

25 Northgate Street, Bury St Edmunds
BSE 443

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2014/065

Commissioned by: John Stebbings

Author: Andrew Tester

August 2014

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**25 NORTHGATE STREET
BURY ST EDMUNDS
BSE 443**

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SCCAS Report No. 2014/065

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Report Date: August 2014

HER Information

Site Code: BSE 443
Site Name: 25 Northgate Street
Report Number 2014/065
Planning Application No: DD/14/0016/HH
Date of Fieldwork: May-June 2014
Grid Reference: TL 854 647
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-177644
Curatorial Officer: Abby Antrobus
Project Officer: Andrew Tester
Client: John Stebbings

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: Andrew Tester
Date: 2014

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Summary

The monitoring of a soil strip and footings for a kitchen extension and garden wall exposed two pits and a well, all of probable 19th century date. A third pit that was cut by the well may have been earlier and dug to extract gravel but neither the date nor the function could be confirmed.

1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footings for a house extension and a garden retaining wall and during a partial site strip. The monitoring was a condition on planning application DD/14/0016/HH and the work was carried out according to a Brief and Specification prepared by Dr Abby Antrobus of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

2. Geology and topography

The site is situated c.420m to the west of the River Lark close to its confluence with the Tayfen, which feeds the river from the west. It is on land slightly above the floodplain. While the base geology is of chalk, the natural subsoil is of sand, silt and gravel.

3. Historical background

Northgate Street was one of the main roads into the medieval town of Bury St Edmunds but may have had its origins in the Saxon period. Archaeological investigations of this street have been very limited with little major development to expose archaeological remains. The site lies over 200m to the south of the medieval North Gate of the town.

