

Risbygate Street Car Park, Bury St
Edmunds
BSE 390

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/085

Client: Havebury Housing Partnership

Author: Simon Cass

July 2012

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Risbygate Street Car Park, Bury St Edmunds BSE 390

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/085

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Report Date: July 2012

HER Information

Site Code: BSE 390

Site Name: Risbygate Street Car Park, Bury St Edmunds

Report Number 2012/085

Planning Application No: Pre-planning

Date of Fieldwork: 30/05/12 – 01/06/12

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Curatorial Officer: Abby Antrobus

Project Officer: Simon Cass

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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.

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Date: 20/07/2012

Approved By: Jo Caruth

Position: Contracts Manager

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

Three trenches were excavated in order to investigate the archaeological potential of a site at Risbygate Street car park, Bury St Edmunds. The trenching exposed at least five pits, two wells, one of which was flint and mortar lined and numerous postholes representing several phases of occupation from the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The features are buried by rubble which covered the entire site and was directly over the natural subsoil. Below the rubble the archaeology is vulnerable to any development of the site and a programme of open area excavation has been recommended.

1. Introduction

As part of the pre-planning process for the potential development of a disused car park at Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Havebury Housing Partnership commissioned Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team (SCCAS/FT) to undertake initial archaeological investigations on site. A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) by SCCAS in 2009 concluded that there was good potential for there to be medieval or later archaeological deposits within the site boundary. A Brief and Specification for this work which details the requirements for the evaluation (included as Appendix 1) was issued by Dr. Abby Antrobus of SCCAS Conservation Team (dated 20/10/2011) and a Written Scheme of Investigation was agreed upon prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on the flank of a hill overlooking the valley floor of the River Lark at a height of between 50m and 45m AOD, descending towards the north-east. The underlying geology is defined (according to the British Geological Survey) as chalky drift and chalks, tending towards well-drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble with occasional deep non-calcareous loamy soils in places.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The DBA produced by SCCAS in 2009 suggested that there was a significant likelihood of archaeological remains being present with the site dating from the medieval period onwards, noting that Risbygate Street, while outside the town walls, was the main road leading to a major gate in the walls. Documentary and previous archaeological records have shown that the Risbygate Street area was a well-developed suburb by the early medieval period with dense street-front residential and commercial occupation, likely to be similar in nature to that found within the historic urban core. BSE 153 refers to surviving medieval floor levels observed to the north-east of the site, and BSE 161 represents a monitoring that encountered a medieval pit and pottery. For a more in-depth summary, see Rolfe 2009, SCCAS report no. 2009/002.

