

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

64 SOUTHGATE STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS BSE 248

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS

Planning Application No. SE/05/1250/P

NGR: TL 8613 6339

OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-15477

Funded by: Tony Heighes, Acorn Properties (Suffolk Ltd)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/083

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches for a house on land to the rear of 64 Southgate Street exposed further evidence of a large medieval ground disturbance interpreted as flint quarrying possibly associated with the Abbey, which was identified during the evaluation (SCCAS Report No.2005/104).

Introduction

The building of two houses on land at 64 Southgate Street, Bury St Edmunds (Fig.1) was monitored following a trenched evaluation of the site, which was a requirement of the planning condition on application SE/05/1250/P. The work was funded by Tony Heighes, Acorn Properties (Suffolk) Ltd. The results of the evaluation suggested only the western-most of the two houses within the development required monitoring and this was done with a single visit after footings had been excavated.

Methodology and Results

The site was visited during January 2006 following the excavation of footings to House 1 (Fig. 2). Machining was to a minimum depth of 1m but was deeper towards the north end of the site where the natural subsoil appeared at c.1.5m. No sections were drawn but the profiles were consistent with those recorded in the evaluation. The sections showed 0.3m of topsoil over natural sand and gravel at the south end of the site, and 0.7m of topsoil and brown soil over c. 0.7m of yellow/grey sand above natural sand and pea gravel at the north end. The slope is recorded by hachures on Figure 2.

