

**5 Friars Lane  
Bury St Edmunds  
BSE 441**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2014/051**

**Client: Mr Andrew Hunter**

Author: Andy Beverton

May 2014

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## HER Information

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**Site Code:** BSE 441  
**Site Name:** 5 Friars Lane  
**Report Number** 2014/051  
**Planning Application No:** DC/13/0526/FUL  
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**Project Officer:** Andy Beverton  
**Client/Funding Body:** Mr Andrew Hunter

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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: Andy Beverton

Date: May 2014

Approved By:

Position:

Date:

Signed:



# Contents

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Summary

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Geology and topography</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3. Archaeology and historical background</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4. Methodology</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. Results</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1 Introduction	6
5.2 Trench 1	6
5.3 Trench 2	9
<b>6. Finds and environmental evidence</b>	<b>11</b>
6.1 Introduction	11
6.2 Pottery	11
6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay	11
6.4 Struck flint	12
6.5 Burnt flint	12
6.6 Small finds and metal work	12
6.7 Faunal remains	12
6.8 Shell	12
6.9 Charcoal	13
6.10 Discussion of material evidence	13
<b>7. Discussion</b>	<b>14</b>
7.1 Trench 1	14
7.2 Trench 2	14
<b>8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>9. Archive deposition</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>10. Acknowledgements</b>	<b>16</b>

## 11. Bibliography

16

### List of Figures

Figure 1. Location map	3
Figure 2. Trench plan	4
Figure 3. Trench 1 plan and sections	8
Figure 4. Trench 2 plan and sections	10

### List of Tables

Table 1. Finds quantities	11
---------------------------	----

### List of Appendices

#### Appendix 1. Plates

Plate 1. Thomas Warren's map of Bury St Edmunds (1776)

Plate 2. Enclosure map (1816) of Bury St Edmunds

Plate 3a. Trench 1, looking east

Plate 3b. Trench 2, looking north

Plate 3c. Trench 2, pits 0010 and 0012, looking west

Plate 3d. Trench 1, gully 0008

Plate 4a. Quarry pit 0016, facing west (1m scale)

Plate 4b. Trench 2 displaying slope of geology, facing south

Plate 4c. Quarry pit 0016, facing north (0.3m scale)

#### Appendix 2. Context List

#### Appendix 3. Trench list

#### Appendix 4. Written Scheme of Investigation

## **Summary**

Two evaluation trenches with a combined length of 41.7m were excavated at 5 Friars Lane, Bury St Edmunds. The evaluation was carried out between the 17th and 18th of April 2014 and was conducted as a condition for planning application DC/13/0526/FUL. The work followed a written scheme of investigation written by SCCAS/FT in response to an archaeological Brief issued by Dr. Abby Antrobus (SCCAS/CT).

The evaluation identified five features comprising a single undated gully or small ditch (0008), two medieval probable refuse pits (0010 and 0012) and two larger pits (0016 and 0022) that were likely to have been chalk extraction pits. Due to the excessive depth of the evaluation trench the second quarry pit (0022) was summarily investigated and produced an iron nail thought to be medieval in date.

The evaluation also determined that the development area had been built up significantly using deposits of post-medieval material, predominantly a clean imported soil.



## **1. Introduction**

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An archaeological evaluation consisting of two trial trenches was carried out on land at 5 Friars lane, Bury St Edmunds (Fig.1) in advance of the construction of new housing. The evaluation took place between the 18th and 19th of April 2014 and was carried out according to a Brief supplied by Dr. Abby Antrobus, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Curatorial Team (SCCAS/CT) as a condition for planning application DC/13/0526/FUL.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The proposed development area (PDA) lies on a level patch of ground at a height of 34.7m above ordnance datum. The immediate area appears to have been built up and levelled specifically to create a tennis lawn. To the south of the PDA the topography declines relatively sharply forming a south-facing slope that looks out across the River Linnet (Fig. 1). Upon excavation the undisturbed geology was observed to continue the northwards incline displayed to the south of the PDA. This was particularly evident in Trench 2 where the chalk elevation increased from 35.32m above OD to 36.32m above OD.

The British Geological Survey notes that the natural geology across the site comprises Lewes Nodular, Seaford, Newhaven and Culver chalk formations. No superficial geological deposits were present with archaeological deposits situated directly over the natural chalk (British Geological Survey website).

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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The PDA lies in an area of archaeological interest inside the bounds of the historic core of Bury St Edmunds (BSE 241). Friars Lane runs at a right angle to Westgate Street to the north which forms part of the 11th century road grid (Fig. 1). A portion of the proposed line of Late Anglo-Saxon town defences (BSE 140) is situated 90m to the west of the PDA and continues southwards until crossing the Linnet and heading south-east.

Evaluation trenches to the west of the PDA (BSE 374) have recorded the surviving remains of two high or late medieval and one post-medieval pits. The evaluation determined that a significant degree of truncation was likely to have recently occurred to the area.

Further medieval occupation has also been identified on the east side of Friars Lane; evaluation trenches at 7-11 Westgate Street (BSE 155) identified intense medieval and post-medieval occupation evidence across the northern portion of the development whilst the southern area demonstrated further examples of the modern truncation recorded to the west.

BSE 372 ran adjacent to the eastern edge of Friars Lane and contained post-medieval structural remains that are likely to have derived from previous medieval structures.

A good deal of post-medieval cartographic evidence for the PDA is available. Thomas Warren's 1776 map of Bury St Edmunds clearly indicates that during this period the area was situated on the edge of the settled portion of the town and was utilised as grazing or farmland (Pl. 1).

The enclosure map of 1816 indicates that the area maintained its use as arable land and was occupied by Edward Prior whilst being owned by a Thomas Brown. The map also shows that the western edge of the plot was bounded by a small copse (Pl. 2).

A single Roman ditch running east-west was recorded at BSE 187 to the west of the PDA and is noteworthy due to the lack of similarly dated evidence in the vicinity.



