

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/070

Land Adjoining St Peter's House, Bury St Edmunds BSE 367

A. Tester
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HER Information

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Curatorial Officer: Abby Antrobus

Project Officer: Andrew Tester

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<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the former site of Cecil and Larter, which adjoining St Peter's Care Home, Out Risbygate, Bury St Edmunds. Three trial trenches were excavated; a trench at the front of the property uncovered a medieval cess pit, a possible footing trench from an earlier building and a sequence of surfaces including at least two of flint and stone, one of chalk and one of clay; unfortunately these could not be dated but were overlain by shallow footings that are likely to be 18th or 19th century in date. A second trench set back from the road contained a pit that was filled with fragments of architectural stone that are likely to come from the medieval hospital. A third trench to the rear of the plot contained evidence of pit excavations that were dated to the late medieval to post medieval periods. Of these features the early footing trench, the cess pit and possibly the various floor surfaces may have been part of the medieval leper hospital of St Peter's.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjoining St Peter's House, Out Risbygate Street, as part of a pre-planning condition on planning application SE/11/0188. The requirements of the evaluation were set out in a Brief and Specification by Abby Antrobus of the Conservation Team at Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service dated 31 March 2011 (Appendix 3). The condition specifies a series of trenches to allow an informed assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. The planning application is for the extension of the neighbouring care home complex.

2. Geology and topography

The site occupies ground that slopes down to the east. The site rises from the road front at c. 36m OD to 37m OD at the rear of the property. The natural geology comprises silt and sand with the underlying chalk rising to the surface in places.

3. Archaeological and historical background

A documentary search has been carried out by Archaeological Project Services (Report No. 114/10). The search identified cartographic, documentary and archaeological evidence which identified the site as probably part of the medieval hospital of St Peter's. The hospital was associated with the Benedictine Abbey that was at the centre of the medieval town. Despite the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century the site was allowed to continue in use as a hospital at least into the middle of the 17th century and graves have been found, particularly on the site of St Peter's House and on the properties to the east. The cartographic evidence suggests that the area of the current evaluation was once a part of the grounds associated with the hospital.

4. Methodology

A series of three trenches was excavated using a 7 ton, 360° excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide flat bladed bucket. The trenches were partially excavated and sample sections recorded of the trench profiles. The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and all sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Normal SCCAS conventions were applied in recording including a single sequence continuous numbering system and high resolution digital photographic recording. All finds are held in archive in Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

