

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2012/140	Parish: Bury St Edmunds
83 Tollgate Lane BSE 398	Planning Application No.: SE/10/0758
	HER Event No.: BSE 398
Address: 83 Tollgate Lane, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, IP32 6BS	Grid Reference: TL 848 658
	Number of Site visits: 4
	Date of visits: 10-14/09/2012
<p>Introduction</p> <p>A continuous monitoring was carried out at 83 Tollgate Lane, Bury St Edmunds, during the excavation of footing and pipe trenches for an extension to the rear of the property. The ground works took place from the 10-14th of September 2012. The work was carried out to a brief issued by Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).</p> <p>A condition was placed on these ground works as there are several known archaeological sites in the area, an Early Anglo-Saxon inhumation (County Historic Environment Record BSE 059), the probable find spots of burials recorded in the 1950s (BSE 373) and a cemetery also dating to the Saxon period located on Tollgate Lane/Northumberland Avenue (BSE 005).</p>	
<p>Ground works</p> <p>The footing trench was L-Shaped in plan, running from the south-west corner of the current building for 3.25m and then turning at a right angle to the north-east and running for a further 3.85m. The trench varied from 0.45-0.5m in width and was originally excavated to a depth of approximately 1m and then to 1.2m due to archaeological investigation. Natural geology was visible at a depth of 0.45-0.5m. The excavation for the pipe work consisted of the removal of a manhole and the uncovering of existing pipe work, then excavating the whole area of the extension</p>	

to a depth of 0.45m. This area was heavily disturbed and no natural geology was observed. All of these excavations were undertaken by hand, using spades, shovels and forks. The site was visited periodically to monitor progress and to search for and record archaeological finds and deposits.

Results

Two post-medieval pits, 0004 and 0006, were discovered during the excavation of the southern most footing trench and were visible under modern topsoil layer 0001 and modern levelling material 0002.

Pit 0004 was visible under deposits 0001 and 0002 in the south-eastern corner of the proposed extension. It had steep slightly concave sides and a broad shallowly concave base. The shape in plan was unclear as only one edge was visible in the southern most footing. Fill 0003 was partially hand excavated by me and was a mid orange greyish brown silty sand, containing frequent small sherds of slate and frequent small lumps of coal. These finds indicate the pit was backfilled in the post-medieval period and likely to be 19th or early 20th century in date.

Pit 0006 was immediately to the south-west of pit 0004. Two edges were visible indicating its north-eastern most limits and its north-western most limits. Its edges were straight and almost vertical. Some of the fill 0005 was hand excavated by me and some late 18th to early 19th century brick was recovered. The features edges were recorded in section and plan but the base was not reached because of the probable recent date. Fill 0005 was a mid orange greyish brown silty sand with frequent small angular and rounded flints.

Three other deposits were recorded during excavation.

Topsoil 0001 was the uppermost deposit covering the site and ranging in depth from 0.18-0.22m in depth. 0001 overlay deposit 0002, which was a mix of sand and gravel, with occasional patches of chalk. 0002 appeared to be a levelling material for the current garden. Deposit 0007 was occasionally visible, through the modern disturbance and under 0002, during the excavation of the pipe trenches. It was very similar to fill 0003 and it is possible they were the same deposit with pit 0004 extending north-west towards the current building.