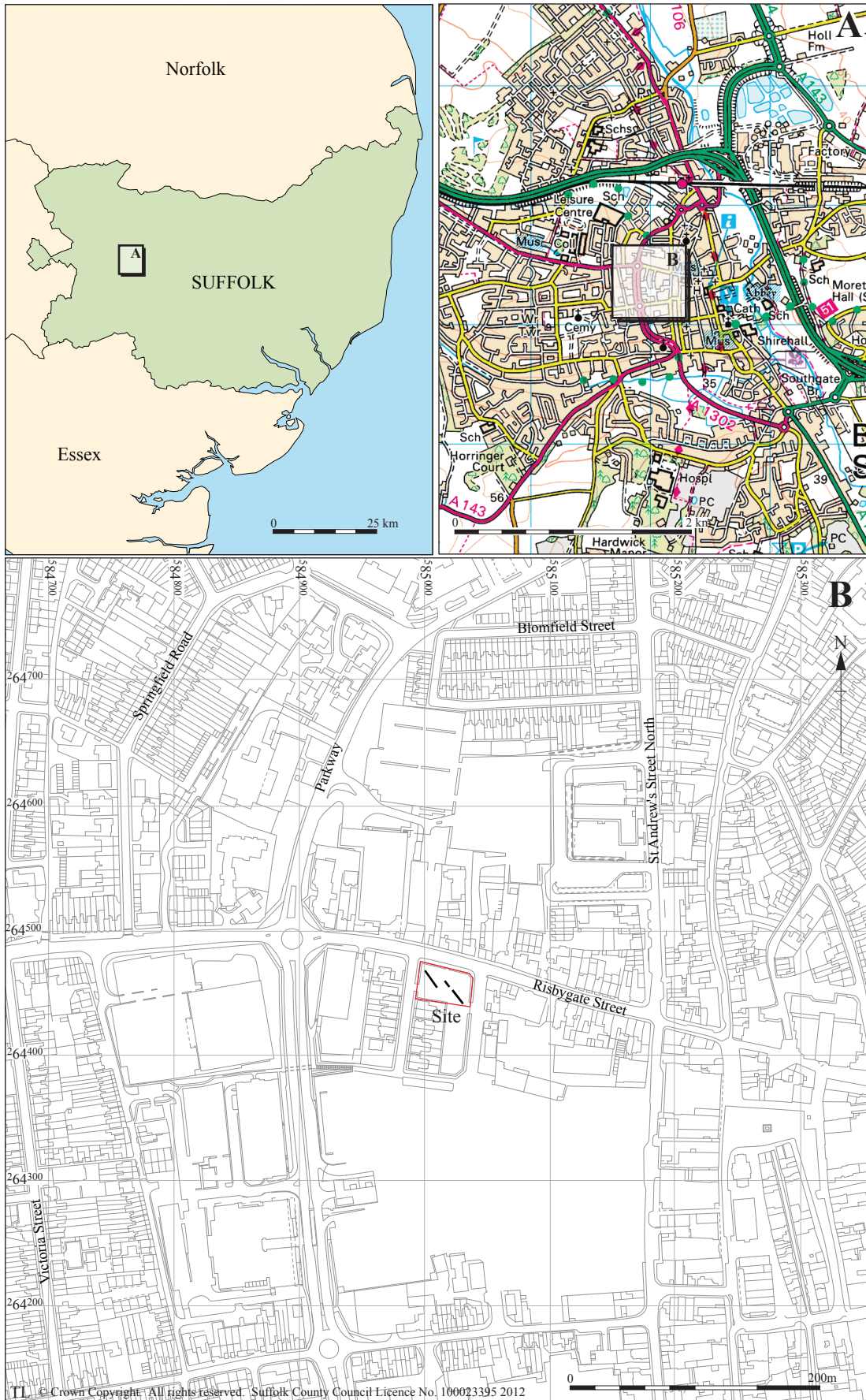


Figure 1. Location of site showing development area (red) and trenches (black)



Figure 2. Detailed trench location plan showing archaeological features

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that the development area be subject to trial trenching across c.5% of the site. Three trenches were excavated in areas thought most likely to have been disturbed by the old St James's Schools building, the vicinity of the Hare and Hounds Inn towards the centre of the site and a trench across the garden area to the rear of the roadside housing visible on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map of the town drains. These trenches were all 1.6m wide and 14m, 6m and 17m long respectively, orientated approximately north-west/south-east (Fig. 2). The trenches were initially sited by hand measuring from established reference points visible on Ordnance Survey maps of the site and, once excavated, were digitally surveyed using a TST and surveyed in to historic buildings nearby that are also present on the 1886 map.

The trench was excavated by a 360⁰ mechanical tracked excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket after the tarmac overburden was broken up using a machine-mounted pecker. All machining was under the control and supervision of an experienced archaeologist and overburden was removed until the first significant archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered. A thorough check of the proposed trench positions was made using a CAT scanner in order to check for any buried services that may have still been live within the site.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital SLR camera. The trenches and upcast spoil were metal detected during the excavations.

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project.

5. Results

5.1 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was 14m long, 1.8m wide and up to 1.1m deep, orientated approximately northwest/southeast and situated towards the south-eastern corner of the site. The general stratigraphy encountered consisted of up to 0.1m of modern tarmac and hogging over a layer of red brick demolition rubble (believed to relate to demolition undertaken on the site in the 1930's of the then St James's School) which overlay approximately 0.1m of mid brown clayey sand with frequent chalk and demolition material inclusions. This trench contained several features, consisting of well 0020 (possibly with construction cut 0021) and three square pits (0004, 0025 and 0027). Excavation of features in the deepest part of the trench was constrained by the trench depth and the significant risk of partial collapse of the loose brick rubble deposit.

Well 0020 was a mainly chalk, flint and CBM mortared circular structure (though only a small amount of the feature was within the trench), cutting through pit 0021 to the east. The internal fills were mixed where visible in section and the feature survived to approximately 0.1m below the current surface and had a diameter in excess of 1.55m (the maximum exposed within the trench). While there was no well marked on the early Ordnance Survey maps of the site, the height of the well wall suggests that it was at least on a level with the late 19th century ground surface, if not standing proud of it (visible in Pl.1)

Pit 0021 appeared to be sub-square in plan, though as there was significant truncation of this feature it is possible it was more circular originally, with c.70 degree slightly concave sides apart from the north side which curved to c.45 degrees near to the drawn section. The feature was not fully excavated, but measured 1.35m by 0.85m by at least 0.35m deep and was found to cut pit 0027 to the east. Initially, this pit was thought to possibly be a construction cut for well 0020, though after excavation this was thought to be less likely (though further excavation will be required to entirely prove or disprove this).

Pit 0004 was a roughly square feature with rounded corners, vertical sides; it was not bottomed due to the combined depth of the trench and feature. It measured 1.34m by 1.14m and was excavated to 0.35m below the trench floor. The fill was a pale creamy brown hard chalky clay with moderate medium-sized flint nodules, and it was visibly similar to a pit found at Baxter Street (Tester 2001) previously. The finds from this feature are of 13th – 15th century in date and are suggestive of a general refuse pit.

Pit 0025 was a possibly square pit with rounded corners, moderately angled concave sides with a curved break of slope to a concave base, measuring at least 1.4m by in excess of 0.34m (the visible area exposed in the trench) which was 0.4m deep. It survived immediately beneath deposits relating to the previous use of the site as a school. The upper of the two fills of this feature contained post-medieval tile fragments, no finds were recovered from the lower fill.

Pit 0027 was square in plan with rounded corners, very steep/near vertical sloped sides and the base was not exposed (again due to combined trench/feature depths). It measured 1.26m by at least 1.06m and was excavated to 0.3m below the trench floor, and was filled with a firm compacted pale brownish-grey sandy clay with common small chalk nodules, rare charcoal flecks and small stones. Voids observed in the fills were thought to possibly indicate the feature was a well, but these are now believed to be more likely to represent rapid backfilling with uncompacted material. Medieval artefacts were recovered within two of the fills of the feature and in general terms it seems similar to pit 0004 and seems likely that it had a similar function.



