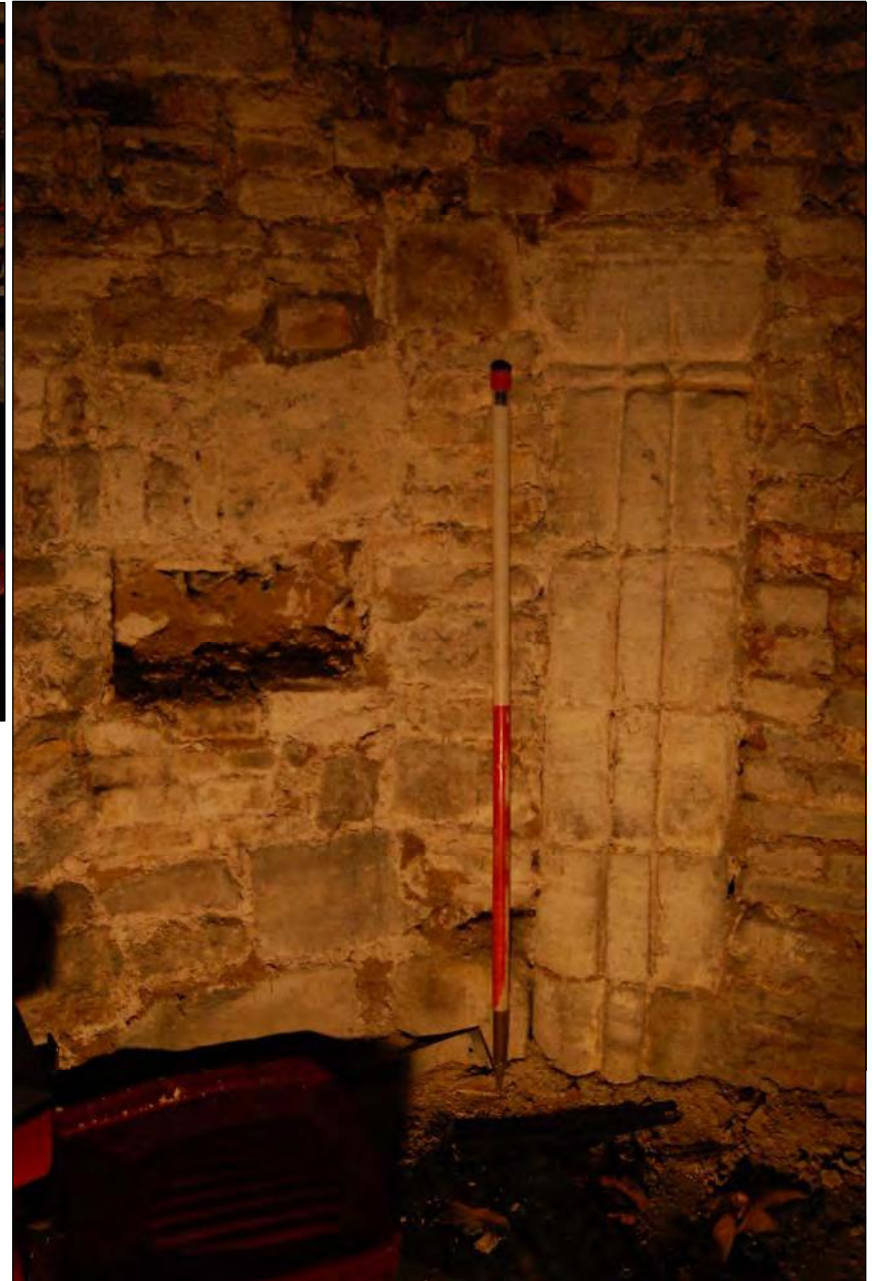
Plate 6. Right – Room 3 showing subdivisions in layout, vaulted ceiling, and brick floor divisions