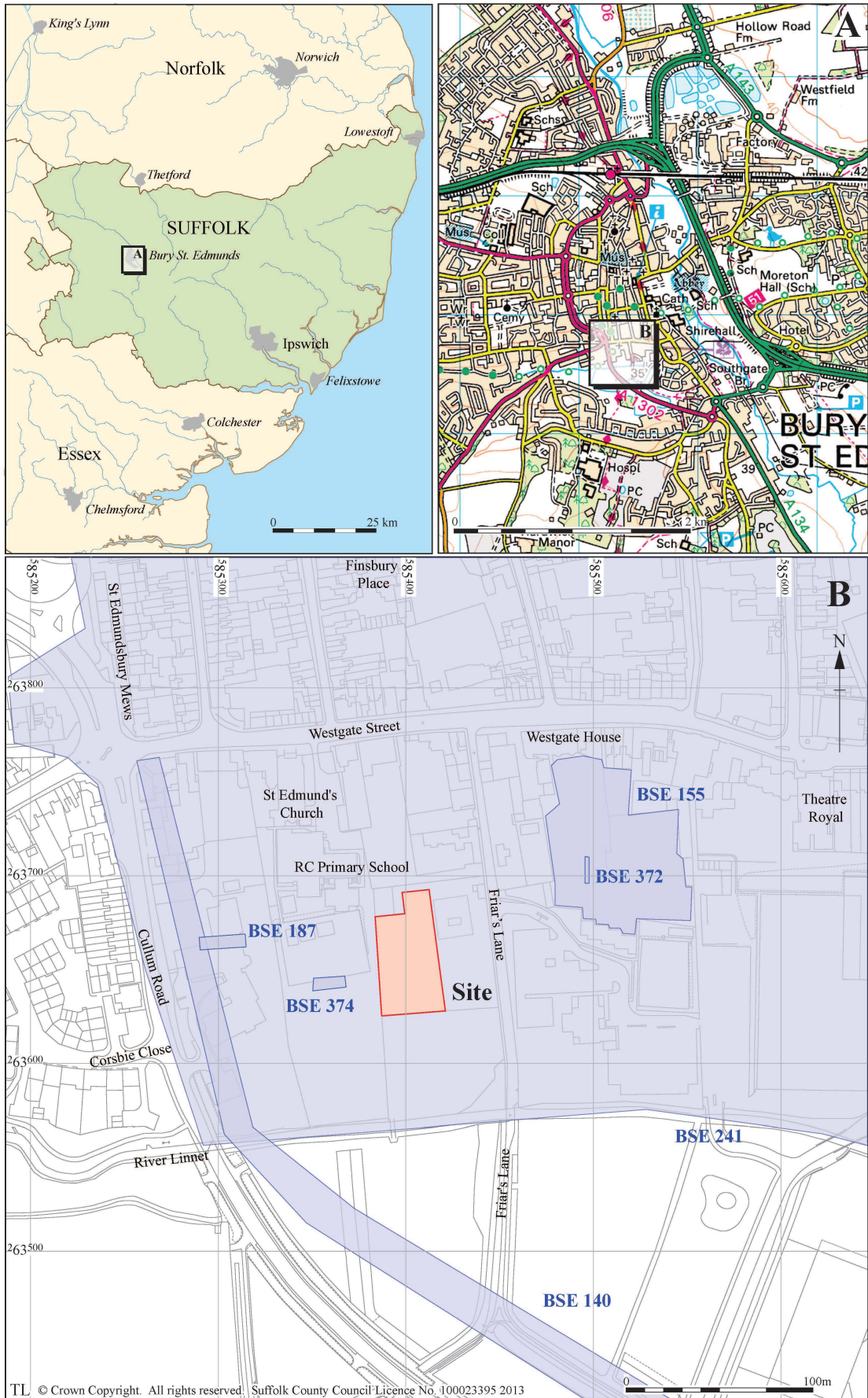


Figure 1. Location map

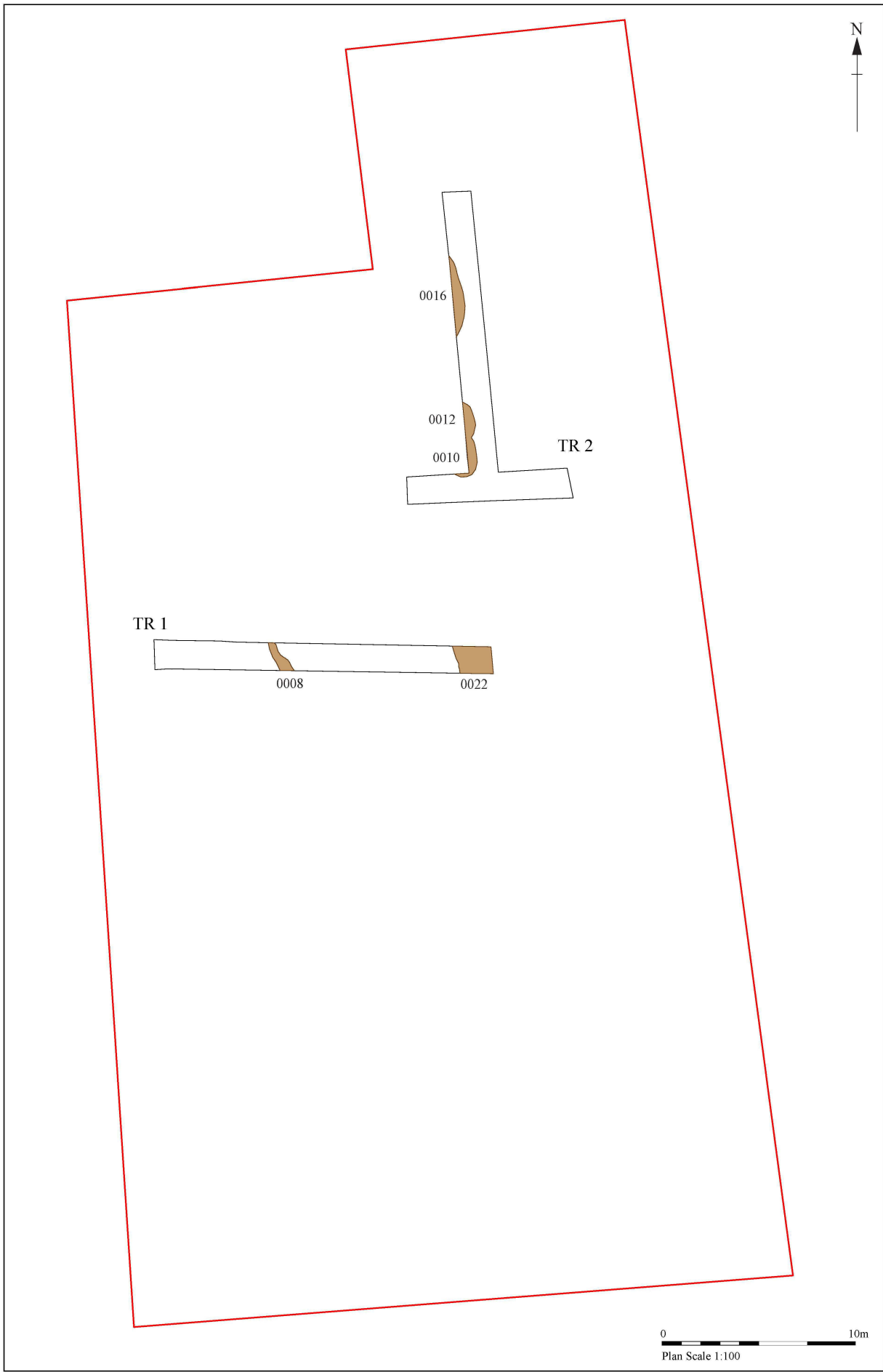


Figure 2. Trench plan

## 4. Methodology

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The positions for the evaluation trenches were located using a Leica System 1200 RTK GPS set with a maximum error tolerance of 0.05m. Excavation of the trenches was carried out with a 7 tonne mechanical digger fitted with a 1.5m wide ditching bucket. An east-west extension was excavated across the southern end of Trench 2 in order to make up a shortfall in the length of Trench 1 caused by a sharp slope at the south-eastern corner of the PDA that prevented the machine from continuing the trench.

Trench dimensions, geology and soil profiles were recorded on SCCAS/FT trench sheets (App. 3). The trench profile was included in section drawings of archaeological features where they coincided with the trench wall. Archaeological features were excavated by hand whilst all cut and depositional events (including topsoil and subsoil) were assigned a unique context number and described on SCCAS context sheets (App. 2) following the guidelines suggested in 'Standards of Field Archaeology in the East of England' (Gurney 2003).

The base of each trench was recorded in plan with a Leica System 1200 RTK GPS (0.05m error tolerance). The elevation of the current ground level and the undisturbed geology was also recorded. Archaeological features were recorded in plan and cross section at a scale of 1:20. The sections were also digitally photographed.

## **5. Results**

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### **5.1 Introduction**

Two trenches with a total length of 41.7m were excavated during the project. The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural geology which varied from 0.43m deep (north end of Trench 2) to 1.68m (east end of Trench 1).

A catalogue of context descriptions and a breakdown of trench dimensions with a summary of the archaeological horizons therein are included with this report as Appendices 2 and 3 respectively.

### **5.2 Trench 1**

Trench 1 (Pl. 3a) was excavated east-west across the southern portion of the development area and measured 17.3m in length. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.68m and demonstrated a soil profile comprising a buried soil (0005) overlain by a series of landscaping deposits including building rubble (0002) and an imported soil (0020).

#### **Layer 0006**

A 0.1m thick concentration of fragmented and whole flint stones was identified within the top of the buried soil layer (0005) and assigned a unique context number. Cleaning of the layers surface recovered a small assemblage of animal bone, an abraded sherd of Roman pottery and a single sherd of medieval pottery.

#### **Gully 0008**

A north-west to south-east aligned gully (0008) was excavated towards the western side of the trench (Fig. 3). The gully had an asymmetrical v-shaped profile measuring approximately 0.7m in width by 0.2m in depth. The gully was filled with a mid orangey-brown sandy-silt (0007) that contained a moderate quantity of degraded chalk (Pl. 3d) but no finds evidence.

#### **Pit 0022**

A large pit was identified at the eastern end of the trench. The excessive depth of the trench combined with the large size of the pit prevented full excavation of the feature.

Cursory investigation identified that the pit had steep straight sides and had a depth greater than 0.3m (Fig. 3). The pit was filled with a dark/mid greyish-brown slightly sandy-silt (0023) that contained an iron nail, determined to be medieval or later in date, and an undiagnostic fragment of fired clay.

The feature was initially assumed to be a large ditch feature whose projection would have extended north-west to south-east; however extensions to the southern edge of Trench 2 determined that the feature did not continue northwards and confirmed that the feature is likely to be a large pit.

### **Natural features**

Two other linear features appearing to possess the same alignment as 0008 were identified to the west of this gully (Fig. 3). Investigation of the feature closest to the gully identified that it was a natural channel with irregular sides and base.

The majority of the second feature was located beyond the trench wall and was not investigated.