Plate 1. Trench 1 showing well 0020 in section, facing south-west (2 x 1m scales)



Plate 2. Trench 1 showing pit 0027, facing north-east (2 x 1m scales)



Plate 3. Trench 1 showing section across 0021 and 0027, facing north-west (1m scale)

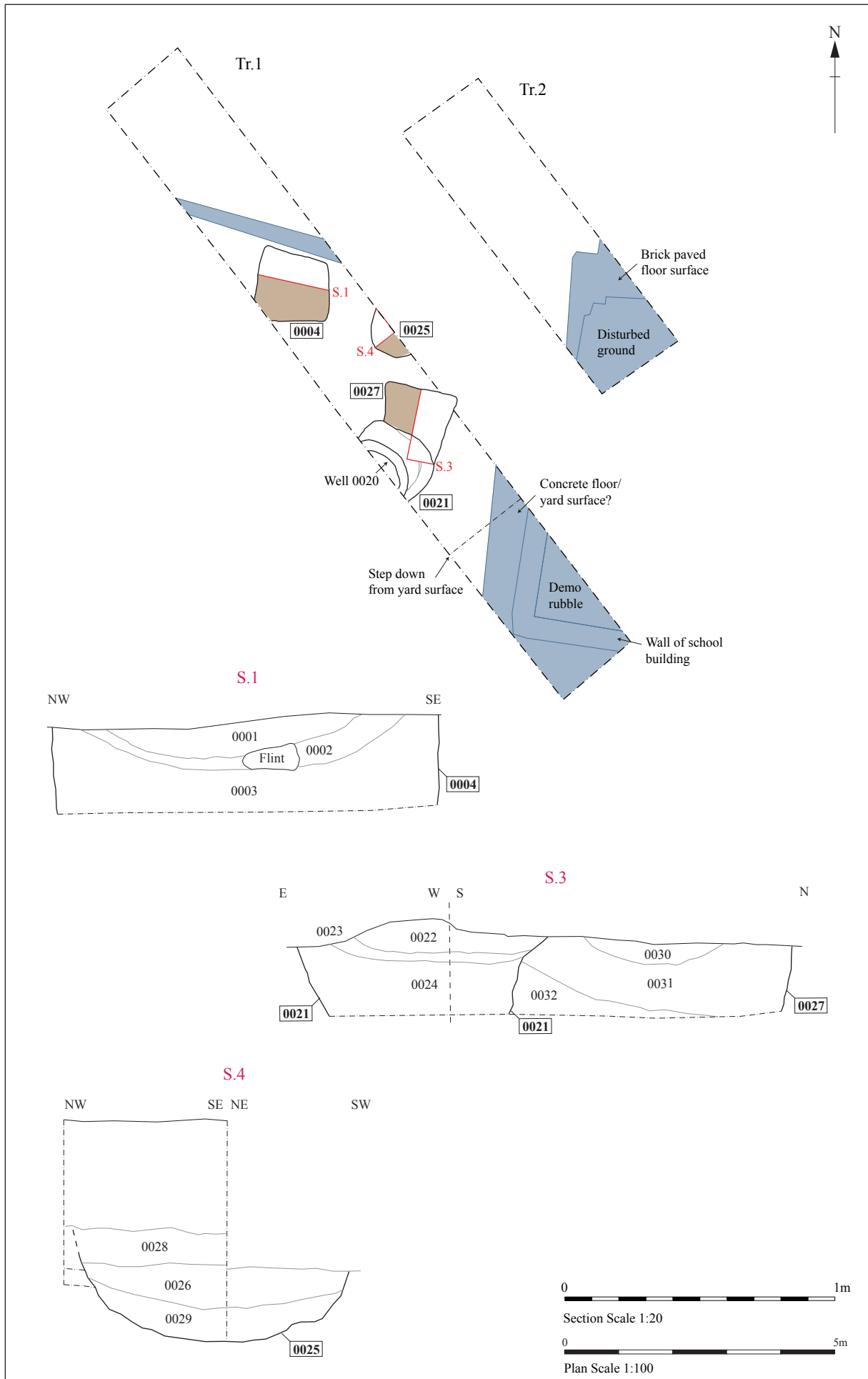


Figure 3. Trenches 1 and 2 plans and sections

Trench 2

This trench was 6m long, 1.8m wide and c. 0.45m deep, orientated northwest/southeast towards the centre of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.1m of tarmac and hogging over 0.35m of red brick demolition rubble, sealing natural creamy brown chalky till. While no archaeological features survived in the trench, an area of brick paving was noted towards the southern end of the trench, believed to correspond with the area of the old Hare and Hounds Inn which was demolished along with the school in the 1930's. A large disturbance through this surface was noted towards the end of the trench (visible at the bottom of Pl.4) but not investigated further at this time. These bricks appear to have been set directly into the natural clays and no traces of surviving walling or foundations were located. This does raise the possibility that there may be surviving structural remains of the inn, whether just floor layers or possibly wall stubs and/or a cellar (if one was present).