Plate 7. Above – Room 4, bricked-up archways, facing WSW

Plate 8. Right – Room 4, Norman column with 1m scale, facing SE



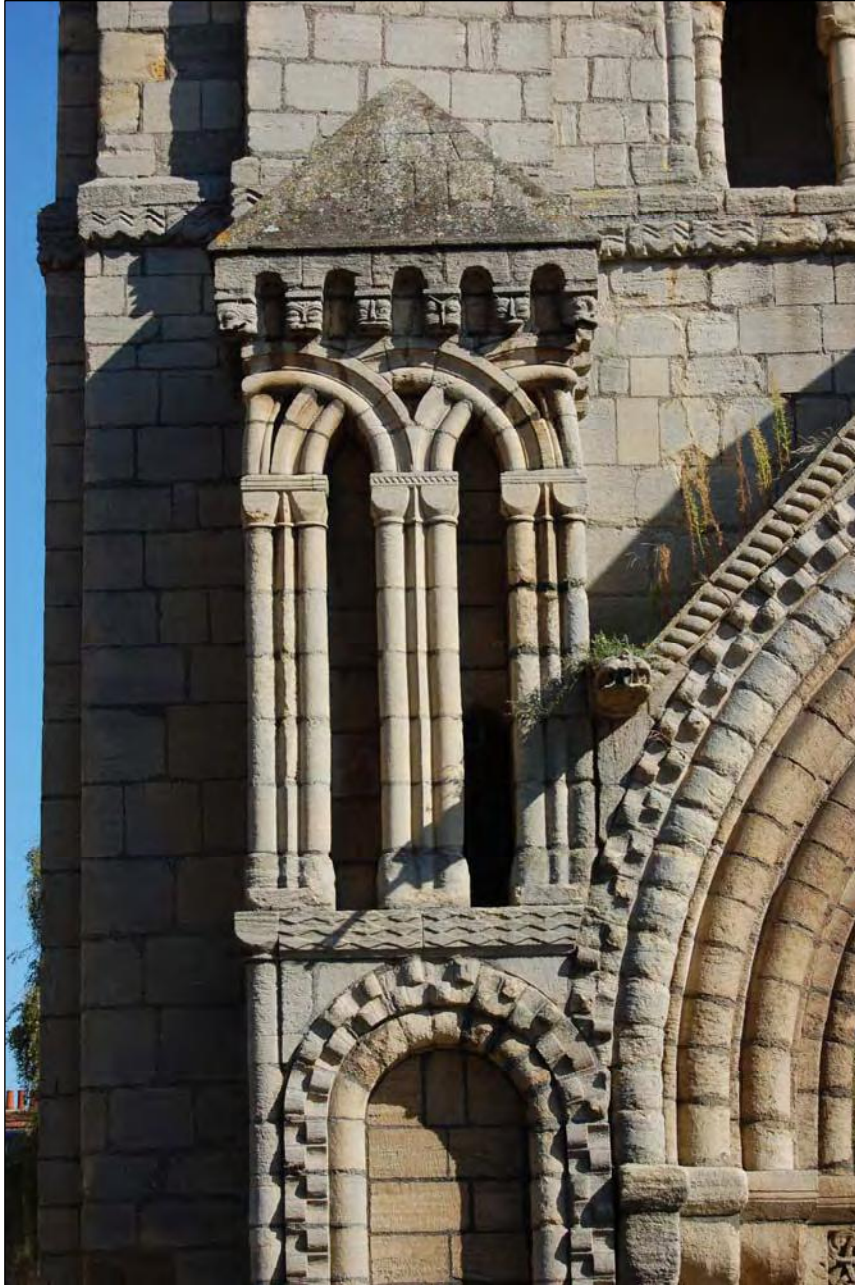


Plate 9. Left – Norman tower showing columns similar to that in Room 4

Plate 10. Above – Chutes/half-lights in Room 4, 2x1m scales, facing NE



Plate 11. Left – rear hall range roof structure

Plate 12. Above – rear hall range roof structure, showing crown post (central to photo), as well as hipped roof and brick extension (at rear of photo)