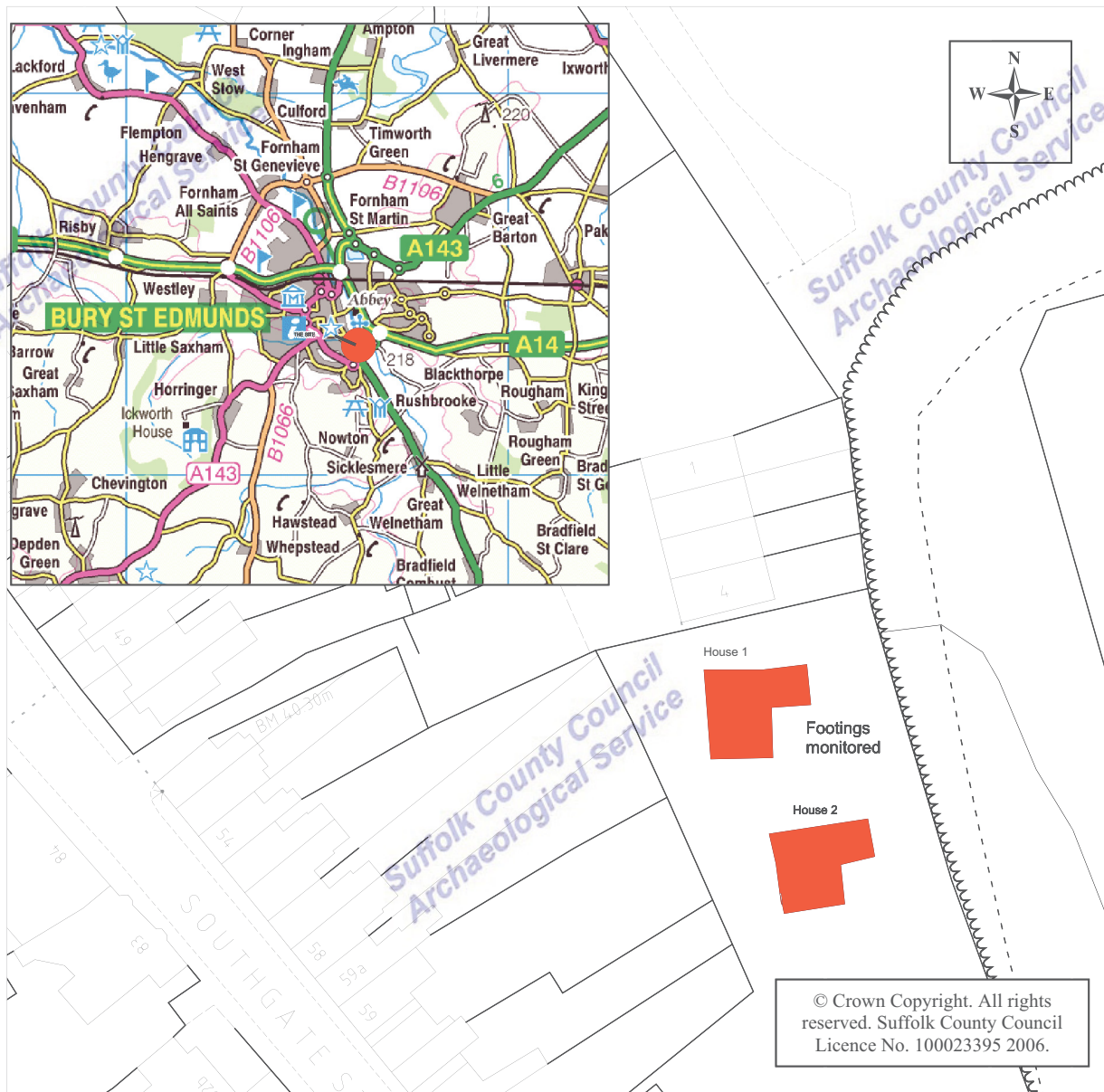


Figure 1. Site location plan

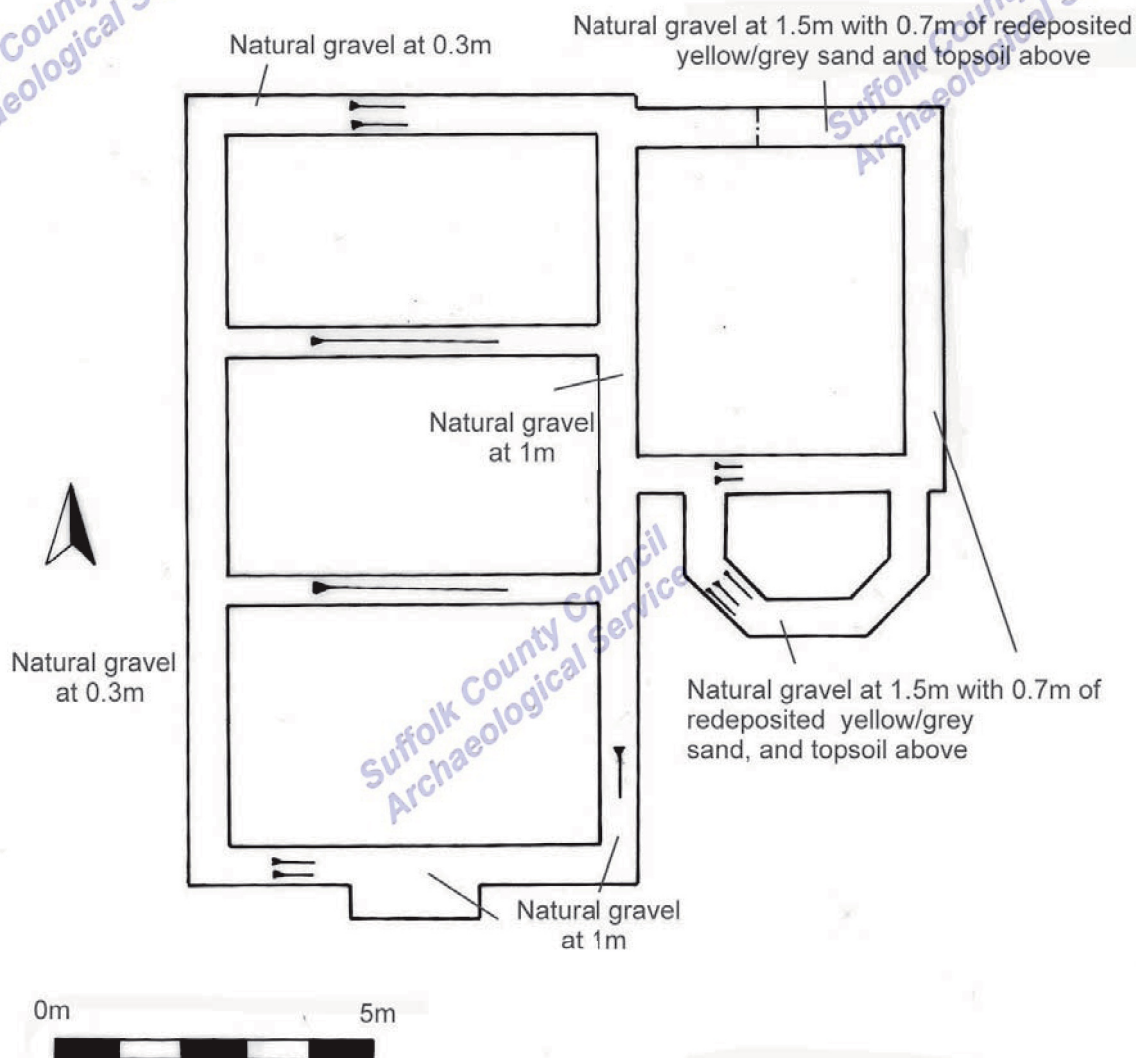


Figure 2. Footing trenches

Discussion

The monitoring revealed a substantial layer of re-deposited sand and soil which is interpreted as waste following the removal of gravel at the north end of the site. This was overlain by a substantial layer of accumulated and built-up topsoil. The south end of the site appeared undisturbed with gravel immediately below the topsoil. No finds were recovered.

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