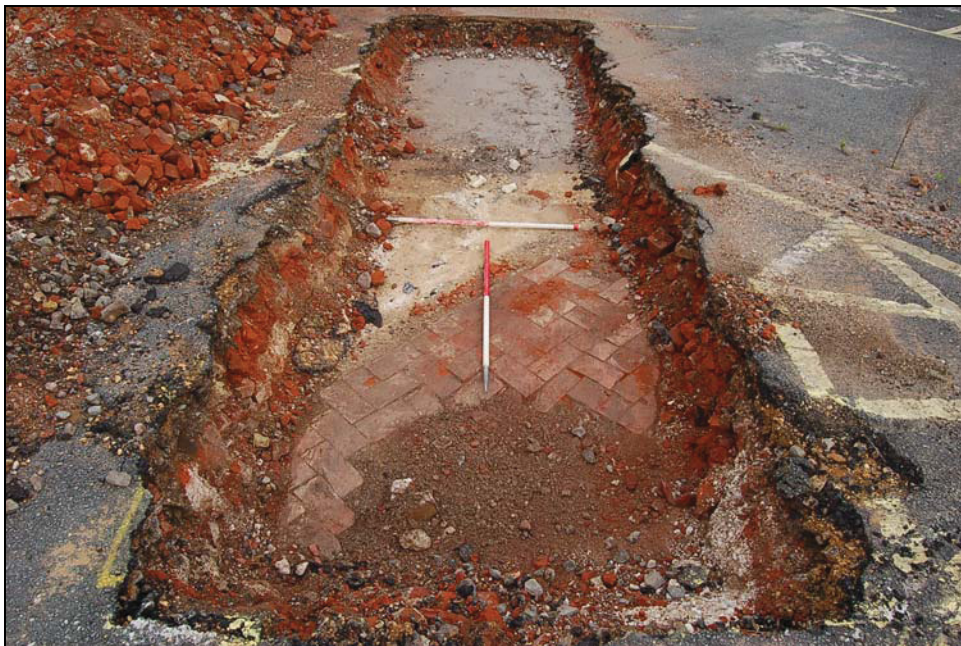


Plate 4. Trench 2 facing northwest, showing brick floor (2 x 1m scales)

Trench 3

This trench was 17m long, 1.8m wide and generally approximately 0.4m deep, orientated northwest/southeast, extending out from the north-western corner of the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.05m of tarmac over 0.15m of red brick demolition rubble which in turn overlay a deposit up to 0.2m thick of well compacted mid greyish yellow-brown clayey silty sand with frequent chalk flecking, flints and stones and CBM inclusions (recorded as deposit 0033) believed to be the remains of a subsoil layer. This sealed natural geology consisting of yellow-brown sandy clays to the northwest which became more chalky clays to the southeast.

Numerous archaeological features were encountered within this trench, including one well (visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey map covering the site but potentially originally much earlier in origin), two pits of approximately 1.0m diameter and ten postholes. Finds were recovered from the surface of some of the pits and a selection of postholes was excavated. The postholes were selected in order to investigate visibly different fills where possible, since it appeared that several of them contained similar deposits and were assumed to be related.

Posthole 0006 was a square posthole with near-vertical sides to a shallow concave/flattish base (0.27m x 0.3m and 0.22m deep), orientated approximately square on to Risbygate Street and filled with a pale creamy brown hard chalky clay with moderate medium-sized flint nodules. CBM and shell fragments were found as well as a short segment of clay pipe stem in the fill but these finds were not closely dateable other than being of 17th century or later date.

Posthole 0008 was a circular posthole in the centre of the trench, towards the north-western end. It had steep-sloped sides to a shallow concave base and was 0.3m in diameter and 0.2m deep, filled with a mid greenish grey chalk-flecked clay. Bone and shell fragments were recovered from this feature, though they were not dateable.

Posthole 0010 was a circular posthole with steep-sloped sides to a concave base, with a diameter of 0.4m and a depth of 0.22m, filled with a firm mid/dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional small/medium flints and stones and chalk flecks

Posthole 0011 was a small circular posthole adjacent to 0006, 0.3m in diameter and with a similar fill to 0008. It was not excavated at this stage.

Posthole 0012 was a suspected posthole in the vicinity of 0011 and 0006 with a sub-rectangular shape in plan and a loosely compacted fill (possibly of modern/post-medieval origin).

Posthole 0013 was a circular posthole close to 0006, 0011 and 0012, approximately 0.4m in diameter which contained a similar fill to that in posthole 0014. Small fragments of slag were retrieved from the surface of this feature, but were not dateable.

Posthole 0014 was a small posthole adjacent to 0008, c.0.2m diameter and was filled with a mixed dark greyish brown sandy clay with moderate small flints and stones.

Pit 0015 was a roughly circular pit, 0.8m in diameter, situated towards the centre of Trench 3. It appeared to be cut through an area of charred/burnt natural around its north and eastern sides but no charred material/charcoal was visible in the fill of the feature, suggesting that the fill postdates and is unrelated to the firing event. It was filled with a mid/pale greyish brown silty clay with moderate small-medium sized flints and stones. The charring appeared to be a thin discolouration of the natural geological deposit, suggestive of an *in-situ* firing event, though no evidence of structure survival was seen for this during trench excavation.

Posthole 0016 was a square-ish chalk-filled posthole very similar in character to posthole 0006. It is possible that it had been slightly disturbed by feature 0017, since there was some distortion of the shape of the feature on the surface.

Pit 0017 was an irregular possible spread or pit with an approximately triangular shape (one rounded right-angled corner, two straight edges and one irregular edge). There was a very soft loose-filled circular cut in the centre of this feature which is believed to be a geotechnical borehole or similar modern disturbance. While no finds were recovered from this feature – the presence of modern intrusive activity would have cast doubt on their usefulness for dating the feature.

Pit 0018 was a roughly circular pit, approximately 0.8m in diameter with a similar fill to 0015. It seems likely that these pits may have been related in date or function.

Well 0034 at the southern end of the trench was not excavated at this time since the uppermost layers are undoubtedly of late 19th/early 20th century origin. It had a rectangular structure, laid in brick, and survived below the red-brick demolition rubble layer.