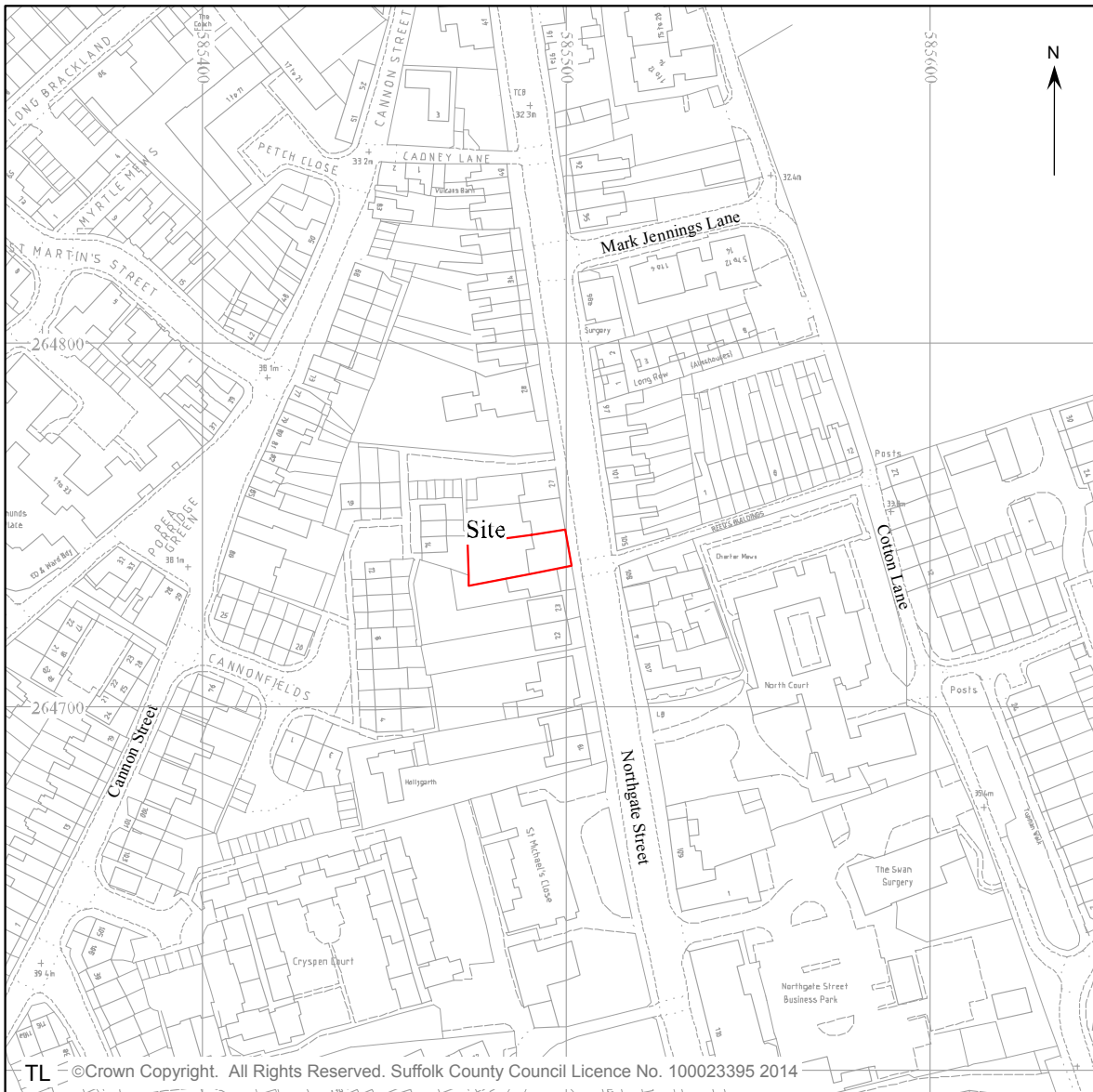
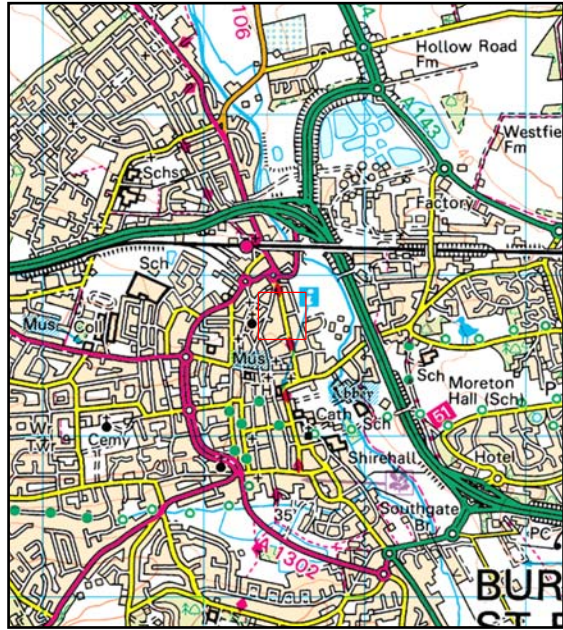