## Appendix 3. OASIS form

**OASIS ID: suffolkc1-111370**

### Project details

Project name	BSE 377 Abbeygate Cinema and 4 Hatter Street monitoring
Short description of the project	A monitoring was carried out at 4 Hatter Street and Abbeygate Picture House, Bury St Edmunds, in Suffolk. This involved the recording of a section and small excavated area between the two buildings, which revealed evidence of postholes, floor/yard surfaces, occupation and demolition soils, other cut features and a brick structure, all of which were late medieval. Many of these were overlaid by the extant early 16th century timber building that still occupies the site. These contexts produced late medieval tile. Further to this, the cellar of the building was also recorded. This revealed an intricately shaped, four-room cellar, which contained a reused Norman column, Abbey stone and a set of ornate ceiling joists, complete with bridging beam, thought to originate from the above-ground structure. To compliment the record of the site, a brief analysis was made of an exposed area of the timber hall's roof structure. This exposed a formerly hipped-roof of an open hall, that was later extended and modified to have a gable end. The analysis of the building as a whole has revealed that the property of 4 Hatter Street was originally an L-plan timber framed building, with a front range that ran parallel to the street (presumably with a shop below and chambers above) and an open hall running at right angles to this, running back from the street.
Project dates	Start: 27-09-2011 End: 11-10-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BSE 377 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BSE 377 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SE/11/0909 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2011/172 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	POST HOLE Medieval
Monument type	POST HOLE Post Medieval

Monument type	LAYER Medieval
Monument type	LAYER Post Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK STRUCTURE Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Prompt	Research

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS BSE 377 Abbeygate Cinema and 4 Hatter Street Monitoring
Postcode	IP33 1LZ
Study area	177.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 854 641 52 0 52 14 36 N 000 42 57 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Abby Antrobus
Project director/manager	Andrew Tester
Project supervisor	Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architect on behalf of client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Haysom Ward Miller on behalf of Abbeygate Picturehouse

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Archive ID	BSE 377
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Archive ID	BSE 377
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "other"

Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	BSE 377
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Abbeygate Cinema and 4 Hatter Street, Bury St Edmunds, BSE 377, Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brooks, R.
Other bibliographic details	SCCAS Report No. 2011/172
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A4, comb-bound, white cover, in colour, with four appendices (also available as a pdf)
Entered by	Rob Brooks (rob.brooks@suffolk.gov.uk)
Entered on	20 June 2012

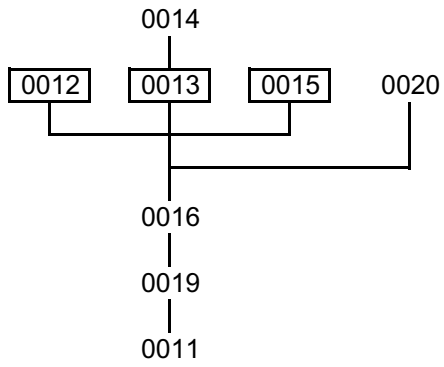
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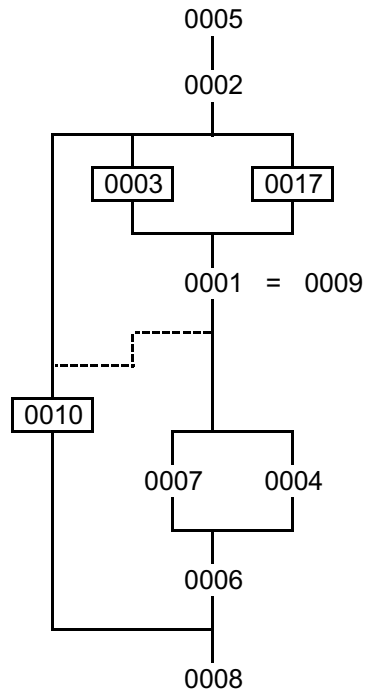
## Appendix 4. Matrix

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Surface 0016 and associated contexts



Contexts within Section 2







# Archaeological services Field Projects Team

**Delivering a full range of archaeological services**

- Desk-based assessments and advice
- Site investigation
- Outreach and educational resources
- Historic Building Recording
- Environmental processing
- Finds analysis and photography
- Graphics design and illustration

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