Plate 5. Trench 3 posthole 0008, facing south-east (0.3m scale)



Plate 6. Trench 3 showing centre of trench facing north-west (2 x 1m scales)



Plate 7. Trench 3 posthole 0006 and postholes 0011, 0012 and 0013, facing south-east (0.3m scale)

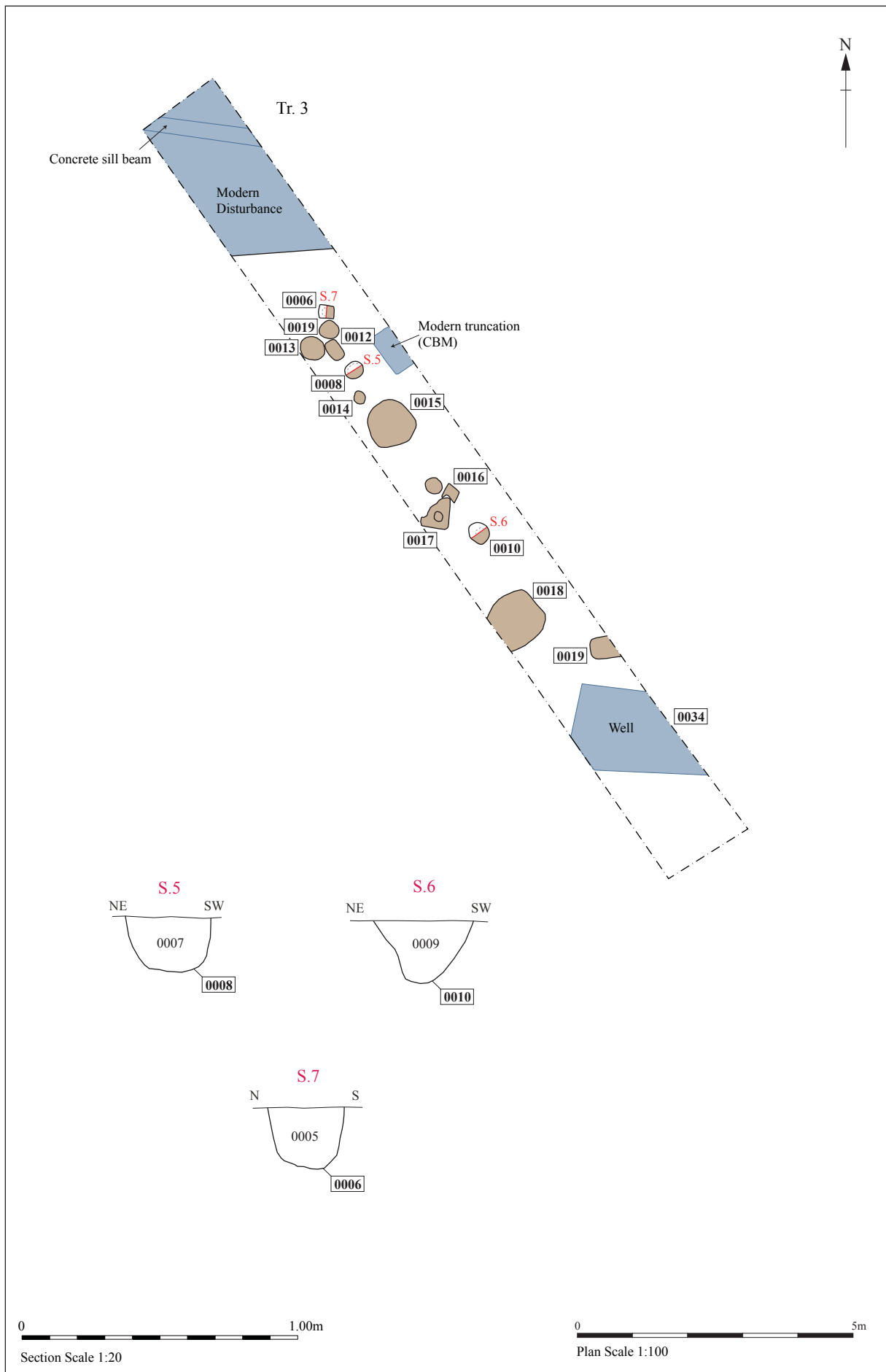


Figure 4. Trench 3 plan and sections



Figure 5. Trench locations and features over the 1880 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

6.1 Introduction

Ctxt	Pot No	Pot Wt (g)	CBM No	CBM Wt (g)	F Clay No	F Clay Wt (g)	W flint No	W flint Wt (g)	A bone No	A bone Wt (g)	Misc	Overall ctxt date
0001									1	29	1 shell @ 9g	Undated
0003	1	25	3	294			1	140	32	506	46 shell @ 391g	13th-15th C
0005			4	75							1 c pipe 1 @ 3g	17th C+
0007									2	5	1 shell @ 6g	Undated
0013											4 slag @ 421g	Undated
0018	1	2	4	154								Post-med
0022	1	3	2	13							3 shell @ 3g	Medieval?
0024	1	10							2	49		Medieval?
0026			2	26	1	10					1shell @ 5g	Late/post-med
0030	1	5			1	11			3	60		L12th-14th C
0032	2	3										L12th-14th C
0033	4	72	1	28								Post-med
Total	11	120	16	590	2	21	1	140	40	649		

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 The Pottery

Introduction

A total of eleven fragments of medieval pottery was recovered from the evaluation, weighing 120g. The assemblage was fully catalogued and the pottery in each context was recorded by fabric and form, sherd number and weight. The records were input into an access database (Appendix 3).

The codes used are based mainly on broad fabric and form types identified in *Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich* (Jennings 1981), and additional fabric types established by the Suffolk Unit (S Anderson, unpublished fabric list).

All of the pottery dates to the medieval period, although it is likely that some of the assemblage is residual as it is accompanied by later fragments of ceramic building material.

Pottery by feature

The base of a glazed medieval vessel was present in pitfill 0003 (Pit 0004 in Trench 1) dating from the late 12th-14th century. It was accompanied by fragments of medieval tile.

