

2 Southgate Street, Bury St Edmunds
BSE 284

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/015

Client: Keith Horton

Author: Rob Brooks

February/2013

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2 Southgate Street, Bury St Edmunds

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Author: Rob Brooks

Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: February/2013

HER Information

Site Code: BSE 284

Site Name: 2 Southgate Street

Report Number 2013/015

Planning Application No: SE/06/1367

Date of Fieldwork: July 2008 and 30th and 31st January 2013

Grid Reference: TL 8582 6378

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-142469

Curatorial Officer: Dr Abby Antrobus (originally Robert Carr)

Project Officer: David Gill and Rob Brooks

Client/Funding Body: Keith Horton

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: David Gill and Rob Brooks

Date: 05/02/2013

Approved By: Andrew Tester

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date: 05/02/2013

Signed:

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Summary

A small oven was found during monitoring in 2008 of footing trenches for an extension at the rear of No.2 Southgate Street, a medieval timber-framed building in the medieval core of the town. The oven was sealed beneath a medieval clay floor which was cut by later rubbish pits. The pits were dated by pottery to 16th-18th century. Further trenches were excavated for a cart lodge at the rear of the plot in 2013, which revealed a post-medieval wall footing.

1. Introduction

Three monitoring visits were made in 2008 to No.2 Southgate Street, Bury St Edmunds as a condition of the consent on planning application SE/06/1367 to refurbish and extend the house. The recording archaeologist examined excavated trenches for the new extension and services. The work was completed in accordance with a brief and specification issued by Bob Carr, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Officer dated 14th June, 2006 (Appendix 1) and undertaken by members of SCCAS Field Team. The applicant Mr K. Horton funded the work. As part of the same planning application, the groundworks for a cart lodge were excavated and recorded in 2013.

2. Geology and topography

The area's localised topography slopes down both Southgate Street and Prussia Lane to the south and east, although both the garden and plot for the cart lodge were level. The garden at its eastern end was heavily made-up with topsoil and was 1.05m above the ground level around the cart lodge plot. Superficial geological deposits of Lowestoft formation sand and gravel are recorded for the site, overlying bedrock formations of Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk and Culver Chalk (BGS, 2013). On site, the geology presented itself as orange silty-sand and gravel.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site is at grid reference TL 8582 6378 and lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance as defined in the Historic Environment Record (HER). Southgate Street is one of the oldest roads in the town and was one of the main streets of the Late Saxon settlement of Bedericsworth from which the town of Bury originated. It became one of the axial roads of the medieval town and led to one of the five town gates. No.2 is close to St. Mary's Square which is thought to have been at the centre of the original Saxon settlement, and is sometimes referred to in medieval documents as 'the old market'. The house is Grade II listed (LBC No. 467400) and described as 'House, C17 and later, timber-framed and rendered with traces of lining; pantiled roof'. The inside of the house was not inspected during the listing and it has not been revised since 1972. Early Ordnance Survey maps of the site show extensive ranges of buildings on the plot, extending beyond the length of the plot (Fig. 2)

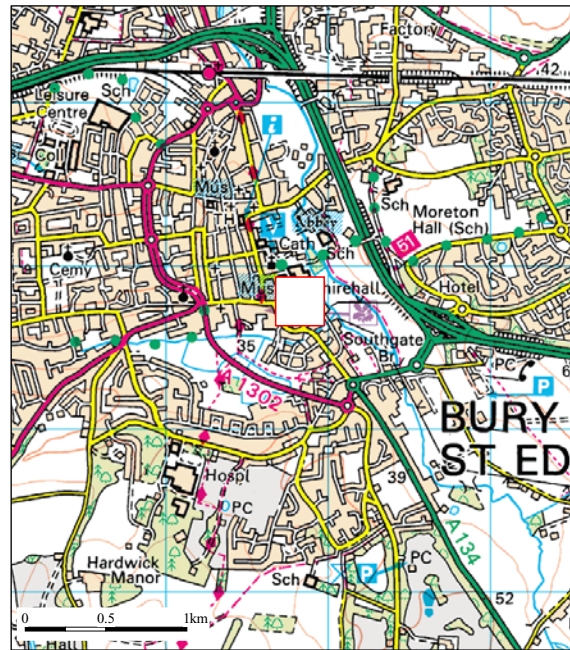
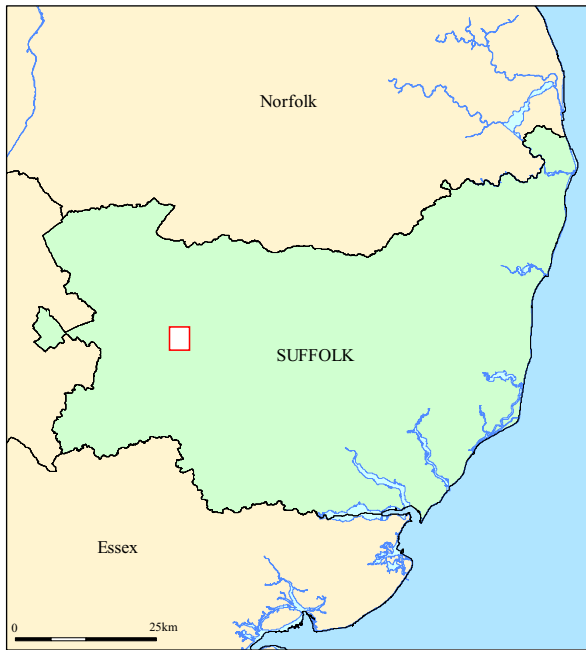