Figure 1. Location map

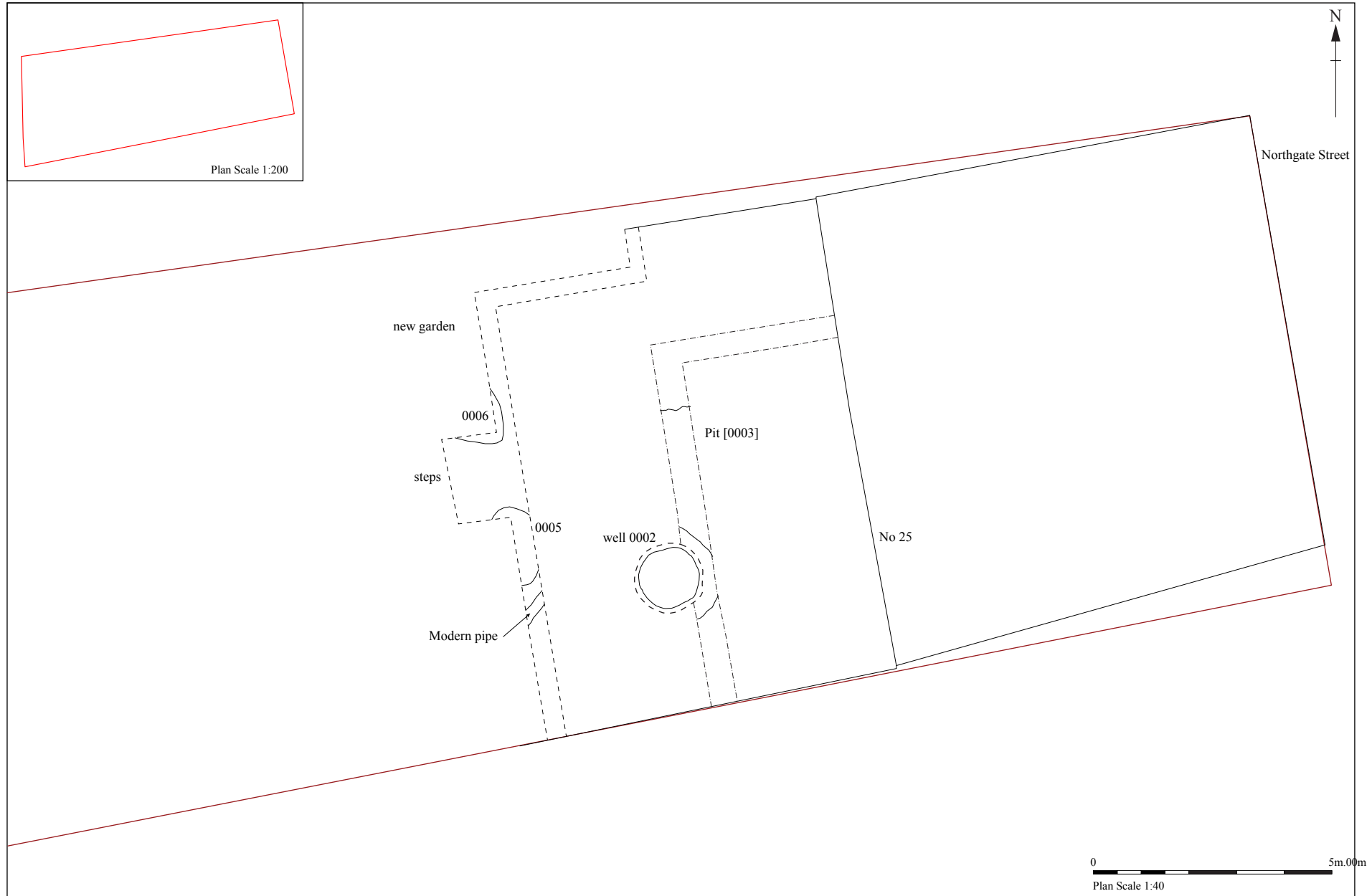


Figure 2. Site plan

4. Methodology

Refurbishment of a c.19th century property included the replacement and enlargement of an extension to the rear of the property, the laying of new drains, and the extension of a patio area into the existing garden with a retaining wall and steps up into the garden. Visits were made during the stripping of the garden, and the excavation of the main footing trenches for the extension (Pl.2). The garden area was lowered by c.0.7m; the natural subsoil was not visible at this depth. Parts of the existing extension slab were broken out and drains were replaced. The footings for the morning room extension were monitored during excavation. A photographic record was made of the site and a plan based on the architects drawings was annotated showing the results.

5. Results

(Fig. 2)

There had been a substantial build-up of topsoil in the garden, possibly with soil re-deposited when the original extension was added, and with the larger footprint of the new extension the lowering of the built up ground by up to c.0.7m failed to expose natural subsoil (PI.1). The excavation of the 0.45m wide footings, starting from the south wall of the adjoining house, uncovered orange silt/sand with gravel at c.0.3m-0.4m. Approximately 2m north of the property to the south was a brick well, 0002, which was c.1.3m wide. It was capped with machine-made bricks bonded together with lime mortar at the top (the main lining of the well was made of unbonded bricks). There was a construction pit visible around the well, which is likely to be 19th century in date (PI. 2).

Approximately 3.5m from the south wall and immediately beyond the well construction pit the topsoil deepened over what is interpreted as a pit, 0003 (PI.3). This was filled with yellow silty sand with few flints, context 0004. This continued for c. 2.5m before the topsoil was shallower and bright orange silt/sand/mixed gravel appeared c.0.2m higher in the trench profile. The short length of footing connecting the extension to the house on the north side was heavily disturbed by the existing drainage and no archaeological features were observed.

