

Unit 36, Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds BSE 414

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/185

Client: Pro-Flat

Author: Rob Brooks

December/2012

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SCCAS Report No. 2012/185

Author: Rob Brooks

Illustrator: Gemma Adams

Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: December/2012

HER Information

Site Code: BSE 414

Site Name: Unit 36, Eastern Way

Report Number 2012/185

Planning Application No: SE/11/0269

Date of Fieldwork: 19th – 20th November, 2012

Grid Reference: TL 8596 6490

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-138111

Curatorial Officer: Dr Abby Antrobus

Project Officer: Rob Brooks

Client/Funding Body: Pro Flat

Client Reference: N/A

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit

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: 12/12/2012

Approved By: Andrew Tester

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date: 12/12/2012

Signed:

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on the Pro-Flat site, at Eastern Way, in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. This revealed an undated pit, a boundary wall which is thought to be post-medieval and terracing of the site. The terracing is possibly medieval or post-medieval, relating to the site's use as gardens. However it may also relate to more recent groundworks such as the construction of the railway or the A14. No finds were recovered.

Drawing Conventions

	N
	Plans
Limit of Excavation	
Features	
Break of Slope	
Features - Conjectured	
Natural Features	
Sondages/Machine Strip	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Illustrated Section	S.14
Cut Number	0008
Archaeological Features	
Ç	_
Sec	etions
Limit of Excavation	
Cut	
Modern Cut	
Cut - Conjectured	
Deposit Horizon	
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Top of Natural	
Cut Number	0008
Deposit Number	0007
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD

1. Introduction

Nineteen square trenches, as well as thirteen linear connecting trenches, were excavated to build a warehouse at Unit 36, Eastern Way, in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (Fig. 1). An archaeological monitoring was required for the project in order to record any archaeological features and recover any finds that could otherwise be uncovered or destroyed by the groundworks. The work was carried out to a Brief issued by Dr Abby Antrobus, (SCCAS Conservation Team – Appendix 1). Pro-Flat funded the work that was carried out between the 19th and 20th November, 2012.

2. Geology and topography

The site sloped slightly down from the east to the A14 on the west side of the development, with levels on site recorded at 31.35m to 31.5m above the Ordnance Datum. It became clear during the groundworks that the site had been truncated somewhat on its eastern edge and had been built up towards the west. The local terrain gently slopes from the east down to the west, between the 40m and 35m Ordnance Survey contours, overlooking the River Lark.

The recorded geology for the site consists of superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation sand and gravel. This material overlies bedrock formations of Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk (BGS, 2012). On site, the geology presented itself as somewhat degraded flinty-chalk with deposits of orange sand interspersed within it.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The development outline is located close to the area defined in the Historic Environment Record (HER) as the medieval urban limit of Bury St Edmunds (BSE 241, Fig. 1). The site has also been known as Eastgate Barns, Holderness Barns and Grange Farm, and is believed to be the site of one of the three medieval abbey granges in Bury St Edmunds, which was occupied by the cellarer (BSE 130).

Much of the industrial unit that makes up the rest of the site has been previously investigated with an archaeological evaluation and a limited area of excavation (BSE 229). The evaluation works identified the remains of several structures from the medieval and post-medieval periods. These included the trenches for two possible medieval timber buildings, a post-medieval oven, a dovecote and two phases of post-medieval domestic buildings. Also identified was the western boundary of the site, formed by two phases of ditches in the medieval period followed by two phases of post-medieval walls. The excavation uncovered activity throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods and identified areas of well preserved archaeological deposits. However it did not identify any substantial medieval structures likely to be the main grange house, which was thought to lie further to the east under the existing industrial units (Duffy, 2008).

The 1886 Ordnance Survey map of the area shows the site positioned within a garden and a possible orchard. A north-south boundary, possibly a wall or a ditch, appears to divide the site, whilst the railway and river are positioned directly to the west (Fig. 2).