Figure 1. Location map

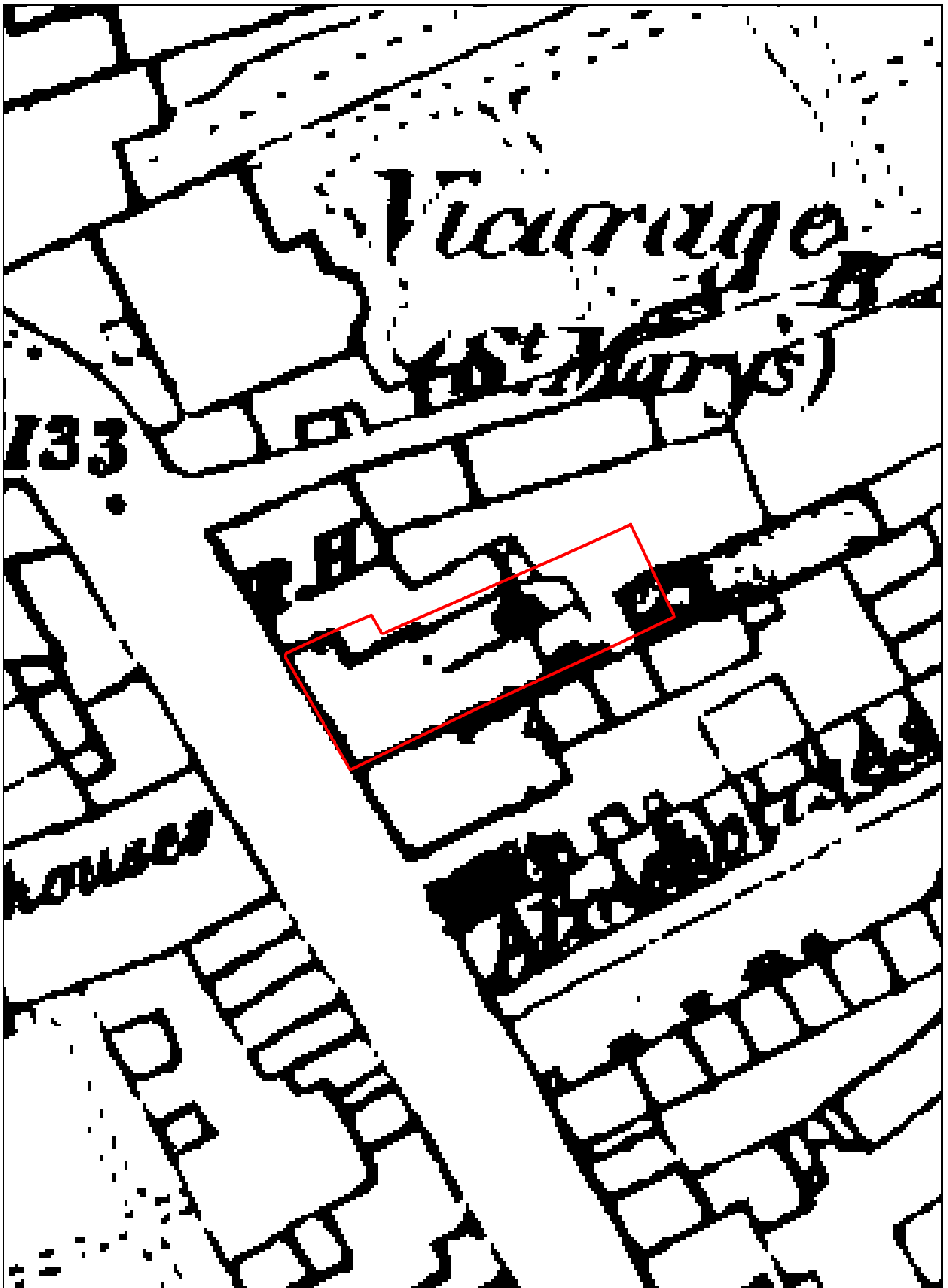


Figure 2. 1886 Ordnance Survey map with approximate site outline (red)

4. Methodology

Excavation of the foundation trenches for the extension and car port, as well as the strip for the car port was carried out using a machine equipped with a toothed bucket (Fig. 3). The trenches for the house extension had been excavated prior to an archaeological visit, whilst those for the car port were monitored during their excavation. When the trenching had been excavated, soil profiles were cleaned and recorded on *pro forma* trench record sheets, including descriptions and measurements. The contexts were recorded using a single continuous numbering system. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, with sections drawn at 1:20. Colour digital photographs were taken of the features, as well as of soil profiles. The overall site layout was hand planned using known OS points.

Site data has been input onto the MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code BSE 284. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-142469) which is included as Appendix 2, 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 HER code BSE 284.