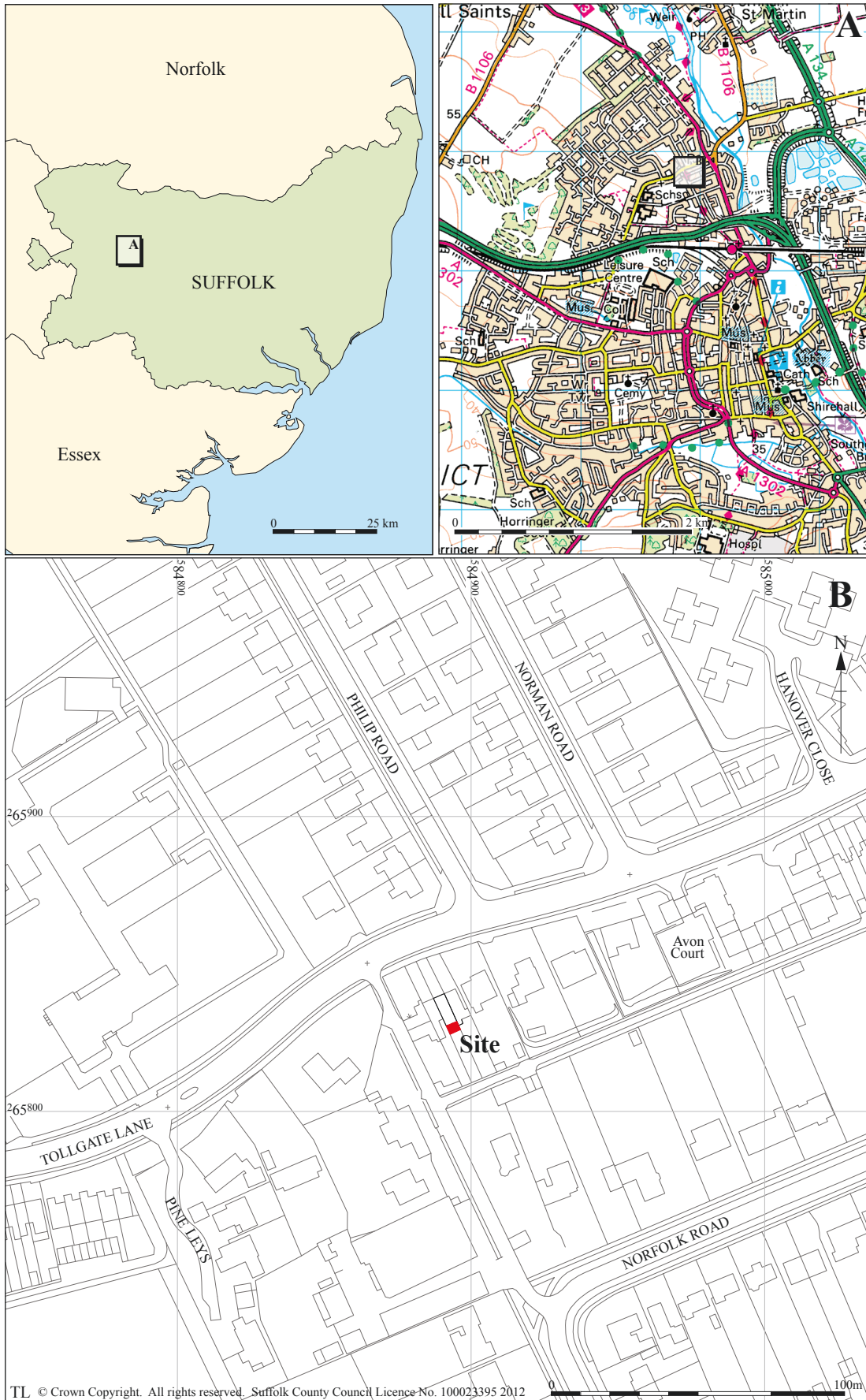


Figure 1. Location map

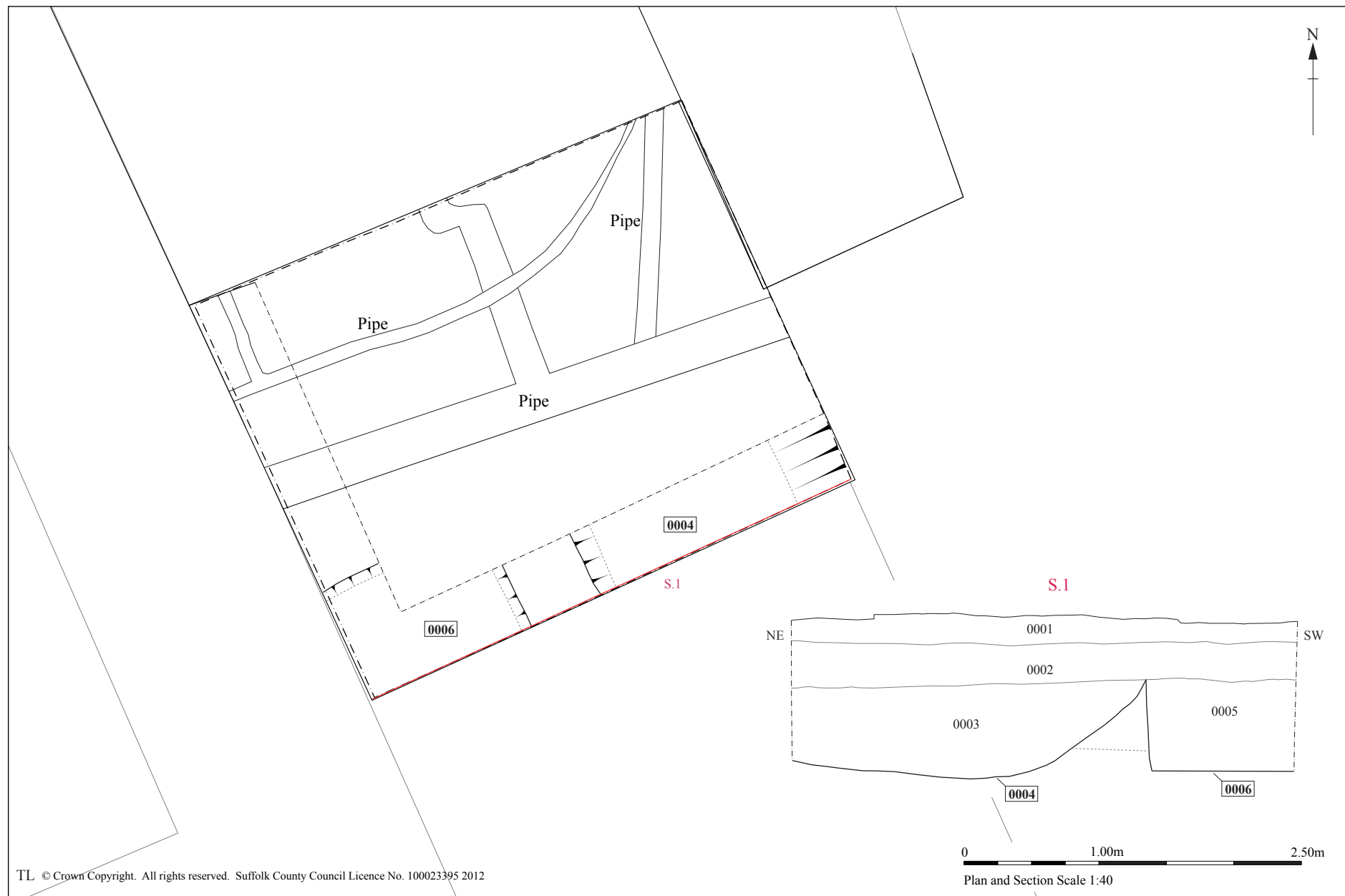


Figure 2. Site plan and section

Conclusion

The monitoring uncovered two probable 19th century pits 0004 and 0006. Given their position to the rear of the current property at 83 Tollgate Lane and the fact that this building appears on the 1880 ordinance survey map I think it possible that these are refuse pits associated with this property. No evidence of Early Anglo-Saxon activity was observed however if there was any it would probably have been destroyed by the later post-medieval and modern activity.

Recorded by: John Sims

Date: 11/10/2012