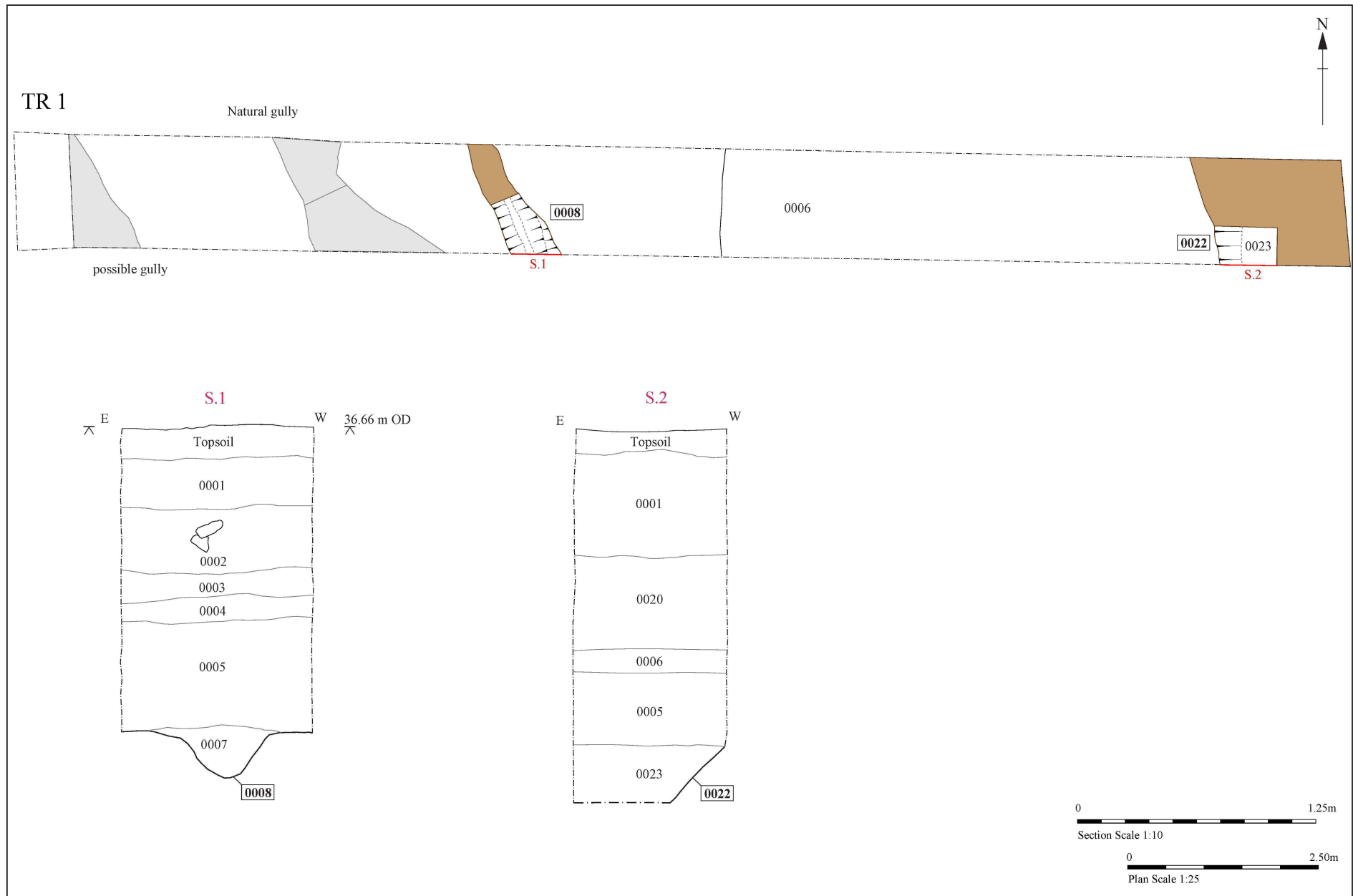


Figure 3. Trench 1 plan and sections

### **5.3 Trench 2**

Trench 2 (Fig. 4) was initially 16m in length and excavated along a north-south alignment across the northern portion of the PDA; the fence enclosing the PDA prevented further excavation beyond this length. An 8.5m long, east–west aligned extension was subsequently excavated across the southern end of the trench to identify feature 0022's potential to be a ditch as well as making up the shortfall in the total trench length.

The trench profile consisted of modern top soil overlying an imported soil (0019) which in turn lay on top of a buried soil layer (0018).

#### **Pit 0010**

A large elliptically planned pit with a north-south aligned longitudinal axis was recorded cutting similar pit 0012 at the western edge of Trench 2 (Fig. 4). The pit had a semi-circular shaped profile (Pl. 3c) and contained a single fill of mid greyish-brown slightly sandy-silt (0009). Occasional degraded CBM fragments were observed throughout the pit fill although they were too fragmentary for analysis. A small finds assemblage comprising a single struck flint, sheep and cattle bone and a sherd of 12th-14th century pottery was recovered from the feature.

#### **Pit 0012**

0012 is an elliptically planned pit which was situated at the west edge of Trench 2 (Fig. 4). The pit had a 2m long north-south aligned longitudinal axis and a u-shaped profile (Pl. 3c). The pit contained a mid greyish-brown slightly sandy-silt (0011) that contained fragments of undiagnostic fired clay, a cattle rib and a pair of iron shears (SF 1001) thought to be medieval or later in date. The feature was cut by similarly shaped pit 0010 and is likely to have been originally excavated for the same reasons.

#### **Pit 0016**

The edge of a large circular pit was identified against the western edge of Trench 2 (Fig. 4). The visible portion of the feature (Pl. 4b) measured 4.18m in length by 0.58m in width. A 0.75m wide slot which was excavated through the feature determined that the eastern side of the pit had a u-shaped profile (Pl. 4a) and contained a series of heavily compacted fills with frequent quantities of chalk inclusions and occasional degraded CBM fragments. A small finds assemblage comprising fragments of fired clay and burnt flint was recovered from the feature.

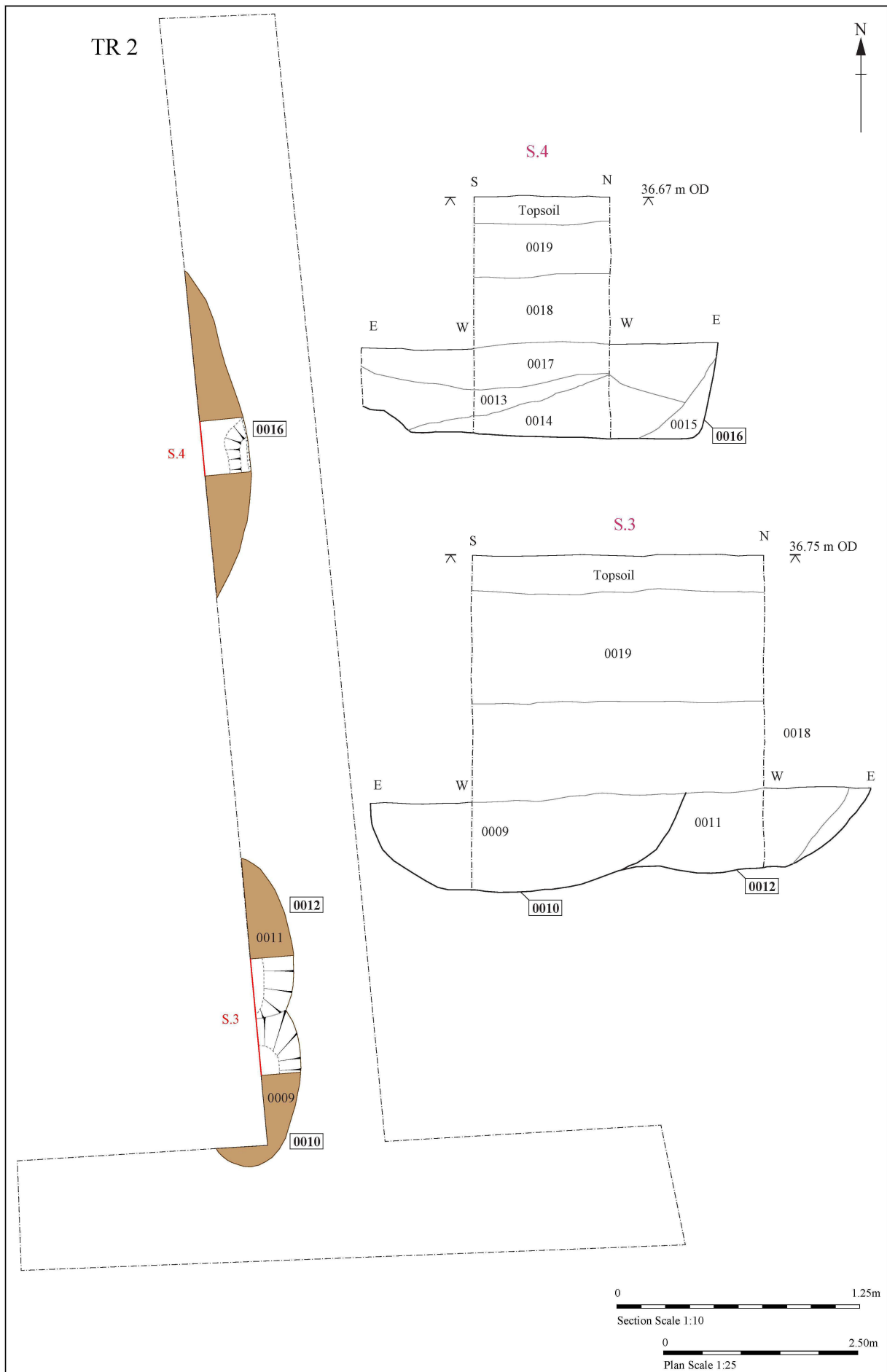


Figure 4. Trench 2 plan and sections



## 6. Finds and environmental evidence

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Cathy Tester

### 6.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from five contexts in Evaluation Trenches 1 and 2 and the quantities by context are shown in Table 1 below.

Context	Pottery		Fired clay		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Date Range
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0006	2	7			2	3	CBM 1-39g	Med, Rom
0009	1	4	1	6	4	103	Flint 1-13g, Shell 2 <1g, Charc 2g	Med,
0011			5	23	1	10	Iron 3-46g (SF1001)	Med+
0014			1	2			Bt flint 1-28g	
0023			1	3			Iron nail 1-7g	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>116</b>		

Table 1. Finds quantities

### 6.2 Pottery

Three sherds of pottery were collected from two contexts. The earliest is Roman, probably 2nd to 4th century, and is an abraded bodysherd (3g) of Grey micaceous ware (GMG) found in Trench 1 layer 0006. A small bodysherd (4g) of medieval coarseware fabric Bury Coarse Sandy Ware (BCSW) was also found in layer 0006. It has a slightly sooted exterior and is of late 12th to 14th century date. A second medieval coarseware sherd of Bury Sandy Fineware (BSFW) with a similar date was recovered from Trench 2 pit 0010 (0009).

### 6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay

A single fragment (39g) of medieval or late medieval/early post-medieval roofing tile 11mm thick was recovered from Trench 1 layer 0006.

Seven fragments of fired clay (34g) were recovered from four contexts, all pits in Trenches 1 and 2. All are small and abraded with no recordable features and their function is unknown. They are all made in a buff and orange medium sandy fabrics with small chalk inclusions (msc).

## **6.4 Struck flint**

A single unpatinated struck flint flake with retouch on one edge was recovered from Trench 2 pit 0010 (0009) where it was found with later-dated medieval finds. The flake is irregular, hinge-fractured and has cortex on its distal end, all characteristic of later flint assemblages (Bronze Age to Iron Age) as is its lack of patination.