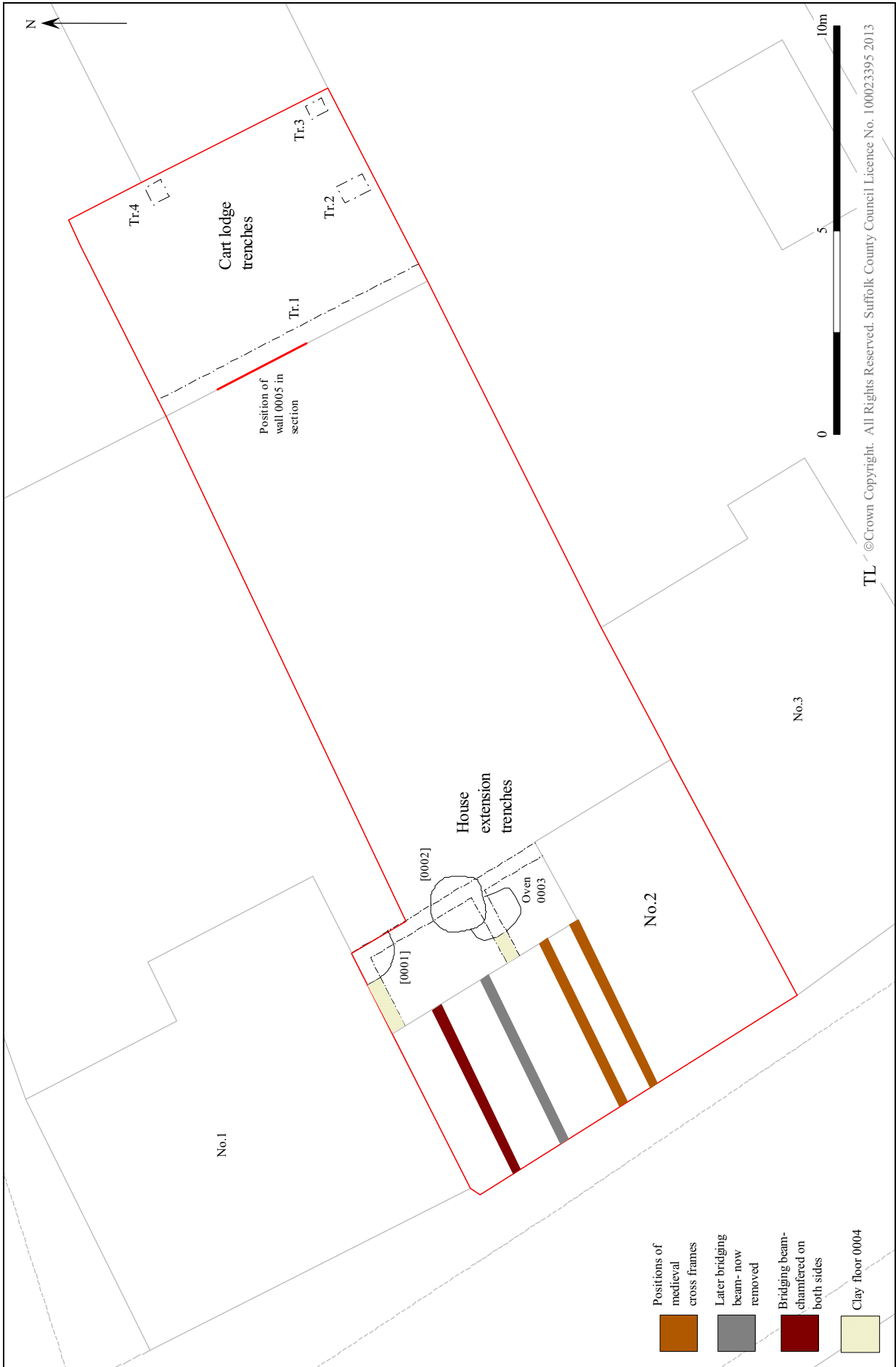


Figure 3. Site plan

5. Results

5.1 House alterations and extension trenches

The first site visit was made after the existing rear range had been demolished and the floors within the building removed. The ground over the footprint of the proposed extension had already been reduced to formation level, removing an overburden of relatively recent build up. The excavation of the footing trenches was observed and recorded, and on a second visit the excavation of a soakaway and the drain run was observed.

Evidence of two large pits, an oven and a clay surface were recorded in the sides of the footing trenches at the rear of the house. The trench sides showed that the present ground surface is at the top of a deep stratigraphy of previous surfaces and accumulated occupation debris layers with the subsoil occurring at a depth of 900mm (Fig. 4).

The pits, 0001 and 0002 (Figs. 3 and 4), were the latest of the archaeological features and were cut from below the overburden layer through the earlier deposits. The pits were large rubbish pits measuring over 1.5m across and were at least 1m deep; they were in excess of the depth of the footing trench and were not fully excavated. The pits were filled with dark organic silts indicative of decomposed domestic debris and pit 0001 produced pottery, tile fragments, animal bone and oyster shell. The pits were both post-medieval and the pottery from 0001 consisted of a heavily sooted sherd of a small glazed red earthenware bowl dated to 16th-18th century and a sherd of unglazed LMT dated to 15th-16th century.

