

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

**82 RISBYGATE STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS
BSE 278**

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS

Planning Application No. SE/06/1034

NGR: 8394 6451

OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-15497

For Mr S A Harrison

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/081

Summary

The archaeological monitoring of footing trenches for an extension to 82 Risbygate Street exposed accumulated post-medieval soils. At the base of the trench a hard surface comprising stone's brick and tile sealed earlier deposits which were left undisturbed.

Introduction

The building of an extension to 82 Risbygate Street was monitored on the 7 April 2006 (Fig.1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/06/1034. The site is located on the western edge of the medieval town at 45m OD.

Methodology and Results

The site was visited when footing trenches had been excavated. The trenches were 1m deep and neither reached natural subsoil. Two sections were recorded (Fig.2): Section 1 shows a modern soil over a chalk surface, this seals a built-up layer, possibly a garden soil with fragments of brick and tile; Section 2 was similar but with a modern shallow pit below the topsoil. At the base of both trenches was a layer of broken tile, brick and stones forming a compact surface, except for the east end of Section 2 where the soil layer was a green/brown colour with no post medieval finds visible.

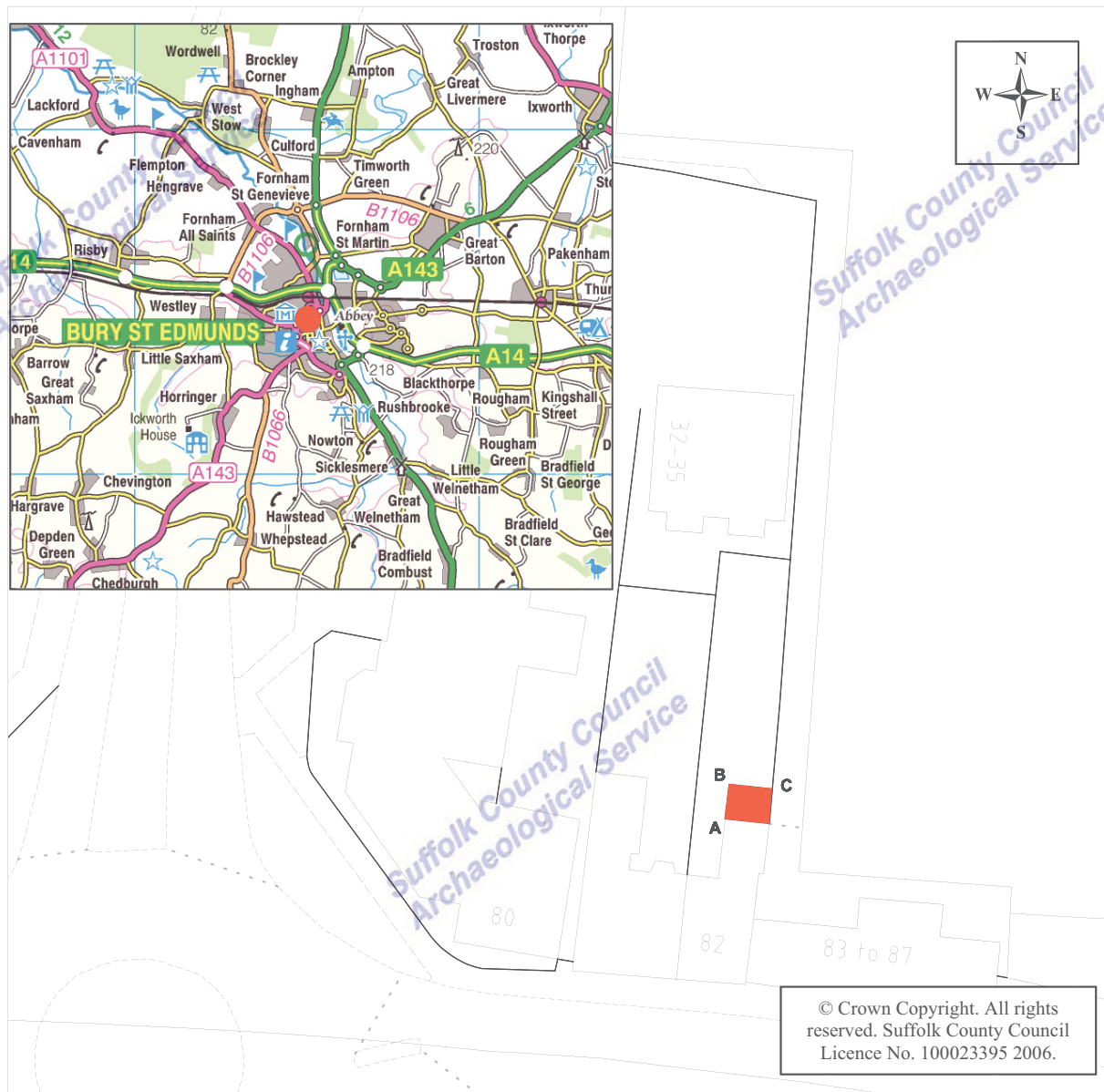
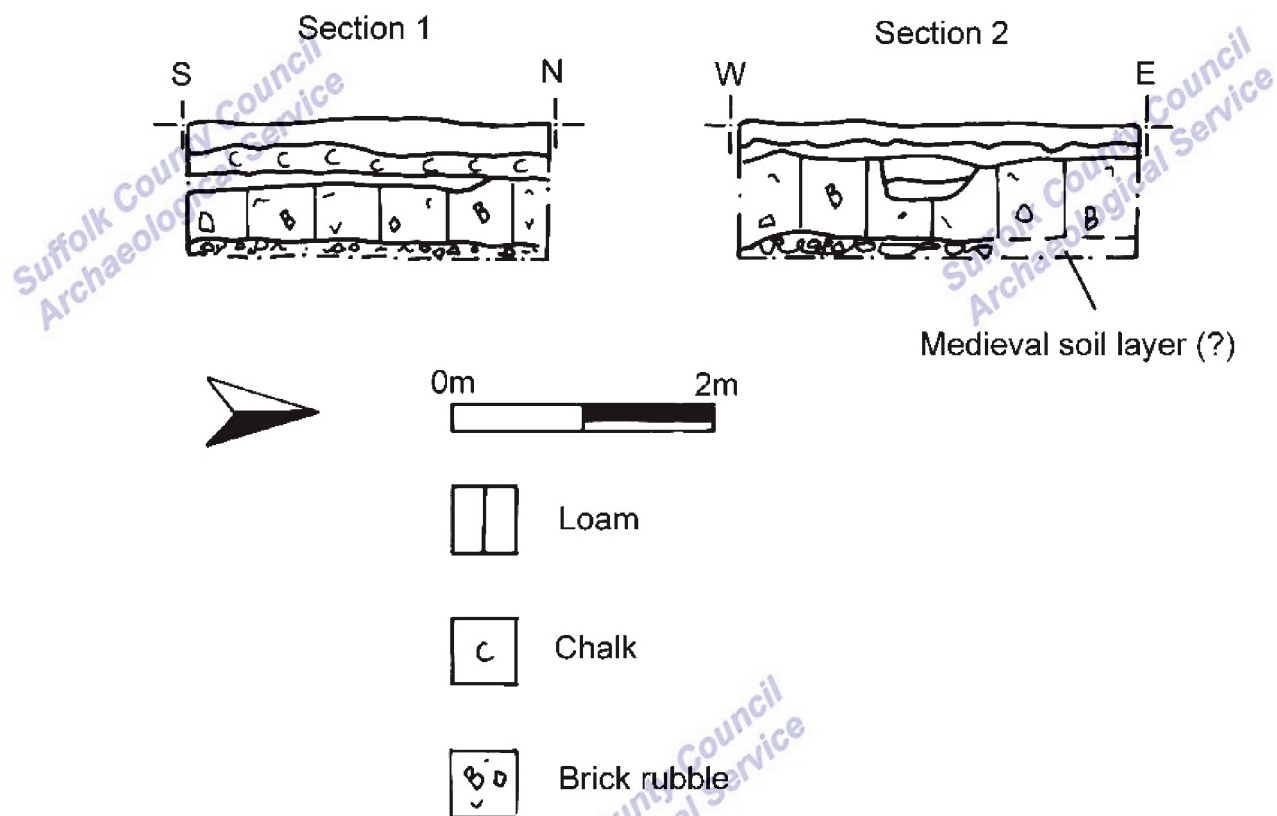


Figure 1. Site location plan



Discussion

The evidence recorded from the sections suggest a rapid accumulation of layers, probably within the last 150 years overlying a compacted surface, possibly a yard area. It was unclear why this did not extend to the eastern end of the footing but the soil layer in this area appeared undisturbed and is likely to be medieval in date although no positive proof of age was recovered. The builders were intending to reinforce the concrete footings with steel and therefore surviving archaeological layers have been sealed and preserved beneath the concrete.

Andrew Tester
 Senior Project Officer
 Field Team
 Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

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