## **6.5 Burnt flint**

A fragment of fired-cracked flint (28g) was collected from Trench 2 pit 0016 (0014).

## **6.6 Small finds and metal work**

A pair of iron shears (SF 1001) complete, but broken into three pieces, was recovered from Trench 2 pit 0012 (0011). The shears, which are very corroded and encrusted, are c. 110mm long, have a looped spring and could be medieval or later. The object has been sent for radiography, which is required to record it accurately, and the X-Ray will be added to the site archive when completed.

A complete iron nail 40mm long with a flat round head, square shaft and wedge-shaped tip was recovered from pit 0022 (0023) and could also be medieval or later.

## **6.7 Faunal remains**

Seven fragments of animal bone weighing 116g were recovered from three contexts. The bone, which is in fair condition, includes abraded fragments of medium or small mammal long bone from layer 0006, a sheep mandible and metapodial and a cattle thoracic vertebra from pit 0010 (0009), and a cattle rib and other fragment (burnt) from pit 0012 (0011). The bone was found with medieval or later dated finds and probably represents the remains of food waste from domestic activity in the vicinity.

## **6.8 Shell**

Small fragments (<1g) of oyster and land snail shell were collected from Trench 2 pit 0010 (0009).

## **6.9 Charcoal**

A small fragment of wood charcoal was collected from Trench 2 pit 0010 (0009).

## **6.10 Discussion of material evidence**

The evaluation produced a small collection of finds with dates that are prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later. Finds were hand-recovered from five features, four pits and a layer in Evaluation Trenches 1 and 2.

The earliest is the struck flint which could be Bronze Age or Iron Age but is considered to be a residual find in a later-dated feature.

A single sherd of Roman greyware pottery was recovered from Trench 1 and its presence is not surprising, as a well stratified group of 2nd to 4th century Roman pottery was found within 100m of this site during monitoring works at Cullum Road (BSE 187, Tester 2001).

Medieval coarseware pottery was found in two features and roofing tile of medieval or late medieval/early post-medieval date was also found. Metalwork, which could be medieval or later includes a complete small set of iron shears and a nail. A small amount of animal bone and shell was found with medieval dated finds in three features.

## **7. Discussion**

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### **7.1 Trench 1**

The gully (0008) towards the western edge of Trench 2 was excavated by hand and determined to be an archaeological feature due to its uniform shape. The adjacent natural gully (Fig. 3) that ran in parallel to 0008 was also excavated by hand and was found to have an irregular morphology synonymous with naturally occurring channels. Gully 0008's slight north-west to south-east alignment reflects that of a small copse identified against the western edge of the area in the 1816 enclosure map (Pl. 2) and it seems likely that the two are related. The irregular natural channel may have been partially created through root disturbance from the copse.

Large pit 0022 (Fig. 3) contained a single medieval nail and a fragment of roof tile of medieval or later date. Unfortunately the depth of the trench was too deep for any investigation beyond cursory analysis. The scale of the feature heavily suggests that it was utilised either to extract chalk or create a source of standing water.

The concentration of stones (0006) over the immediate area of pit 0022 could be attributed to efforts to stabilise a ground surface that presumably held more water due the presence of the large feature beneath. It is also possible that the stones form part of a trackway; the 1880 Ordnance Survey suggests that the stones lie in close proximity to the south-east corner of an earlier field. Potentially, the field may have had an entrance in this corner which required the ground to be consolidated in order to cope with the increased traffic. The mixed assemblage of Roman and medieval pottery is not surprising given the earlier discovery of Roman features to the west at BSE 187 (Fig. 1) and location of the PDA within the medieval core of Bury St Edmunds.

### **7.2 Trench 2**

Pits 0010 and 0012 (Fig. 4) displayed similar morphologies and fill types, and combined with their similar location it seems likely that they were excavated for the same purpose. The pits both contained animal bone and fragmented fired clay whilst the later cut (0010) also contained a single sherd of 12th-14th century Medieval coarseware. The same pottery was recovered from layer 0006 in Trench 1 suggesting that they are contemporary.

Pit 0016 was a large pit that was excavated through the crest of the natural chalk geology (PL.4d). The morphology of the pit suggests that it was used for chalk extraction whilst the compacted nature of the fills may indicate a concerted effort to backfill and level the pit. The finds recovered from the pit are undated and no indication of the pit is represented in the post-medieval cartographic evidence.

The eastern extent of all three features in Trench 2 share a north-south alignment (Fig. 4). Given the small area observed during the project this alignment may be coincidental although there is potential for it to represent a previous north-south boundary not identifiable in the documentary evidence.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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The archaeological horizon identified across the PDA displayed a small collection of undated and medieval dated features that could typically be expected of an area located on the edge of urban settlement that has been continuously utilised as arable land.

Archaeological horizons of a similar medieval date have been found in sites surrounding the PDA creating an interpretation of the site as either arable or pasture land to the rear of structures located on the edge of the medieval core of Bury St Edmunds.

The project has also identified that a large volume of material has been deposited, particularly over the southern half of the PDA, in order to build up the ground and create a level surface. This build-up is likely to have protected the archaeological horizons from post-medieval disturbance.

It is recommended that any further work in the PDA includes monitoring of the mechanical excavation of the dwelling's cellar. Monitoring of further footings may also aid assessment of the extent of archaeological horizons at risk.

## 9. Archive deposition

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Bury St Edmunds\BSE 441 5 Friars Lane

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

## 10. Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was carried out by SCCAS Field Team and directed by Andrew Beverton. Project management was undertaken by Dave Gill who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and analysis was undertaken by Cathy Tester and Richenda Goffin.

The report illustrations were created by Crane Begg and Beata Wieczoreck-Oleksy. The report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

## 11. Bibliography

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Gurney, D., 2003. *Standards of Field Archaeology in the East of England*. EAA occasional paper 12. ALGAO.

Tester, C., 2001, 'The Finds' in Tester, A. 2001, *Cullum Road Archaeological Monitoring Report, BSE187*, SCCAS Report No. 2001/19.

### Websites

British Geological Survey

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



**Appendix 1. Plates**

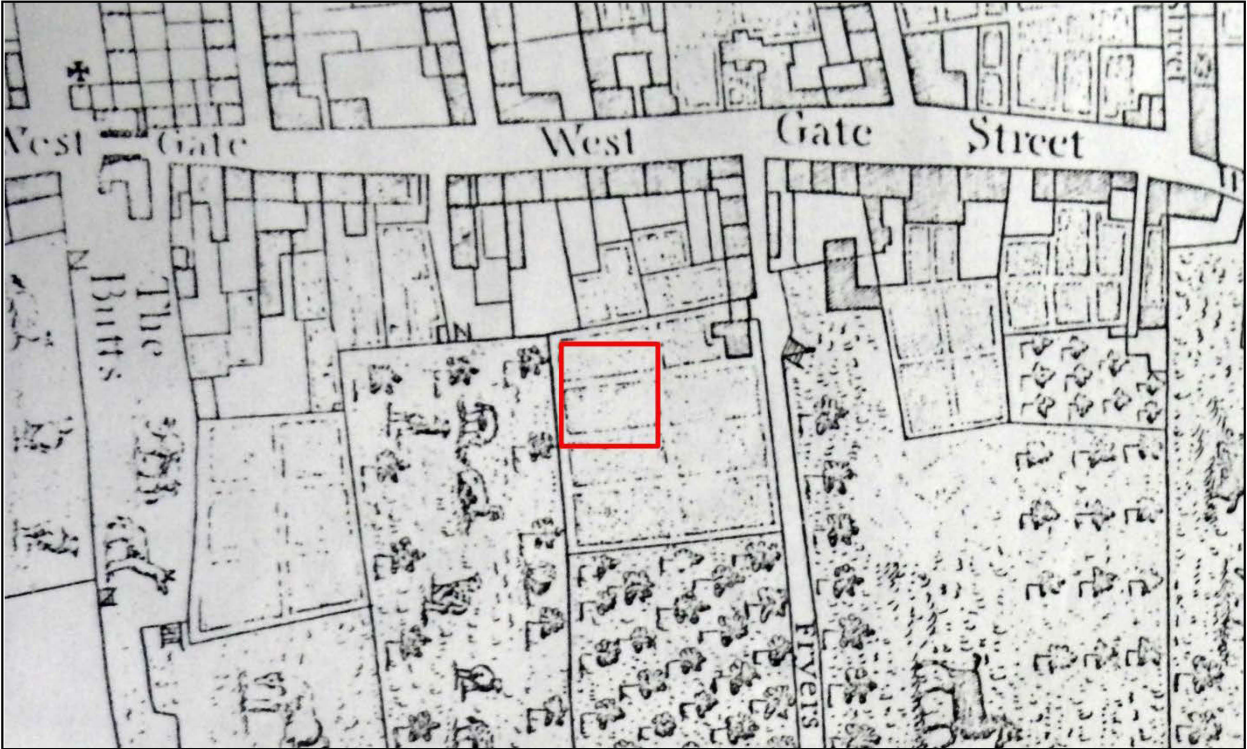


Plate 1. Thomas Warren's map of Bury St Edmunds (1776)  
Overlaid with the approximate development area location (red). North to the top of the image.