The pits cut a thick clay layer 0004; this was an extensive spread which was recorded in both of the trenches that ran at right angles to the house (Fig. 3). The clay was 0.18m deep and was laid in a level, compact homogenous layer, which was interpreted as an earlier internal floor surface. Although the east limit of the clay was cut by the two later pits the absence of it in the trench for the east wall suggests that the clay extended no further than 1.3m west of the current building.

The footing trench at the centre of the extension cut across a clay oven; 0003, this was sealed beneath the clay layer 0004 recorded in both faces of the trench (Figs. 3 and 4).

The trench cut across the width of what would have been the domed firing chamber of the oven and the section shows the burnt clay of the oven floor forming a shallow basin and a thin layer of charcoal from the final firing. Above the charcoal was unfired clay, possibly the remains of the collapsed dome itself. The degree of burning to the clay was not great indicating that the oven was fired at a low heat.

The oven was constructed over a horizon of mixed dark loam; this was a well-worked dark soil that was recorded at the base of the soil profile in all of the trenches. Within this layer building material debris consisting of degraded clay and chalk was observed.

The soakaway and the drain run to it were excavated entirely through disturbed dark soil. The depth of soil suggested that the soakaway had been excavated into an earlier pit and the presence of clay pipe stems and peg tile indicated a date of at least 17th century for this deposit (Fig. 4).