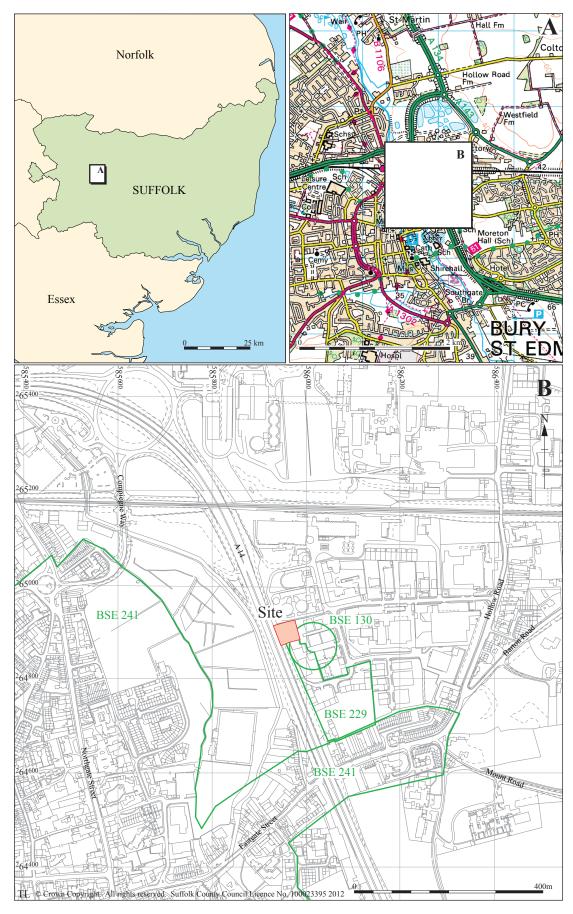


Figure 1. Location of site showing HER entries as mentioned in the text

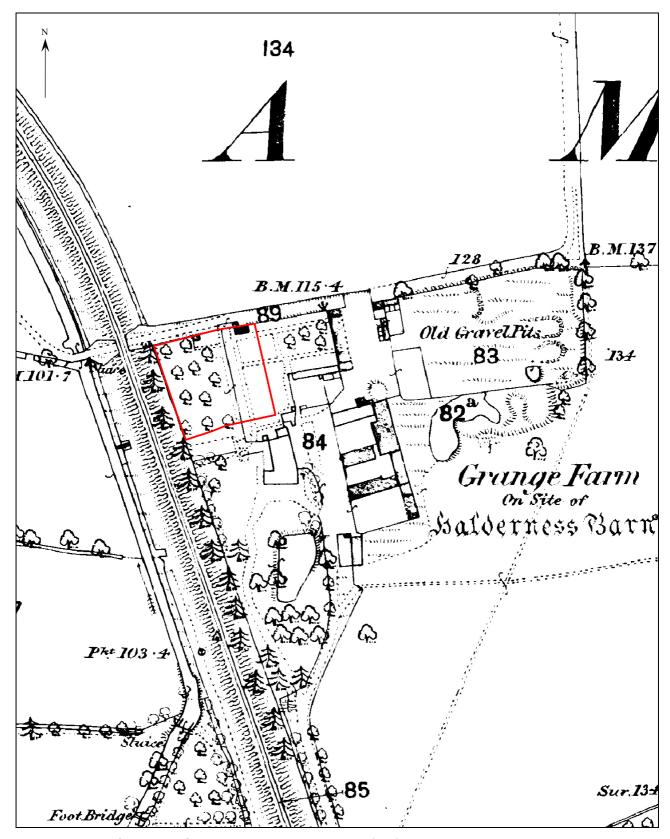


Figure 2. 1886 Ordnance Survey map with site outline (red)