A sherd of Hedingham fineware was identified in fill 0022 of pit 0021 in Trench 1 with two small fragments of ceramic building material which may also be of a similar date. A large and heavily abraded medieval coarseware body sherd was found in another fill (0024) of the same feature. Further sherds of medieval coarsewares were present in the two fills (0030 and 0032) of pit 0027 which was also in Trench 1. Fill 0032 also contained a tiny sherd of coarse pottery which contained inclusions of grog and calcareous material which is likely to be prehistoric.

The largest fragment of medieval pottery came from a Medieval coarseware gritty cooking vessel which has a thickened and flat-topped rim dating from the 12th to early 13th century which was found in subsoil deposit in 0033 in Trench 3. A single body sherd of Bury Sandy fineware dating to the 12th-14th century was present as a residual element in pitfill 0018 also from the same trench.

6.3 Ceramic building material and fired clay

Sixteen fragments of ceramic building material were collected from six contexts, weighing 590g.

The substantial remains of a medieval roofing tile were identified in the fill 0003 of pit 0004 (Trench 1). It is made in an estuarine fabric and has a sub-rectangular nail hole, with evidence of the remains of a cream mortar on both flat surfaces.

Two fragments of fully oxidised roofing tile were collected from the middle fill 0026 of pit 0025 also in Trench 1. Both pieces are made in a medium sandy fabric with flint and ferrous inclusions which date to the post-medieval period. A small fragment of fine sandy fired clay which contained frequent chalk inclusions up to 4mm in length may be earlier in date.

Two small fragments of possible brick were found in fill 0022 of pit 0021 (Trench 1). They are made of a pale maroon fabric which contains occasional chalk and red clay inclusions. They may be late/post-medieval but could also possibly be medieval.

A fragment of fired clay with red clay bands and frequent chalk inclusions with linear organic impressions was recovered from the fill 0030 of pit 0027 (Trench 1) and is likely to date to the medieval period.

Four fragments of roofing tile found in the fill 0005 of posthole 0006 (Trench 3) date to the late or post-medieval period, as they are made in a fine sandy orange fabric with occasional ferrous inclusions (fsfe).

A single fragment of a stoneware pipe with semi-vitrified surfaces was recorded in subsoil deposit 0033 in Trench 3. A larger piece of the same kind of service pipe was found in pitfill 0018, together with three fragments of post-medieval roofing tile.

6.4 Worked flint

(Identification by Colin Pendleton)

A single fragment of residual worked flint was identified in pitfill 0003 (Trench 1). It is a simple core with three main flakes removed. The flint is patinated and shows some sign of battering. It is likely to be prehistoric and possibly belongs to the Mesolithic period.

6.5 Clay tobacco pipe

A single fragment of the stem of a clay pipe was recovered from the fill of posthole 0005 (Trench 3). It cannot be closely dated beyond the seventeenth century or later.

6.6 Slag

Four pieces of slag including a large lump of non-magnetic slag was present in posthole fill 0013 in Trench 3.

6.7 Animal bone

Forty fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation (649g). The largest quantity came from the medieval rubbish pit 0004 in Trench 1. Much of the bone is in poor condition and it includes large rib fragments, some of which have chop marks but

also fragments from smaller animals such as pigs and sheep. The remains of a mandible, probably a cow, were identified along with part of a bovine humerus.

Part of the lower jaw of a pig was identified in the fill 0024 of well 0020 (Trench 1). The fill 0030 of pit 0027 also in Trench 1 contained bone that may have been cooked, as well as a bovine anklebone.

6.8 Shell

Fifty-two oyster shell fragments weighing 414g were collected from five contexts. By far the largest quantity came from the fill 0003 of pit 0004 in Trench 1 with mainly single pieces recovered from the other features.

6.9 Discussion of material evidence

Medieval pottery and ceramic building material was recovered from two pits and a well in Trench 1, dating from the 12th-14th centuries. These finds have a relatively tight date range and there is no indication of any early medieval pottery, although it is considered that this part of the town had been occupied during the early medieval period even though it was beyond the town walls. The fabrics present are typical of those found in the centre of the town of Bury, consisting of regionally/locally produced coarsewares with a small quantity of glazed wares, including Hedingham ware from Essex.

Small quantities of medieval pottery were identified as likely residual elements in features in Trench 3.

Although no post-medieval pottery was identified from the evaluation, small amounts of ceramic building material of this date were recorded from features in both trenches, as well as a clay tobacco pipe stem from a posthole in Trench 3.

7. Discussion

This evaluation has demonstrated a significant medieval presence across the site as part of a long history of settlement. Although not fully excavated there is good evidence to suggest that pits 0004, 0021 and 0025 are medieval in date with pit 0027 slightly later. The range of pits and postholes in Trench 3 are harder to date, producing few

finds, but the variety of shapes and fills testify to a long occupation and point to several phases of activity.

A typical medieval urban street would have had buildings along the street frontage with outbuildings and workshops behind, with industrial features and various pits including cess pits set further back. This pattern has been demonstrated through the evaluation with a range of small pits and postholes recorded c. 10m-15m from the street in Trench 3 and with larger pits appearing between 15 and at least 25m back in Trench 1. While the street frontage has not been explored there is sufficient evidence from both Trenches 1 and 3 to suggest that there were probably buildings across the front of the site.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has shown that despite the truncation that occurs across the site medieval and early post-medieval evidence has survived, which indicate settlement along the street frontage, in addition to later post-medieval structural remains that are still preserved below the current tarmac surface. The archaeology appears at between c.0.35m-0.45m below the current car park and is covered by brick rubble from the previous levelling of the site. While the findings are not of sufficient importance to require preservation *in situ* a programme of archaeological excavation is recommendation to mitigate the damage that will be caused by development including both building and landscaping. It is expected that this further phase of archaeological work will also include recording and surveying of the surviving brick structures of the school and inn, as well as any other potential nineteenth century structural remains.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Bury St Edmunds\BSE 390 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HPA-HPZ\HPL 82-99 and HPM 1-14

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Store Location: I / 90 / 3

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass and Rob Brooks and directed by Andrew Tester. Project management was undertaken by Andrew Tester who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians and the analysis and specialist finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin and with additional specialist advice provided by Colin Pendleton.