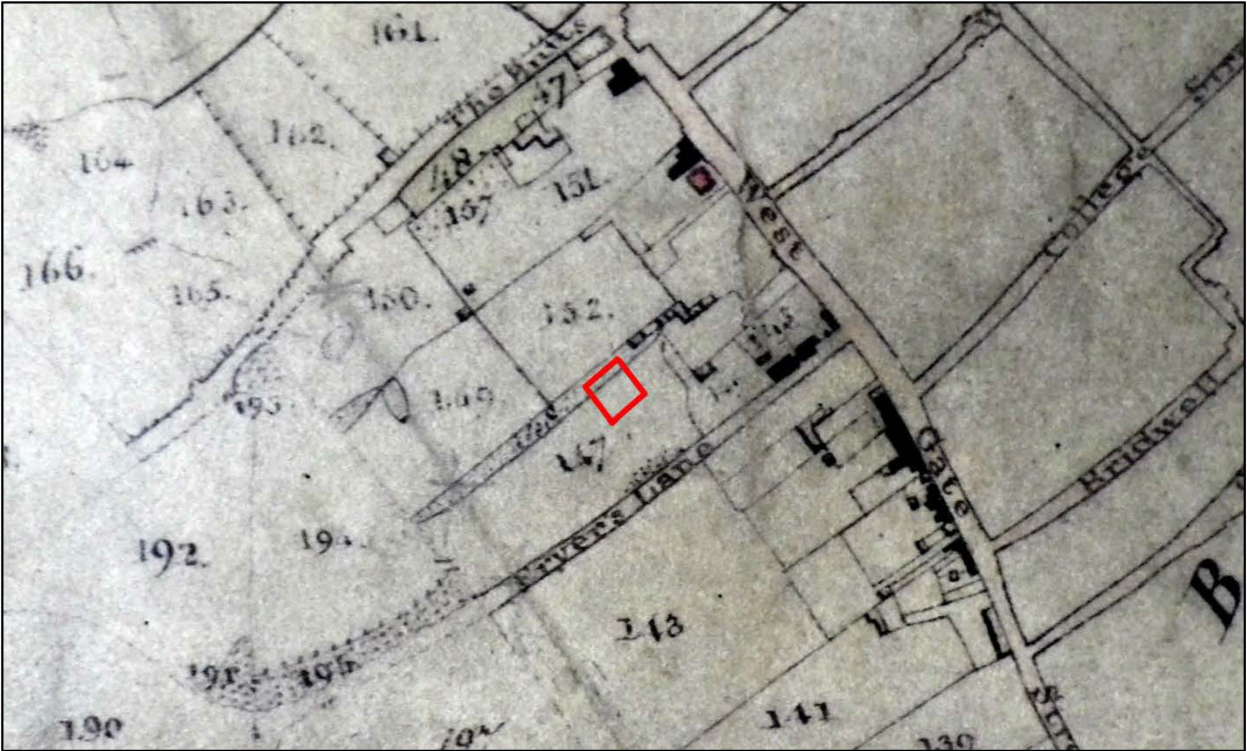


Plate 2. Enclosure map (1816) of Bury St Edmunds  
Overlaid with the approximate development area location (red). North to top right of the image.





Plate 3. Clockwise from top left, all photos have 1m scale:  
3a. Trench 1, looking east  
3b. Trench 2, looking north  
3c. Trench 2, pits 0010 and 0012, looking west  
3d. Trench 1, gully 0008 and soil profile indicating built up deposits, looking south





Plate 4. Clockwise from top:  
4a. Quarry pit 0016, facing west (1m scale)  
4b. Trench 2 displaying slope of geology, facing south  
4c. Quarry pit 0016, facing north (0.3m scale)





## Appendix 2. Context list

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth
0001	--	1	--	Layer	A layer of mid greyish-orangey-brown sandy-silt that contains occasional patches of crushed chalk and modern rubble. The deposit was friable and moderately compacted.	A layer located across the southern portion of the development area. The deposit overlies modern rubble deposit 0002 and is likely resultant from landscaping of the area to create a flat surface.	--	--	0.25
0002	--	1	--	Layer	Layer of brick, tile and mortar located towards the south-west corner of the development area.	Deposit of rubble likely used to build up the ground level at the southern end of the site.	--	--	0.32
0003	--	1	--	Layer	Thin layer of mid greyish brown sandy-silt of slight compaction and friable nature. No inclusions or finds are present.	Layer of sandy-silt deposited as part of the landscaping of the development area.	--	--	0.16
0004	--	1	--	Layer	A layer of crushed chalk pebbles held in a matrix of mid-greyish-brown sandy-silt. No other inclusions or finds are present. The lower horizon is sharp.	Layer of crushed chalk that appears to have been laid on top of the original buried soil.	--	--	0.14
0005	--	1	--	Layer	Layer of mid orangey-greyish-brown sandy-silt of a compacted and friable nature. The context contains moderate inclusions of chalk pebbles (<0.02m diameter) throughout and a layer (0006) of whole and fragmented stone (diameter <0.04m) towards the eastern portion of the development area.  The deposit contains an increased concentration of stones at its top (0006).	Appears to be the original topsoil prior to landscaping.	--	--	0.6
0006	--	1	--	Layer	Number assigned to concentration of stones occurring as a layer at the top of 0005.	Deposit of stones within 0005 possible used to consolidate the ground.	--	--	0.1
0007	0008	1	Gully	Fill	A mid orangey-brown sandy-silt gully fill that is moderately compact and friable. The fill contains moderate inclusions of degraded chalk throughout. No finds were present.	Fill of gully 0008. Deposit is free from finds and degraded chalk inclusions may indicate the feature is a natural gully.	--	0.7	0.28
0008	0008	1	Gully	Cut	Linear planned gully running NW-SE across the SW corner of the development area. The gully has an asymmetrical v-shaped profile; The east side comprises a shallow break of slope leading to a convex side and a smooth break of base. The west side has a steep break of slope leading to a straight side and more abrupt break of base. The gully base is narrow and concave.  This feature shares an alignment with a similarly sized natural gully to the west although it has a much more regular cut.	Most likely a small boundary ditch or gully.	--	0.7	0.28

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth
0009	0010	2	Pit	Fill	The fill of pit 0010 is a mid greyish-brown slightly sandy-silt that contained frequent inclusions of unsorted chalk pebbles (diameter 0.01m-0.04m) through out. The deposit was fairly compacted and friable. Finds from the fill comprise animal bone, a piece of struck flint and fragmentary fired clay that may be brick or tile. Unclear boundary with 0011.	Primary fill of pit 0010, very similar in composition of fill 0011 in pit 0012 and likely formed from the same processes.	2.0	--	0.48
0010	0010	2	Pit	Cut	Large elliptically planned pit with a north-south align longitudinal axis. The pit has semi-circular shaped profile comprising a steep (near vertical) break of slope, concave sides leading to a smooth break of base and a shallowly concave base.	Moderately sized pit that appears to partially cuts similar pit (0012) to the north. Most likely a rubbish pit relating to the development areas previous status as pasture land.	2.0	--	0.48
0011	0012	2	Pit	Fill	Pit fill 0011 is a mid greyish-brown slightly sandy-silt that contains moderate inclusions of unsorted chalk pebbles (diameter 0.01m-0.04m) through out. The deposit was fairly compact and friable and contained animal bone, fragmented CBM and an Iron object, possibly a knife, was present and is recorded as small find 1001.	Fill of pit 0012.	2.0	--	0.42
0012	0012	2	Pit	Cut	A moderately sized elliptically planned pit situated at the west edge of trench 2. The pit has a north-south aligned longitudinal axis and a u-shaped profile formed of a steep break of base, concave sides and an abrupt break of base leading to a fairly flat base. The pit is cut by similarly shaped pit 0010 and is likely to have been originally excavated for the same reasons.	Probable refuse pit relating to the sites earlier status as pasture land.	2.0	--	0.42
0013	0016	2	Pit	Fill	A mid/light greyish-brown silty sand containing frequent inclusions of unsorted chalk pebbles (0.01m-0.04m diameter) and occasional degraded fragments of CBM that crumbled upon excavation.	Fill of quarry pit containing frequent chalk inclusions.	--	--	0.24
0014	0016	2	Pit	Fill	A heavily compacted mid greyish-brown sandy-silt containing frequent chalk pebbles (approximately 0.01m diameter) throughout. The fill contained occasional fragments of degraded CBM that crumbled upon excavation. A single small piece was retrieved. A single burnt flint stone was also recovered. The upper horizon of the fill inclines northwards suggesting that its deposition originated from the northern edge of the feature.	Primary fill of quarry pit 0016.	--	--	0.33
0015	0016	2	Pit	Fill	Slump fill of light-mid brownish-grey silty-sand that contained moderate inclusions of sorted chalk pebbles (<0.02m diameter) throughout.	Slumped fill at the eastern edge of the pit.	--	0.32	0.24