4. Methodology

The groundworks were all excavated using a mechanical digger equipped with a toothed bucket to depths of 0.9-1.7m below ground level. The works were monitored by the supervising archaeologist, with upcast spoil being examined for finds. Soil profiles were cleaned down by hand and recorded on SCCAS *pro forma* trench sheets, whilst pit 0001 was drawn at 1:20 scale, with plans being made of the trenches and changes in the truncated natural recorded using a GPS. Digital colour photographs were taken of the pit, soil stratigraphy and the site in general at a resolution of 2848 x 4288 pixels. The site was recorded using a single context continuous numbering system (Appendix 2) and measured 566sqm in total. No environmental bulk samples were taken due to the lack of dating evidence and the disturbance to the contexts caused by excavating the trenches with a toothed bucket.

Site records have been input into an MS Access database and recorded using the Historic Environment Record (HER) code BSE 414. Digitised copies of profile and feature sections have been made. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-138111, 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 kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds, under the HER code BSE 414.

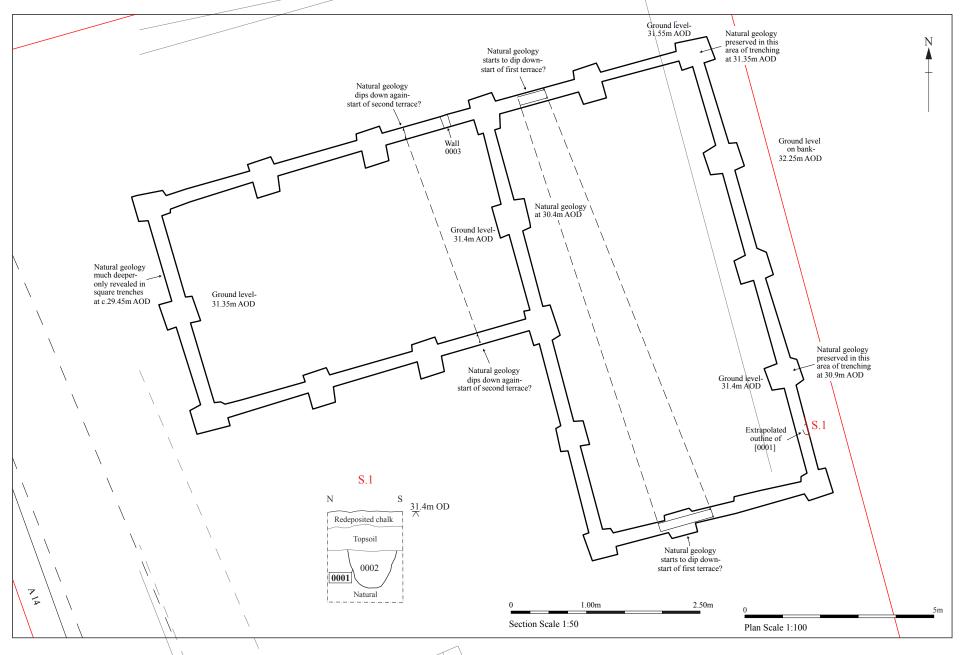


Figure 3. Trench plan and section

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Across the site a 0.2-0.3m thick soil and rubble make-up layer was recorded, which in places overlaid the natural geology of flinty-chalk, interspersed with orange sand, whilst elsewhere the rubble covered buried topsoil, recorded as 0004. Towards the western edge of the site the natural geological levels stepped downwards twice, and in the deeper areas a subsoil B-horizon survived overlying the geology. Along the eastern edge of the site the natural appeared to have been somewhat truncated, presumably during levelling of the site. A pit/posthole, a wall and terraces were recorded within the trenching (Fig. 3).

5.2 Trench results

Pit/posthole 0001

Within the eastern length of trenching a feature was recorded as 0001. This cut had 70-80° slightly concave sides, with a rapidly curving break of slope to the slightly concave base, and measured 0.66m wide x 0.52m deep. Fill 0002 consisted of orangish-brown clayey-sandy-silt with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks, as well as occasional flints, but produced no artefacts. The feature was overlaid by topsoil and redeposited chalk. The size and profile suggests that it is likely to be a pit, although it could also be a large posthole with no visible post-pipe.