The report illustrations were created by Gemma Adams and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

Jennings, S., 1981, *Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich*, EAA Report No 13

Tester, A., 2001, *High Baxter Street, Bury St Edmunds BSE (183). A report on the Archaeological Excavations 2001*. SCCAS Report, No. 2001/092 (unpublished)

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification**Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation**

AT

**CAR PARK ON RISBYGATE STREET/NELSON ROAD, BURY ST
EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK**

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	St Edmundsbury District Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	Pre Application
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 850 644
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Residential development - flats
AREA:	0.14ha
CURRENT LAND USE:	Car park
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Abby Antrobus Assistant Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741231 E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	20 October 2011

Summary

- 1.1 The applicant has been advised that the location of the proposed development could affect important archaeological deposits.
- 1.2 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) will be advised that the applicant is required to undertake an archaeological field evaluation prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation. This information should be incorporated in the design and access statement, in accordance with policies HE6.1, HE6.2, HE6.3 and HE7.1 of PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment*, in order for the LPA to be able to take into account the particular nature and the significance of any below-ground heritage assets at this location.
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for a

Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the LPA on archaeological issues.

- 1.4 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.5 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place.
- 1.6 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. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The site is an area of high archaeological potential, within the historic urban core of Bury St Edmunds (County Historic Environment Record BSE 241). A desk-based assessment exists for the site (James Rolfe, SCCAS Field Team report 2009/002). Although outside the 12th century town wall, the proposed development area lays on a major approach to one of the medieval gates - Risbygate Street was a well established suburb by the early medieval period with dense residential and commercial occupation along the frontage. Excavations c 50m to the west were indicative of backyard activity, including pits, ditches, a well and a kiln, with the density of features increasing towards the frontage (BSE 305). There is therefore potential for stratified urban settlement archaeology to exist on the site. It was cleared of buildings in 1937, but the level of any truncation of archaeological deposits is not known, and that associated with St James' school is demonstrated in the DBA to be localised. There are reasonable grounds to suggest that preserved remains on the site have the potential to lead to a greater understanding of the economy and development of this area. However, the development would involve groundworks that have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may exist.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 3.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
 - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Establish the suitability of the area for development.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

- 3.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
- 3.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to systematically cover 5% by area of the site (giving 67m² of trenching). These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 3.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 5.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER 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 all documentation relating to the work.
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 5.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER and in the DBA for the site.

- 5.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 5.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 5.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011.

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.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

Appendix 2 - Context List

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0001	0004		Pit Fill	Pale greyish-yellow firm sandy clay with common chalk nodules. Upper fill of 0004.			0.15				
0002	0004		Pit Fill	Mix of rounded to angular stones (50%) and mid grey friable sandy caly with a single large (0.19x0.13x >0.12m) flint nodule. Middle fill of pit 0004			0.17				
0003	0004		Pit Fill	Mid-dark grey friable but firm sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks, common large rounded flints, frequent small angular flints and three mortar patches. Layer not fully excavated due to depth of feature/trench. lowest encountered layer in pit 0004. apparently visibly similar to medieval refuse pits found elsewhere in the vicinity.			0.35				
0004	0004		Pit Cut	Square feature with rounded corners, vertical sides and not bottomed due to depth of trench/feature. Medieval pit. Finds appear to be medieval and suggestive of a refuse pit to the rear of housing. Pit cut similarly to one on Baxter(?) Street site. May be of same phase as pit 0027.	1.34	1.14	>0.35				
0005	0006		Posthole Fill	Pale creamy brown hard chalky clay with moderate medium-sized flint nodules. Posthole fill	0.27	0.3	0.22				
0006	0006		Posthole Cut	Square posthole with near-vertical sides to a shallow concave/flatish base. Orientated approximately square on to Risbygate Street. Chalk-filled posthole - late med/post-med (clay pipe stem found)	0.27	0.3	0.22				
0007	0008		Posthole Fill	Mid greenish grey chalk-flecked clay. Single fill of posthole 0008	0.3	0.3	0.2				
0008	0008		Posthole Cut	Circular posthole in centre of trench , towards north-western end. Steep sloped side sto a shallow concave base. Circular posthole	0.3	0.3	0.2				
0009	0010		Posthole Fill	Firm mid/dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional small/medium flints and stones and chalk flecks Fill of posthole 0010	0.4	0.4	0.22				
0010	0010		Posthole Cut	Circular posthole with steep sloped sides to a concave base. Posthole	0.4	0.4	0.22				
0011	0011		Posthole Cut	Circular posthole adjacent to 0006. Similar fill to 0008. Not excavated at this stage	0.3	0.3					
0012	0012		Posthole Cut	Area of suspected posthole - possibly modern/post-medieval feture. Oblongate shaped feature. Posthole	0.40	0.28					