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth
0016	0016	2	Pit	Cut	A large pit emerging from the western edge of trench 2 that appears to have a circular plan. The pits profile is a steep sided u-shape with sharp break of slope, straight sides, an abrupt break of base that is occasionally stepped and a flat base.	The morphology of this feature and its position on the crest of the chalk geology suggests that this feature is a small quarry pit.	4.19	--	0.5
0017	0016	2	Pit	Fill	Upper fill of quarry pit 0016 is a lightish/mid orangey-greyish-brown sandy-silt containing frequent inclusions of unsorted chalk (0.01m-0.04m diameter) throughout. The deposit is very compact and as a fairly clearly lower horizon with 0013. Occasional fragemnts of fired clat, possibly CBM, were present thoroughout the fill but crumbled upon excavation. No other finds were identified.	Final fill of quarry pit 0016.	--	--	0.3
0018	--	2	--	Layer	Thick layer of midyellowy-greyish-brown sandy-silt containing moderate inclusions of small stone and chalk pebbles through out. The deposit was slightly compact and friable.	Thick layer of sandy-silt across the northern poritohn of the development area (sames as 0005 to the south). This layer is likely to be the original topsoil prior to landscaping fopr the sites early status as a tennis lawn.	--	--	0.36
0019	--	2	--	Layer	A layer of mid yellowy-greyish-brown sandy-silt, similar to 0018 but does not contain any inclsuions. The deposit was slightly compact and friable.	The sterile nature of this layer and is position in the soil profile suggests that it is an imported soil used to build up and level the exisiting groundlevel. This context is likely to be the same as 0020 to the south.	--	--	0.28
0020	--	1	--	Layer	A layer of mid yellowy-greyish-brown sandy-silt, similar to 0018 but does not contain any inclusions. The deposit was slightly compact and friable.	The sterile nature of this layer and is position in the soil profile suggests that it is an imported soil used to build up and level the exisiting ground level. This context is likely to be the same as 0019 to the north.	--	--	0.5
0022	0022	1	Pit	Cut	The visble poriton of pit 0022 appears to be circular in plan. The feautre could not be fully excavated but appears to have a slightly steep break of slope and a straight side.	Large pit at eastern end of Trench 1. Most likely a chalk extraction pit. Initially considered to be a ditch although no continuation was identified in the Trench 2 extension.	--	--	0.3
0023	0022	1	Pit	Fill	Top fill of pit 0022 is a dark/mid greyish-brown slightly sandy clay-silt that contained moderate quantities of chalk pebbles (unsorted) through out.	Top fill of large chalk extraction pit.	--	--	>0.3



## Appendix 3. Trench list

Trench Number	Width (m)	Length (m)	Orientation	Topsoil Depth (m)	Depth to Natural (m)	Geology	Description	Summary
1	1.4	17.3	E-W	0.17	1.68	Solid chalk with NW-SE silty gullies	East-West aligned trench running across the southern portion of the development area. Soil profile was very deep and demonstrated a buried soil with a large degree of built up deposits likely relating to the site's modern use as a tennis lawn.	Two archaeological features comprising a large pit (0022) towards the eastern end of the trench and a narrow north-west to south-east gully (0080) that may be a natural channel but appeared to be fairly convincing.
2	1.4	24.43	N-S	0.15	1.27	Solid chalk with frequent degraded patches.	A north-south aligned trench with an east-west aligned extension across the southern end. The trench demonstrated a relatively steep rise in the natural geology ranging from 35.32m AOD at the southern end to 36.32m AOD at the northern end.	Two intercutting pits (0010 and 0012) were present towards the southern end of the trench whilst a larger probable quarry pit was identified against the western edge of the trench.





**Land adjacent to Crystal Palace, 5 Friars  
Lane, Bury St Edmunds  
BSE 441**

**Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment  
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Client: Mr Andrew Hunter**

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team

Author: John Craven

April 2014

# Contents

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<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Project Objectives</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Archaeological method statement</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. Project Staffing</b>	<b>15</b>

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Location map and selected nearby HER entries	3
Figure 2. Proposed trench plan	4

## Project details

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Planning Application No:	DC/13/0526/FUL
Curatorial Officer:	Dr Abby Antrobus
Grid Reference:	TL 8540 6366
Area:	0.185ha
HER Event No/Site Code:	BSE 441
Oasis Reference:	176698
Project Start date	22/04/2014
Project Duration:	1-2 days
Client/Funding Body:	Mr Andrew Hunter
SCCAS/FT Project Manager	John Craven
SCCAS/FT Project Officer:	Andy Beverton
SCCAS/FT Job Code:	BURYFRI001

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# 1. Introduction

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- A program of archaeological evaluation is required, by a condition on planning application DC/13/0526/FUL for residential development on land adjacent to Crystal Palace, 5 Friars Lane, Bury St Edmunds (Fig. 1), to assess the site for heritage assets in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- The work required is detailed in a Brief and Specification (dated 26/03/2014), produced by the archaeological adviser to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Dr Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).
- Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team (SCCAS/FT) has been contracted to carry out the project. This document details how the requirements of the Brief and general SCCAS/CT guidelines (SCCAS/CT 2011) will be met, and has been submitted to SCCAS/CT for approval on behalf of the LPA. It provides the basis for measurable standards and will be adhered to in full, unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS/CT.

## The Site

- The site, an area of c.0.185ha currently consists of open grass lawn to the west of the property Crystal Palace. The southern part of the site is occupied by several mature trees.
- The site is situated at a height of 35m – 37m above Ordnance Datum, on a south facing slope overlooking the River Linnett, c.70m to the south. The northern half is broadly flat, with ground-levels apparently being built up as the natural slope descends. A hedge and sharp drop in ground levels, representing the end of the artificial build up and a return to the natural slope, crosses the centre of the site. The southern half of the site then slopes down towards the river.
- The site geology is recorded as well drained calcareous, coarse and fine loamy soils (Ordnance Survey 1983), over superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel which in turn overlie chalk bedrock of the Lewes Nodular Chalk

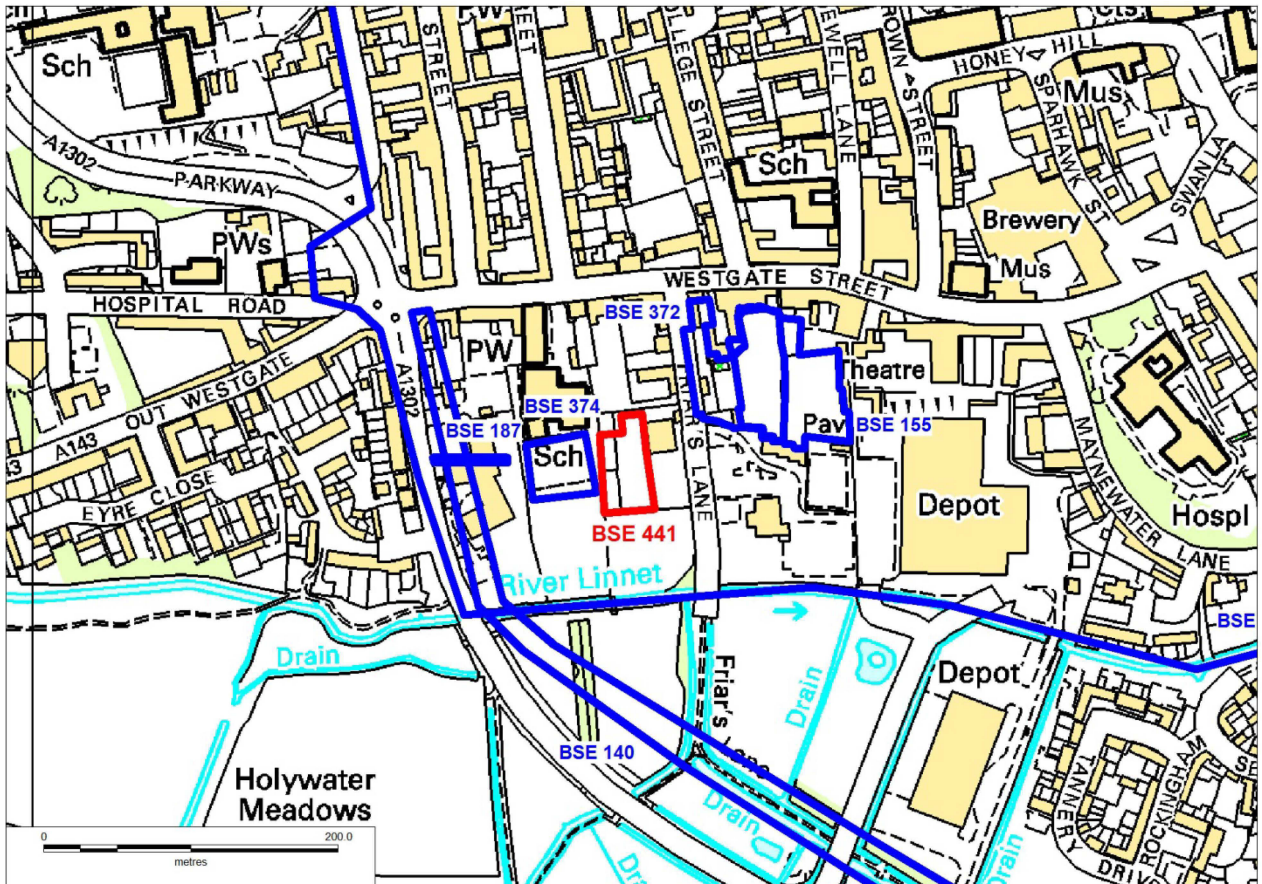
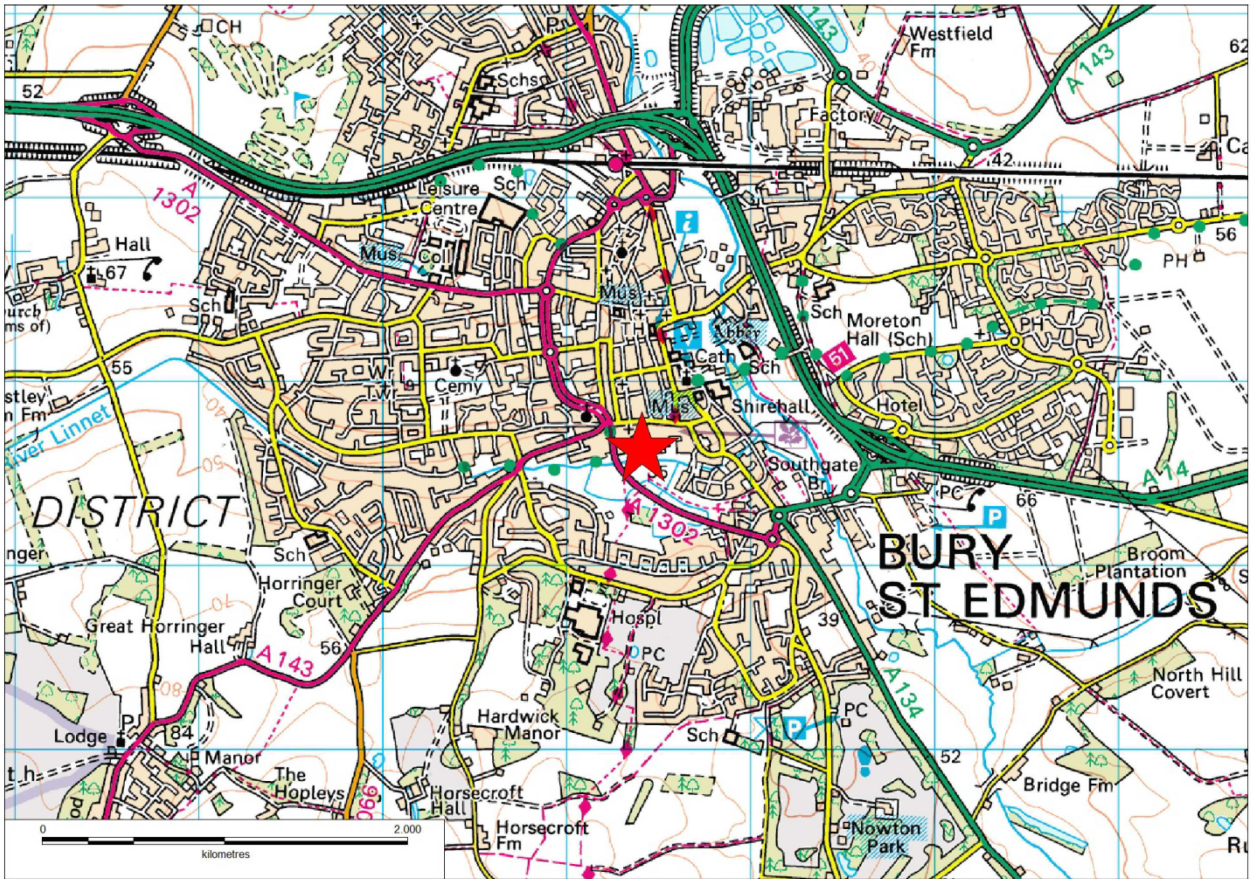
Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation And Culver Chalk Formation (Undifferentiated) (British Geological Survey website).