Wall 0003

Within the northern area of trenching north-south aligned wall 0003 was uncovered. It was built of flint and brick lumps, and very pale greyish-white and pale creamy-yellow mortar. The structure was 0.4m wide x 1m deep, and cut all of the layers except the modern rubble make-up material laid across the site. This is thought to be the boundary shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2). It was not clear if it was present in trenching to the south, due to modern disturbance.

Terracing

Across the site the level of the natural geology stepped down twice, forming what appeared to be two or three separate terraces. These sloped down from the east to the west, matching the local topography that overlooks the river valley. The upper terrace was indicated by a level area of natural geology on the eastern side of the site that was recorded at 0.2m below ground level, immediately underlying the rubble and soil make-up layer recorded across the site. Between 7.7m and 10.5m from the eastern limit of the site, this level notably started to slope off at c.40-45° until it was recorded at 1m below ground level. At this point it again levelled off for another 6.3m before sloping down for a second time below the depth of the trench. On site these changes were interpreted as garden terraces that related to the layout shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map, as well as to possibly earlier cultivation of the land. Alternatively they may have related to groundworks associated with the construction of the railway and later the A14.

6. Discussion

Monitoring of the groundworks has recorded the presence of scattered archaeological contexts across the site. It is likely that wall 0003 is a post-medieval structure as it cuts through disturbed topsoil, and is very likely to be the boundary marked on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map. Pit 0001 is not clearly dated and the topsoil and redeposited chalk that overlaid it both appeared to be modern in origin, having built up as a result of works on the site in the preceding decade. It was notable though that the fill produced none of the post-medieval material that was commonly present in the buried topsoil across the site, which may indicate an earlier date for the cut. The most unusual features on the site are the possible terraces. These are likely to relate to the use of the area as a walled garden and woodland/orchard overlooking the River Lark, and as such may relate back to the medieval grange. However, they could equally be post-medieval attempts to terrace the site, possibly in relation to the re-routing of the river and the construction of the railway line.

7. Conclusions

The monitoring has shown that post-medieval and possibly medieval deposits survive across parts of the site, despite some modern activity. These features may relate to either the medieval grange that occupied the area, to the post-medieval construction of the railway, and in the case of the pit/posthole, to an as yet unspecified phase of activity.

8. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\

Archive\Bury St Edmunds\BSE 414 Pro-flat Eastern Way

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\

Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HSA-HSZ\HSE 81-90

9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out and directed by Rob Brooks. 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. The report illustrations were created by Gemma Adams and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

10. Bibliography

BGS, 2012, Information obtained from http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digitalmaps/ and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved.

Duffy, J., 2008, Archaeological Excavation Report, Eastgate Barns Area A, Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds, BSE 229, SCCAS Report No. 2008/095, Bury St Edmunds: SCCAS

Appendix 1. Brief and specification



The Archaeological Service

Economy, Skills and Environment 9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1RX

Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording

AT

UNIT 36, EASTERN WAY, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK (Unit 3 only)

PLANNING AUTHORITY: St Edmundsbury District Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: SE/11/0269

SHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be arranged

GRID REFERENCE: TL 859 647

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Erection of 3 industrial units

AREA: Small

CURRENT LAND USE: Industrial estate

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Abby Antrobus

Assistant Archaeological Officer

Conservation Team Tel: 01284 741231

E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 9 December 2011

Summary

1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 8) relating to archaeological investigation:

'No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which shall have been submitted by the applicant to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority.'

1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.

- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 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.