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0013	0013		Posthole Cut	Circular posthole close to 0006. c. 0.4m diameter Posthole	0.4	0.4					
0014	0014		Posthole Cut	Small posthole adjacent to 0008. c.0.2m diameter. Posthole	0.2	0.2					
0015	0015		Pit Cut	Roughly circular pit, 0.8m diameter towards the centre of Trench 3. Appears to truncate an area of charred/burnt material around its north-eastern side but no charred material/charcoal visible in the fill of the feature. Probable refuse pit.	0.8	0.8					
0016	0016		Posthole Cut	Square-ish chalk-filled posthole - likely to be related to posthole 0006. Possibly slightly disturbed by feature 0017. Square posthole.	0.25	0.25					
0017	0017		Pit Cut	Irregular possible spread or pit with a rounded right-angled corner. Very soft loose-filled circular truncation in centre of feature believed to be a geotech borehole or similar. Pit/spread?	0.6	0.45					
0018	0018		Pit Cut	Large pit in Tr 3. c. 0.8m diameter, roughly circular shape. Similar fill to 0015. Pit	0.8	0.8					
0019	0019		Posthole Cut	Number issued to what was originally thought to be a posthole. Upon excavation this feature was found to be a shallow depression in the natural soil filled with a remnant of the sealing possible occupation debris layer, not a cut feature.							
0020	0020		Well Other	Structure number for Well in SE end of Tr1. Circular in plan but not fully exposed in trench. Vertical walls are of chalky pale creamy mortar with roughly laid flint and brick fragments. Top of a well cut within construction cut 0021. Roughly constructed - bricks used are only fragmentary and some are floor bricks. Not drawn. Well top survived immediately below tarmac/hoggin at 0.1m below surface level.	1.55	>0.6	>0.9				
0021	0021		Pit Cut	Pit. Sub-square in plan - though possibly circular (unclear within trench). 70 degree slightly concave sides, north side curves to 45 degrees near to pit section. Not bottomed. Construction cut truncates pit 0027 Shape in plan does not seem to match that of the well structure suggesting it may be an additional, unrelated, pit.	1.35	0.85	>0.36				
0022	0021		Pit Fill	Friable but firm pale/mid grey silty clay with common small rounded stones and chalk nodules. Uppermost fill surviving. Uppermost surviving fill of 0021.			0.12				
0023	0021		Pit Fill	Friable very dark grey/black silt with occasional chalk flecks and lenses of mid grey sandy silt. Middle fill of feature 0021. Burnt/ash-rich remains?			0.08				

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0024	0021		Pit Fill	Friable mid orangey brown silty sand with occasional small rounded stones and chalk flecks. Fill of feature 0021. Similar to 0031, so does this suggest that they were generated in the same way? Perhaps as a (now-redeposited) subsoil?			>0.28				
0025	0025		Pit Cut	Possibly square pit with rounded corners. 45 degree concave sides with a curved B.O.S to a concave base. Immediately beneath deposits relating to the previous use fo the site as a school. Post-medieval pit cut. Different phase of activity to 0004 and 0027 as shape in plan and section is very different. Also contained later material.	1.3	>0.36	0.4				
0026	0025		Pit Fill	Firm mid yellowish grey clayey sand with common small stones and chalk flecks. Diffuse horizon with 0029. Pit fill - contained post-med tile.			0.16				
0027	0027		Pit Cut	Square in plan with rounded corners, very steep/near vertical sloped sides, base not exposed. Medieval square pit. Probably for cess and other refuse, Similar characteristics to pit 0004. Voids observed in fills were thought to possibly indicate a well, but are more likely to represent rapid backfilling with uncompacted material. May be same phase as 0004.	1.26	>1.04	>0.3				
0028	0025		Pit Fill	Firm compacted mid greyish-yellow sandy caly with common chalk nodules, ocasional CBM flecks, Charcoal flecks and small stones Uppermost surviving fill of 0025.			0.15				
0029	0025		Pit Fill	Firm compacted mid greyish-yellow clayey sand with common small chalk nodules, and occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of pit 0025.							
0030	0027		Pit Fill	Firm compacted pale/mid yellowish-grey sandy clay with common small chalk lumps and angular stones. Fill of 0027			0.08				
0031	0027		Pit Fill	Friable mid orangish-brown silty clay wioth common small chalk nodules, occasional charcoal flecks. Celar horizon with fill below. Pit fill, very similar to 0024, possibly formed in the same way or both are remains of a redeposited top/subsoil.			>0.27				
0032	0027		Pit Fill	Firm compacted pale brownish-grey sandy clay with common small chalk nodules, rare charcoal flecks and small stones. Lowest encoutnered fill of pit 0027.			>0.2				
0033	0033		Layer	Subsoil deposit surviving in Trench 3 in places. Relict subsoil? Contained 12th-E13th C pottery sherds but they may be residual.							
0034	0034		Well	Rectangular brick-lined well visible on first edition OS map of site. Not excavated at this stage. Post-med well.							

Appendix 3. Pottery spotdates

Context N	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Sherd No	Weight (g)	State	Comments	Fabric date rang	Context date
0003	MED	UPG	BASE	1	25			L12th-14th C	
0018	MED	BSFW	BODY	1	2			112th-14th C	
0022	MED	HFW	BODY	1	3		Clear lead glaze	M12th-M13th C	
0024	MED	MCW	BODY	1	10	A	Oxid ext margin. Sandy w red clay pellets	L12th-14th C	
0030	MED	MCW	BODY	1	5			L12th-14th C	
0032	PRE?	PREH	BODY	1	1	AA	Tiny fragment of prehistoric pottery		
0032	MED	MCW	BODY	1	2	AB		L12th-14th C	
0033	MED	MCWG	CP/JA	3	72	S	Rim/upper pt of cp. Hd-fired, oxid, thickened	12th-E13th C	

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