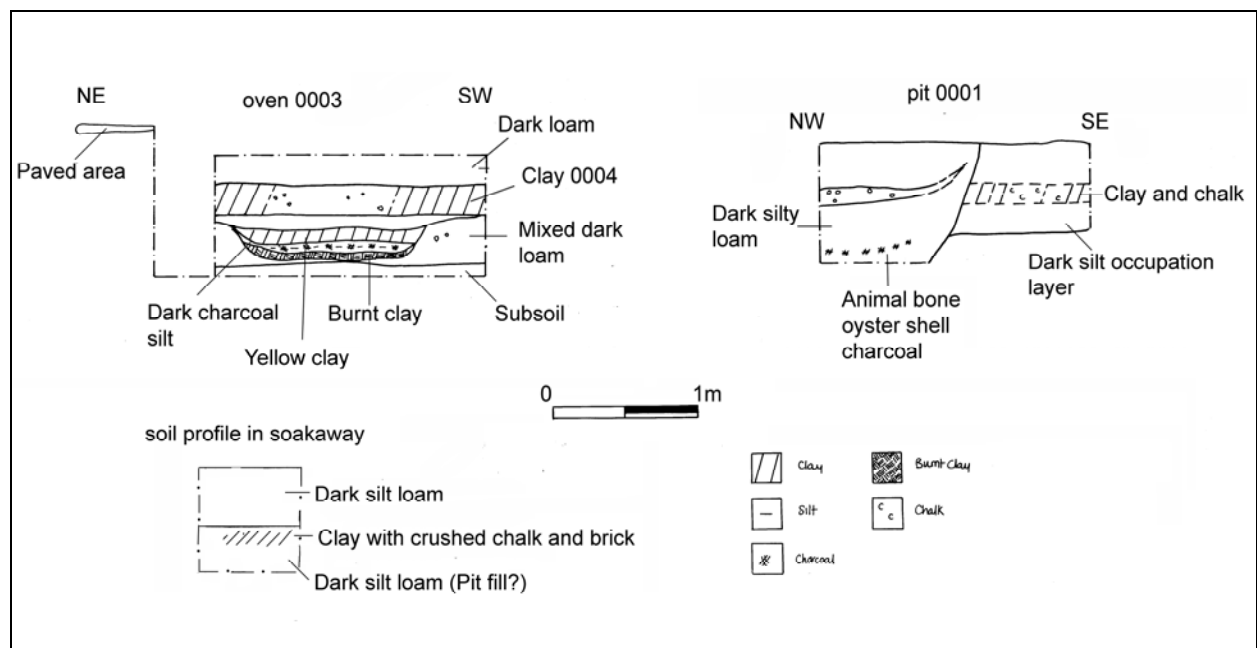


Figure 4. Sections

5.2 Car port groundworks

Four trenches were excavated and the whole area for the car port was reduced by c.0.15m (Fig. 3). Trench 1 was 7.3m long x 0.45m wide x 0.6m deep and flanked the eastern end of the garden. This also revealed the full depth of the made-up garden soil profile, which was 1.65m tall. This consisted of 0.65m of imported topsoil above 0.6m of

buried topsoil. Underlying this was the superficial geology of orange silty-sand and stones that was excavated to 0.4m.

A 2.55m stretch of wall footing was also present within Trench 1, recorded as 0005 (Pl.1). This consisted of grey mortar, brick fragments and flints and was 0.4m deep. The brick fragments appeared to be late medieval or early post-medieval. In this area of the section 0.65m of imported topsoil overlaid a 0.6m thick layer of demolition material. This was made up of buried topsoil, brick fragments, mortar, chalk lumps and redeposited natural sand. Directly under this was wall footing 0005, which was cut into the superficial geology. Trenches 2 and 3 had identical profiles, consisting of the buried topsoil layer seen in the Trench 1 section, overlying orange stony-sand geology 0.4m down. In Trench 4 a different stratigraphy was recorded, consisting of mid to dark grey silty-clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional ceramic building material flecks. The trench was 0.7m deep and did not reveal the geological layers. This appeared to be a feature back-fill, but no finds were recovered from it.



Plate 1. Wall 0005 in section
1m scale, facing south-west

6. Conclusions

Southgate Street is within the medieval core of the town and the monitoring has demonstrated that evidence of occupation from this period survives, well preserved, on the site. The existing ground levels at the rear of the building have been raised and have buried what appears to be an intact medieval horizon.

The framing of the house, which was exposed during the work shows that the house, although much altered, is medieval in origin and earlier than the listing. The earliest pottery on the site dates to the 15th-16th century and the building is certainly no later than this. The position of the final cross frame at the north end of the building and the truncated mid-rails which extend beyond it indicate that the house is a fragment of a larger building that formerly extended into what is now the neighbour's plot (No. 1). In addition the bridging beam across the ceiling at this end of the house is chamfered on both sides suggesting that it was once in the centre of a room.

A second bridging beam was inserted into what became the centre of the ceiling when the building was shortened and the frame reconfigured. This secondary timber has since been removed and the only evidence for it is a re-cut empty mortise in the timber above the living room window. These alterations probably occurred in around the 17th or early part of the 18th century, as by the time Thomas Warren drew his map of Bury, published in 1747 the building already appears to be divided (Fig. 5).