A third phase of monitoring was carried out following the excavation of the garden retaining wall. This revealed a later post-medieval pit, 0005, approximately 2m wide filled with dark silt, which included layers of soot. It was cut from immediately below the topsoil and is likely to have been c.19th century in date. A second shallower pit, 0006, was observed on the edge of the footing for the steps which project outwards into the garden. The pit did not penetrate as deep as the wall footing and the dark silt fill, so similar to the topsoil suggests that this pit was no earlier than the 19th century.



Plate 1. Looking north, soil strip extending onto the garden, scale 1m



Plate 2. Looking west, well 0002 with the cap removed



Plate 3. Looking west, the surface of probable pit 0003 adjoining well 0002

6. General discussion

The earliest feature on the site is likely to have been pit 0003. Due to the relatively natural appearance of the fill with a low organic content, it was relatively stable, and it was not, considered necessary to excavate the pit as part of the construction; it could not, therefore be dated; previous work on Northgate Street, on land behind Thingoe House and work on Cotton Lane has identified a number of gravel extraction pits of medieval date, however. These could be quite modest in size and were characterised by a lack of stone and a backfill dirtier in colour than the local natural but not filled with domestic rubbish. The interpretation of the evidence is that these were gravel pits where extracted material was sorted on site and the residue returned to the hole. This resulted in a largely stoneless backfill of homogenous appearance but with no darker silt fill (later extraction pits were left open and often backfilled with rubbish having a distinct dark, loamy fill wholly different in appearance to this feature). While the pits at Thingoe House were on a large scale and almost certainly associated with the major buildings works carried out on the Abbey over several hundred years, smaller pits may have supplied more local needs. This interpretation of the pit, while plausible, is unproven however.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Bury St Edmunds\BSE443 Monitoring

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

8. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork and report writing was carried out by Andrew Tester, the graphics were done by Beata Wieczorek-Olesky and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

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Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording
AT
**25 NORTHGATE STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS,
SUFFOLK**

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	To be arranged
SHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 854 647
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Extension and reduction of land for patio
AREA:	Small
CURRENT LAND USE:	Garden
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Abby Antrobus Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel: 01284 741231 E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	14 January 2013

Archaeological Background

- 1.1 The site lies along Northgate Street, which is one of the oldest streets in the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval core of Bury St Edmunds (BSE 241). Evidence of early occupation has been recorded along the street (e.g. BSE 236).
- 1.2 The potential archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the reduction of land for the patio, and the excavation of footings. The proposed works would cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists, along with the information that it holds on evidence for early occupation on the site.

Planning Background

- 2.1 In accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, planning permission has been granted with the following condition:

‘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.’

This will record and advance understanding of the significance of heritage assets that might be present at this location before they are damaged or destroyed.

- 2.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT); SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place, and recommend partial discharge of the condition to allow work to commence. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the full discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme (completion of fieldwork and reporting), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 2.5 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.

Requirement for Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that it will be adequate for the groundworks undertaken by the building contractor to be continuously monitored and recorded by a trained archaeologist.
- 3.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 3.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.
- 3.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.2 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 5.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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. 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. Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with guidelines from the Institute of Conservation (ICON).
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE, must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers 3, 8 and 24, 1997, 2000 and 2011). **Reporting should be commensurate with results. When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient** with the following information: location (grid ref., parish, address), planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development (a digital vector plan when possible), depth of ground disturbance and soil profile in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.

- 5.7 An unbound hardcopy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER. AutoCAD files should also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a .dxf or .TAB files).
- 5.9 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded.
- 5.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.11 A copy of the WSI should be appended to the report.
- 5.12 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute of Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

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OASIS ID: suffolkc1-177644

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring, 25 Northagte Street
Short description of the project	Monitoring of a garden extension and footings uncovered several pits and a well likely to be of 19th century date. A possible backfilled pit may have been earlier and dug for quarrying sand and gravel but neither a date or the function could be confirmed could not be confirmed
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2014 End: 30-06-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	1-177644 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS 25 Northgate
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 854 647 52.2487337125 0.71623213902 52 14 55 N 000 42 58 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 33.00m Max: 34.00m

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	Abby Antrobus
Project director/manager	Andrew Tester
Project supervisor	Andrew Tester
Type of sponsor/funding body	private individual

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"
Entered by	andrew Tester (andrew.testers@suffolk.gov.uk)
Entered on	15 July 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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