- The proposed development consists of a single residential property, associated access and a substantial pond at the north end of the plot. The south part is to remain as gardens.

## **Archaeological and historical background**

- The condition has been placed as the site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the historic core of the town of Bury St Edmunds (County Historic Environment Record No. BSE 241). The site lies between Westgate Street to the north, which forms part of the 11th century road grid, and the River Linnett to the south and the supposed line of the late Anglo-Saxon and medieval town defences between Westgate and Southgate (BSE 140) lies c.100m to the south-west.
- Medieval archaeological deposits have been identified in several similar locations to the south of Westgate Street. Archaeological evaluation has previously identified truncated medieval and post-medieval pits at St Edmunds Primary School to the west (BSE 374) while to the east medieval and post-medieval occupation has been observed in separate evaluations at BSE 155 and BSE 372.
- A single large Roman ditch, being rare evidence for Roman occupation in the town, has previously been found 60m to the west of the site (BSE 187). Aligned west-east its projected course would take it through the site, although no sign of it was observed at BSE 374.
- The site therefore has potential for medieval, and possibly Roman, occupation deposits to exist. The proposed residential development, which includes basements and a pond, will involve significant ground disturbance and this could have a detrimental impact upon any archaeological deposits that exist.





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Figure 1. Location map and selected nearby HER entries





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Figure 2. Proposed trench plan

## 2. Project Objectives

- The aim of the evaluation is to accurately quantify the quality and extent of the sites archaeological resource so that an assessment of the developments impact upon heritage assets can be made.
- The evaluation will:
  - Establish whether any archaeological deposits exist in the application area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
  - Identify the date, approximate form and function of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
  - Establish the extent, depth and quality of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
  - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and whether masking alluvial or colluvial deposits are present.
  - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
  - Assess the potential of the site to address research aims defined in the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
  - Provide sufficient information for SCCAS/CT to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation or the further recording of archaeological deposits.
  - Provide sufficient information for the client to establish time and cost implications for the development regarding the application areas heritage assets.

### 3. Archaeological method statement

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#### Management

- The project will be managed by SCCAS/FT Project Officer John Craven in accordance with the principles of *Management of Research in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006).
- SCCAS/CT will be given five days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork and arrangements made for SCCAS/CT visits to enable the works to be monitored effectively.
- Full details of project staff, including sub-contractors and specialists are given in section 6 below.

#### Project preparation

- A desk-based assessment consisting of consultation of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) and study of readily available historic maps and aerial photographs held by SCCAS will be carried out prior to the start of fieldwork.
- An event number has been obtained from the Suffolk HER Officer (BSE 441) and will be included on all future project documentation.
- An OASIS online record has been initiated and key fields in details, location and creator forms have been completed.
- A pre-site inspection and Risk Assessment for the project has been completed.

#### Fieldwork

- Fieldwork standards will be guided by 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', EAA Occasional Papers 14, and the Institute For Archaeology's (IFA) paper 'Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation', revised 2008.
- The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by members of SCCAS/FT led by Project Officer Andrew Beverton. The fieldwork team will be drawn from a pool of



suitable staff at SCCAS/FT and will include an experienced metal detectorist/excavator.

- The project Brief requires the application area to be evaluated by the excavation of 40m of 1.8m wide trenching across the areas of proposed development. A proposed trench plan is included below (Fig. 2). If necessary minor modifications to the trench plan may be made onsite to respect any previously unknown buried services, areas of disturbance/contamination or other obstacles.
- The trench locations will be marked out by hand.
- The trenches will be excavated using a machine equipped with a back-acting arm and toothless ditching bucket (measuring at least 1.6m wide), under the supervision of an archaeologist. This will involve the removal of an estimated 0.5m-0.8m of topsoil and modern deposits until the first visible archaeological surface or subsoil surface is reached.
- Spoilheaps will be created adjacent to each trench and topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate if required. Spoilheaps will be examined and metal-detected for archaeological material.
- The trench sides, base and archaeological surfaces will be cleaned by hand as necessary to identify archaeological deposits and artefacts and allow decisions to be made on the method of further investigation by the Project Officer. Further use of the machine, i.e. to investigate thick sequences of deposits by excavation of test pits etc, may be undertaken as necessary after consultation with SCCAS/CT.
- There will be a presumption that a minimum of disturbance will be caused whilst achieving adequate evaluation of the site, i.e. establishing the period, depth and nature of archaeological deposits. Typically 50% of discrete features such as pits and 1m slots across linear features will be sampled by hand excavation, although in some instances 100% may be removed, with the aim of establishing date and function. All identified features will be investigated by excavation unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS/CT. Significant archaeological features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or postholes will be preserved intact if possible.

- Sieving of deposits using a 10mm mesh will be undertaken if they clearly appear to be occupation deposits or structurally related. Other deposits may be sieved at the judgement of the excavation team or if directed by SCCAS/CT.
- Any fabricated surface (floors, yards etc) will be fully exposed and cleaned.
- The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits across the site will be recorded.
- Metal detector searches of trenches and archaeological deposits will take place throughout the evaluation by an experienced SCCAS/FT metal-detectorist.
- An overall site plan showing trench locations, feature positions, sections and levels will be made using an RTK GPS or Total Station Theodolite. Individual detailed trench or feature plans etc will be recorded by hand at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate to complexity. All excavated sections will be recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, also as appropriate to complexity. All such drawings will be in pencil on A3 pro forma gridded permatrace sheets. All levels will refer to Ordnance Datum. Section and plan drawing registers will be maintained.
- All trenches, archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using standard pro forma SCCAS/FT registers and recording sheets and numbering systems. Record keeping will be consistent with the requirements of the Suffolk HER and will be compatible with its archive.
- A photographic record, consisting of high resolution digital images, will be made throughout the evaluation. A number board displaying site code and, if appropriate, context number and a metric scale will be clearly visible in all photographs. A photographic register will be maintained.
- All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. Finds on site will be treated following appropriate guidelines (Watkinson & Neal 2001) and a conservator will be available for on-site consultation as required.
- All finds will be brought back to the SCCAS/FT finds department at the end of each day for processing, quantifying, packing and, where necessary, preliminary conservation. Finds will be processed and receive an initial assessment during the fieldwork phase and this information will be fed back to site to inform the on-site evaluation methodology.

- Environmental sampling of archaeological contexts will, where possible, be carried out to assess the site for palaeoenvironmental remains and will follow appropriate guidance (English Heritage 2011). In order to obtain palaeoenvironmental evidence, bulk soil samples (of at least 40 litres each, or 100% of the context) will be taken using a combination of judgement and systematic sampling from selected archaeological features or natural environmental deposits, particularly those which are both datable and interpretable. All samples will be retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeoenvironmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following these assessments.
- If necessary, for example if waterlogged peat deposits are encountered, then advice will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (East of England) on the need for specialist environmental techniques such as coring or column sampling.
- If human remains are encountered guidelines from the Ministry of Justice will be followed. Human remains will be treated at all stages with care and respect, and will be dealt with in accordance with the law and the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. The evaluation will attempt to establish the extent, depth and date of burials whilst leaving remains *in situ*. If human remains are to be lifted, for instance if analysis is required to fully evaluate the site, then a Ministry of Justice license for their removal will be obtained in advance. In such cases appropriate guidance (McKinley & Roberts 1993, Brickley & McKinley 2004) will be followed and, on completion of full recording and analysis, the remains, where appropriate, will be reburied or kept as part of the project archive.
- In the event of unexpected or significant deposits being encountered on site, the client and SCCAS/CT will be informed. Such circumstances may necessitate changes to the Brief and hence evaluation methodology, in which case a new archaeological quotation will have to be agreed with the client, to allow for the recording of said unexpected deposits. If an evaluation is aborted, i.e. because unexpected deposits have made development unviable, then all exposed archaeological features will be recorded as usual prior to backfilling and a report produced.