The clay surface found at the rear of the house was once an internal floor and is likely to have been contemporary with the early occupation of the present building. Alteration to the rear of the building means that it is unclear whether this was part of the rooms fronting the street or a range divided from them; Warren's map shows the building being wider and with some form of an outshot to the rear. When the rubbish pits were dug through the floor this area had clearly become external and the pottery from the pit dates to between the 16th-18th century, a date similar to that suggested for the alteration to the timber frame.

The oven feature although not dated by finds predates the clay floor and is likely to be an earlier, medieval feature. Only a small portion of the oven was seen but the low

intensity of the burning within it suggests that this was a domestic structure for baking rather than an industrial furnace.



Figure 5. Extract from Thomas Warren's Map of Bury 1747

The excavations for the cart lodge revealed the partial remains of a building, which is almost certainly one of those shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map. It was also clear that the superficial geological layers survived, although they appeared to have been slightly truncated by the post-medieval building works.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\
Archive\Bury St Edmunds\BSE 284 2 Southgate Mon

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HSA-HSZ\HST 74-76

8. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by David Gill and Rob Brooks. Project management was undertaken by Andrew Tester.

The report illustrations were created by Rob Brooks and David Gill and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

9. Bibliography

BGS, 2013, Information obtained from http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital_maps/data_625k.html and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved

Appendix 1. Brief and specification
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

2 SOUTHGATE STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS

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

1. Background

1.1 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application SE/06/1367). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring of development as it occurs, coupled with provision for an archaeological record of any archaeology that is observed.

1.2 The development area is within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined in the Local Plan, it lies at the rear of a dwelling with frontage onto one of the main Late Saxon and medieval roads of the settlement. There is high potential for early settlement and occupation deposit at this location.

The development consists of new and replacement walls at the back of the present house, a new garage slab with deepened toe to the rear of the property and a new rear garden wall with steps.

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

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

- 1.5 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. . The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

2. **Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the site preparation works involving topsoil stripping and the excavation of building footing or ground-beam trenches.

In the case of footing trenches and the garage slab the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist **after** they **have been** excavated by the building contractor provided the upcast material is available for inspection on site; otherwise the archaeological observation must be made whilst the soils are excavated. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

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

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted ‘observing archaeologist’ to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the ‘observing archaeologist’ to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of topsoil stripping for site preparation , access roads, hard standings and landscaping unimpeded access to the stripped area at the rate of **one hour per 10 square metres** must be allowed for archaeological recording at the interface between topsoil and clean sub-soil surface before the area is further deepened, traversed by machinery or sub-base deposited.

In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of **one and a half hours per 10 metres** of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental 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 J Heathcote, 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 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by ‘*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*’ (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.3 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 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).
- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

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

Specification by: R D Carr

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 14 June 2006

Reference: /2 Southgate Street

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

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

Appendix 2. OASIS form

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[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-142469

Project details

Project name	BSE 284 2 Southgate Street monitoring, Bury St Edmunds
Short description of the project	A small oven was found during monitoring in 2008 of footing trenches for an extension at the rear of No.2 Southgate Street, a medieval timber-framed building in the medieval core of the town. The oven was sealed beneath a medieval clay floor which was cut by later rubbish pits. The pits were dated by pottery to 16th-18th century. Further trenches were excavated for a cart lodge at the rear of the plot in 2013, which revealed a post-medieval wall footing.
Project dates	Start: 01-07-2008 End: 31-01-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BSE 284 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BSE 284 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2013/015 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	2008/184 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SE/06/1367 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	46037 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	OVEN Medieval
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	SURFACE Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval

Significant Finds ANIMAL REMAINS Post Medieval
Investigation type ""Watching Brief""
Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England
Site location SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS BSE 284 2 Southgate Street monitoring
Postcode IP33 2AN
Study area 200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 8582 6378 52 0 52 14 25 N 000 43 18 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 Dr Abby Antrobus
Project director/manager Andrew Tester
Project supervisor Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body Keith Horton

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk County SMR
Digital Archive ID BSE 284
Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County SMR
Paper Archive ID BSE 284
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Correspondence","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Context sheet"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title 2 Southgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, BSE 284, Archaeological monitoring report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Brooks, R.

Other bibliographic details SCCAS Report No. 2013/015

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher SCCAS

Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds

Description A4, comb bound, white card covers, in colour, with 2 appendices. Also available as a pdf.

Entered by Rob Brooks (rob.brooks@suffolk.gov.uk)

Entered on 5 February 2013

OASIS:

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