Archaeological Background

2.1 This site lies in an area of archaeological interest, in the area of the Eastgate Barns. This was formerly the medieval grange of the Cellarer of St Edmunds Abbey (County Historic Environment Record BSE 130). An archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out in 2004. This revealed that the northern part of it had been disturbed in modern times, which means that the potential archaeological impact for units 1 and 2 of the proposal can be considered low. However, unit 3 is closer to an area where medieval features were identified (BSE 229). These features may continue under the area of Unit 3, and therefore aspects of the proposal will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exis.

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by aspects this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Requirement for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the **development of Unit 3** can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks.
- 4.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

- 4.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.
- 4.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 4.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 All arrangements for the excavation 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.
- 5.2 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 ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 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 any documentation relating to the work.
- 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).
- 6.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, must be provided. 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).

- 6.7 An unbound hardcopy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.
- 6.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.9 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. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded where positive results have been obtained.
- 6.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.11 When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: grid ref., parish, address, planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development, depth of ground disturbance in each area, depth of topsoil and its profile over natural in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.
- 6.12 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

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.

The Institute for 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.

Notes

The Institute of 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	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Finds	Sample	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0001	0001	Pit Cut	Cut that was only seen in eastern section of trenching. 70-80° slightly concave sides, with rapidly curving break of slope to the slightly concave base.		0.66	0.52					0002	No	No			
			Either a pit or a posthole, but its size suggests that it is a pit.													
0002	0001	Pit Fill	Orangish-brown clayey-sandy-silt. Contains occasional chalk and charcoal flecks, as well as occasional small to medium angular flints.			0.52				0001		No	No			
			Fill of pit/posthole.													
0003		Wall Foundation	Roughly north to south aligned wall. Made up of flint, brick lumps and very pale greyish-white and pale creamy-yellow mortar. Cuts everything except the modern rubble make-up material laid across the site.		0.4	1						No	No			
			Wall foundation. Probably that marked on the 1st-3rd OS maps.													
0004		Topsoil Layer	Dark brownish-grey sandy-silt. Frequent clinker and CBM lumps.			0.3				0005		No	No			
			Imported topsoil that gets deeper to the south. Brought in to level the site.													
0005		Soil Layer	Orangish-brown clayey-chalky-silt. Root disturbed. Occasional abraded small CBM lumps. Recorded in the area where the natural geology appears to dip down for the second time (start of third terrace?).			0.3					0004	No	No			
			Buried soil or subsoil layer. Possibly another make-up layer to build up site after terracing, or possibly even a buried topsoil.													

Appendix 3. OASIS form

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-138111

Project details

Project name BSE 414, Unit 36, Eastern Way monitoring

Short description of the project

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on the Pro-Flat site, at Eastern Way, in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. This revealed an undated pit, a boundary wall which is thought to be post-medieval and terracing of the site. The terracing is possibly medieval or post-medieval, relating to the site's use as gardens. However it may also relate to more recent groundworks such as the construction

of the railway or the A14. No finds were recovered.

Project dates Start: 19-11-2012 End: 20-11-2012

Previous/future

work

Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes

BSE 414 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference

codes

BSE 414 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes

SE/11/0269 - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference codes

2012/185 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type WALL Post Medieval

Monument type TERRACE GARDEN Uncertain

Significant Finds NONE None
Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England

Site location SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS BSE 414, Unit 36,

Eastern Way monitoring

Postcode IP32 7AJ

Study area 787.50 Square metres

TL 8596 6490 52 0 52 15 01 N 000 43 28 E Point Site coordinates

Height OD / Depth Min: 29.45m Max: 31.35m

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

Dr Abby Antrobus

Project

Andrew Tester

director/manager Project supervisor

Rob Brooks

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Land owner

Name of

sponsor/funding

body

Pro-Flat

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive recipient

Suffolk County SMR

Digital Archive ID BSE 414

Digital Contents "Survey", "other"

Digital Media available

"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

Suffolk County SMR

Paper Archive ID **BSE 414** "other" **Paper Contents**

Paper Media available

"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Report", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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