- Trenches will not be backfilled without the prior approval of SCCAS/CT. Trenches will be backfilled, subsoil first then topsoil, and compacted to ground-level, unless otherwise specified by the client. Original ground surfaces will not be reinstated but will be left as neat as practicable.

## **Post-excavation**

- The post-excavation finds work will be managed by the SCCAS/FT Finds Team Manager, Richenda Goffin, with the overall post-excavation managed by John Craven. Specialist finds staff, whether internal SCCAS/FT personnel or external specialists, are experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field.
- All finds will be processed and marked (HER site code and context number) following Institute for Conservation (ICON) guidelines and the requirements of the Suffolk HER. For the duration of the project all finds will be stored according to their material requirements in the SCCAS Archaeological Stores at Bury St. Edmunds or Ipswich. Metal finds will be stored in accordance with ICON) guidelines, *initially recorded and assessed for significance* before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the excavation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to ICON standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.
- All on-site derived site data will be entered onto a digital (Microsoft Access) SCCAS/FT database compatible with the Suffolk HER.
- Bulk finds will be fully quantified and the subsequent data will be added to the digital site database. Finds quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by context and will include a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- Assessment reports for all categories of collected bulk finds will be prepared in-house or commissioned as necessary and will meet appropriate regional or national standards. Specialist reports will include sufficient detail and tabulation by context of data to allow assessment of potential for analysis and will include non-technical summaries.

- Representative portions of bulk soil samples will be processed by wet sieving and flotation in-house in order to recover any environmental material which will be assessed by external specialists. The assessment will include a clear statement of potential for further analysis either on the remaining sample material or in future fieldwork.
- All hand drawn site plans and sections will be scanned.
- All raw data from GPS or TST surveys will be uploaded to the project folder, suitably labelled and kept as part of the project archive.
- Selected plan drawings will then be digitised as appropriate for combination with the results of digital site survey to produce a full site plan, compatible with MapInfo GIS software.
- All hand-drawn sections will be digitised using autocad software.
- Digital photographs will be allocated and renumbered with a code from the Suffolk HER photographic index.

## **Report**

- A full written report on the fieldwork will be produced, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006), to a scale commensurate with the archaeological results. The report will contain a description of the project background, location plans, evaluation methodology, a period by period description of results, finds assessments and a full inventory of finds and contexts. The report will also include scale plans, sections drawings, illustrations and photographic plates as required.
- The objective account of the archaeological evidence will be clearly separated from an interpretation of the results, which will include a discussion of the results in relation to relevant known sites in the region that are recorded in the Suffolk HER and other readily available documentary or cartographic sources.
- The report will include a statement as to the value, significance and potential of the site and its significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework for the East of England (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, Medlycott 2011). This will include

an assessment of potential research aims that could be addressed by the site evidence.

- The report will contain sufficient information to stand as an archive report should further work not be required.
- The report may include SCCAS/FT's opinion as to the necessity for further archaeological work to mitigate the impact of the sites development. The final decision as to whether any recommendations for further work will be made however lies solely with SCCAS/CT and the LPA.
- The report will include a summary in the established format for inclusion in the annual '*Archaeology in Suffolk*' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.
- A copy of this Written Scheme of investigation will be included as an appendix in the report.
- The report will include a copy of the completed project OASIS form as an appendix.
- An unbound draft copy of the report will be submitted to SCCAS/CT for approval within 4 weeks of completion of fieldwork.

## **Project archive**

- On approval of the report a printed and bound copy will be lodged with the Suffolk HER. A digital .pdf file will also be supplied, together with a digital and fully georeferenced vector plan showing the application area and trench locations, compatible with MapInfo software.
- The online OASIS form for the project will be completed and a .pdf version of the report uploaded to the OASIS website for online publication by the Archaeological Data Service. A paper copy of the form will be included in the project archive.
- A second bound copy of the report will be included with the project archive (see below).

- Two printed and bound copies of the approved report will be supplied to the client, together with our final invoice for outstanding fees. A digital .pdf copy will be supplied on request.
- The project archive, consisting of the complete artefactual assemblage, and all paper and digital records, will be deposited in the SCCAS Archaeological Store at Bury St Edmunds within 6 months of completion of fieldwork. The project archive will be consistent with MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006) and ICON guidelines. The project archive will also meet the requirements of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT 2010).
- All physical site records and paperwork will be labelled and filed appropriately. Digital files will be stored in the relevant SCCAS archive parish folder on the SCC network site.
- The project costing includes a sum to meet SCCAS archive charges. A form transferring ownership of the archive to SCCAS will be completed and included in the project archive.
- If the client, on completion of the project, does not agree to deposit the archive with, and transfer to, SCCAS, they will be expected to either nominate another suitable depository approved by SCCAS/CT or provide as necessary for additional recording of the finds archive (such as photography and illustration) and analysis. A duplicate copy of the written archive in such circumstances would be deposited with the Suffolk HER.
- Exceptions from the deposition of the archive described above include:
  - Objects that qualify as Treasure, as detailed by the Treasure Act 1996. The client will be informed as soon as possible of any such objects are discovered/identified and the find will be reported to SCCAS/CT and the Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer and hence the Coroner within 14 days of discovery or identification. Treasure objects will immediately be moved to secure storage at SCCAS and appropriate security measures will be taken on site if required. Any material which is eventually declared as Treasure by a Coroners Inquest will, if not acquired by a museum, be returned to the client and/or landowner. Employees of SCCAS, or volunteers etc present on site, will not eligible for any share of a treasure reward.

- Other items of monetary value in which the landowner or client has expressed an interest. In these circumstances individual arrangements as to the curation and ownership of specific items will be negotiated.
- Human skeletal remains. The client/landowner by law will have no claim to ownership of human remains and any such will be stored by SCCAS, in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence, until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.

## Bibliography

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## 4. Project Staffing

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### Management

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SCCAS/FT Manager Western Office	Dr Rhodri Gardner
SCCAS/FT Project Manager	John Craven
SCCAS/FT Finds Dept	Richenda Goffin
SCCAS/FT Graphics Dept	Crane Begg

---

### Fieldwork

The fieldwork team will be derived from the following pool of SCCAS/FT staff.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>First Aid</b>	<b>Other skills/qualifications</b>
Andrew Beverton	Project Officer	Yes	Surveyor
John Sims	Supervisor	Yes	
Tim Carter	Project Assistant		Metal detectorist
Felix Reeves-Whymark	Project Assistant		Metal detectorist

### Post-excavation and report production

The production of the site report and submission of the project archive will be carried out by Andrew Beverton. The post-excavation finds analysis will be managed by Richenda Goffin. The following SCCAS/FT specialist staff will contribute to the report as required.

---

Graphics	Crane Begg
Graphics	Ellie Cox, Gemma Bowen, Beata Wieczorek-Olesky
Illustration	Donna Wreathall
Post Roman pottery and CBM	Richenda Goffin
Roman Pottery	Cathy Tester, Stephen Benfield
Environmental sample processing	Anna West
Finds Processing	Jonathan Van Jennians

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SCCAS also uses a range of external consultants for post-excavation analysis who will be sub-contracted as required. The most commonly used of these are listed below.

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Sue Anderson	Human skeletal remains/medieval pottery	Freelance
Sarah Bates	Lithics	Freelance
Julie Curl	Animal bone	Freelance
Anna Doherty	Prehistoric pottery	Archaeology South-East
Val Fryer	Plant macrofossils	Freelance
SUERC	Radiocarbon dating	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre

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

## Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

**Land adjacent to Crystal Palace, Friar's Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk**

**PLANNING AUTHORITY:** St Edmundsbury Borough Council

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:** DC/13/0526/FUL

**HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:** To be arranged

**GRID REFERENCE:** TL 854 636

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:** Erection of a dwelling and associated landscaping

**AREA:** c0.17ha

**CURRENT LAND USE:** Grass - garden

**THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:** Abby Antrobus  
Archaeological Officer  
Conservation Team  
Tel. : 01284 741231  
E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk

**Date:** 26 March 2014

### Summary

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

‘No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted 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 (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1), 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 not 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 (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), 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. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

### **Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 The proposed development affects an area of archaeological interest in the historic core of the town of Bury St Edmunds (County Historic Environment Record BSE 241), overlooking the river valley and in the vicinity of a Roman feature, which is uncommon for Bury where there is very little evidence for Roman activity (BSE 137). Medieval archaeological remains have also been encountered in similar locations between Westgate Street and the river. The development, which involves excavation of basements and a pond, would cause ground disturbance which therefore has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

### **Planning Background**

- 3.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by 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 was advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework 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.

### **Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
  - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
  - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
  - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 4.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
  - 4.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover c 5% by area. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site, including the proposed basements, ponds, house and driveways. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. It is anticipated that the trench design will include c.40m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
  - 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

### **Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation 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.
- 5.3 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 other 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 all documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 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 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 6.10 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**

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.1.

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 archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

### **Notes**

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors ([www.archaeologists.net](http://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.



# Archaeological Service Field Projects Team

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