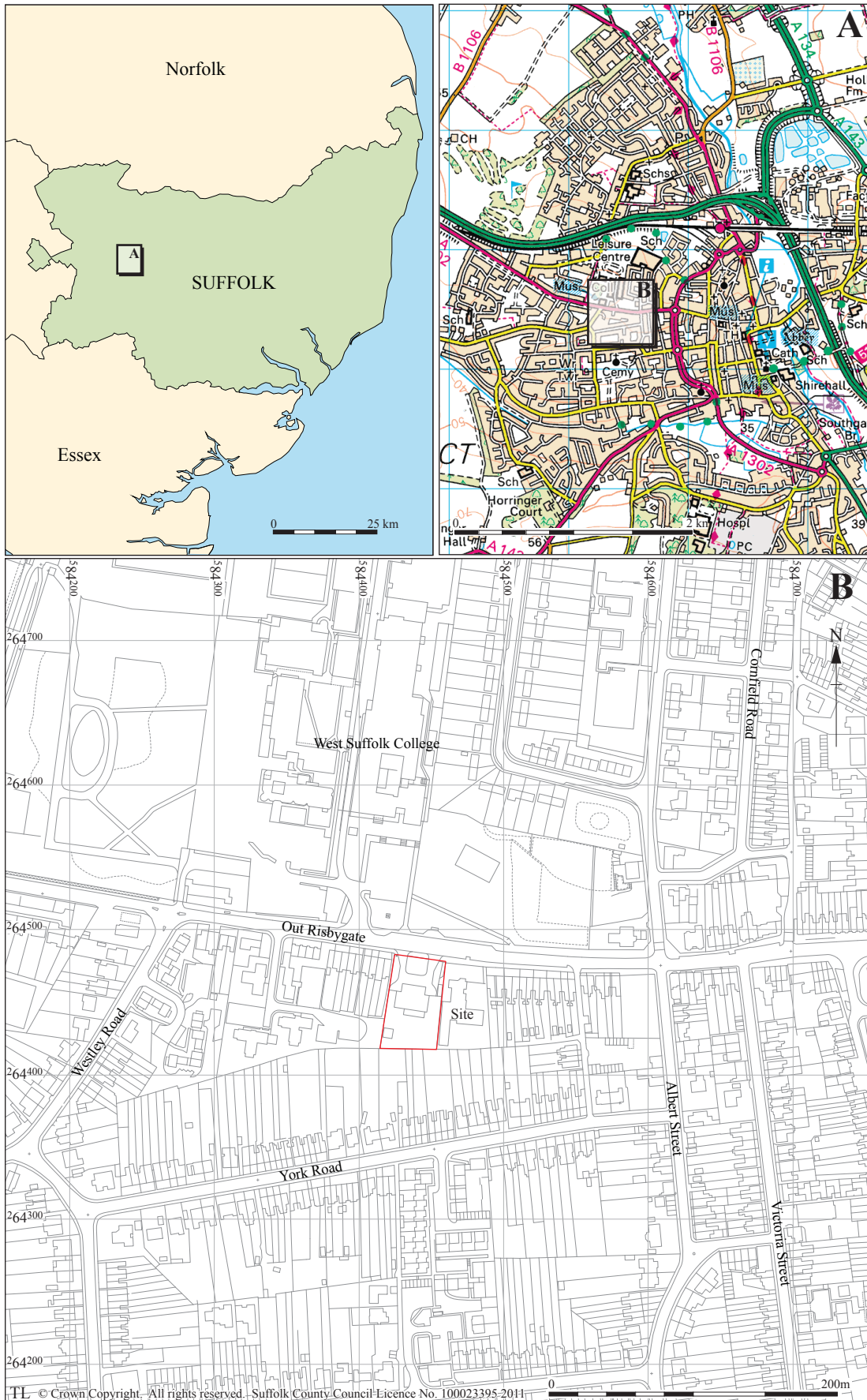


Figure 1. Location of site, showing development area (red)



Figure 2. Trench location plan

5. Results

Figs.3-5

Introduction

In the following descriptions the features are discussed by trench in phase sequence.

Trench 1

Figs. 3, 4 and 6.

This trench was c.10m in length and was c.0.3m deep. The upper fill of the trench consisted of c.0.15m of reinforced concrete over a similar depth of 'type 1' ballast; there was a thin layer of rubble over a levelled surface that was at about 0.35m from the surface. The most recent features included a concrete cover for a service pipe running east-west across the trench, and a possible soakaway pit and drain run that ran approximately north to south with an east west disturbance at the south end of the trench. These are likely to have been contemporary and associated with the standing building.

Earlier features likely to be 19th century in date include linear trench 0127 that was partly covered by the concrete service trench and possibly linear feature 0126. This feature marked the north end of the trench and it was uncertain whether this was the remains of a structure or a disturbance related to the kerbing that marked the edge of the car park.

A group of structural features associated with post-medieval bricks included the bottom course of a wall that contained a limestone block at the north end, 0102, and a foundation formed of bricks laid flat on clay that were covered with ash and surrounded by flints, 0128. A gully or slot 0129 may have connected this position with wall 0102 but the surface was truncated at this point. These features are likely to have been 19th century in origin.

Extending in interrupted sections the length of the trench was a series of surfaces. A small trial section was excavated through the stratigraphy (Appendix 1, Plate 2). The upper surface was shown to be of bright yellow clay. There were impressed bricks and peg tile in the surface but this may have been caused when the site was levelled. Where the clay was intact it varied in depth from 0.1 to 0.25m. Directly below this was a

fine silt layer, 0122, before a second substantial surface of chalk that had a noticeably blue grey colour, 0120, that was up to 0.2m thick. Below the chalk were at least two layers of rounded stones creating a hard surface, 0121. The lowest stone layer was laid over a fine silt/clay. At the north end of the trench, beneath the disturbance created by a shallow pit a group of larger flints were set in clay.

Running beneath the western baulk of the trench was a large pit, 0108; it could not be bottomed within the excavation but was at least 0.8m deep and 1.5m wide. The dark silt fill is suggestive of a cess-pit and it produced a large assemblage of pottery which can be dated to the mid/late 12th century to late 14th century.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned north-south and was 11m in length and c. 0.35m deep. The trench profile revealed modern concrete over a mixed rubble layer, which was directly over the natural subsoil of brown sand and chalk. A modern disturbance ran approximately north-south through the trench. A pit was identified against the eastern baulk, 0123, that was filled with an assortment of monumental limestone blocks including several pieces of decorated window and a large stone base. All of this material is likely to originate from the medieval Hospital. The fill of this feature was quite loose which suggests it was not very old (19th century?). The extent of this feature is unknown but it appeared to be expanding beyond the trench and is likely to have been much bigger.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned northwest to southeast and was 15m in length and approximately 0.3m deep. Concrete and hardcore directly overlay a truncated surface of natural chalk and silt (Plate 6). Several features were cut into the natural including three or four pits, with a linear feature on the south side of the trench, 0130. Sections were excavated of the two most complete features, pits 0110 and 0115 and feature 0117 on the north-western edge of the trench.

Pit 0110 was 1.5m wide and 0.55m deep. It had a uniform fill of compacted red/brown silt with some chalk. The interface with a possible linear feature 0130 to the south was unclear because they both had similar fills. The paucity of datable finds leads to some

uncertainty over the date of this feature but a single sherd of glazed pottery recovered from the surface is dated to the 18th century.

Pit 0115 was circular and 0.2m deep. It had a similar fill to pit 0110 which was red/brown silt with some chalk.

Although the greater part of feature 0117 lay beyond the area of excavation it was excavated in an attempt to provide dating evidence; no pottery was recovered but the ceramic building material included a single fragment of medieval pegtile and other fragments which are either late medieval or post-medieval.

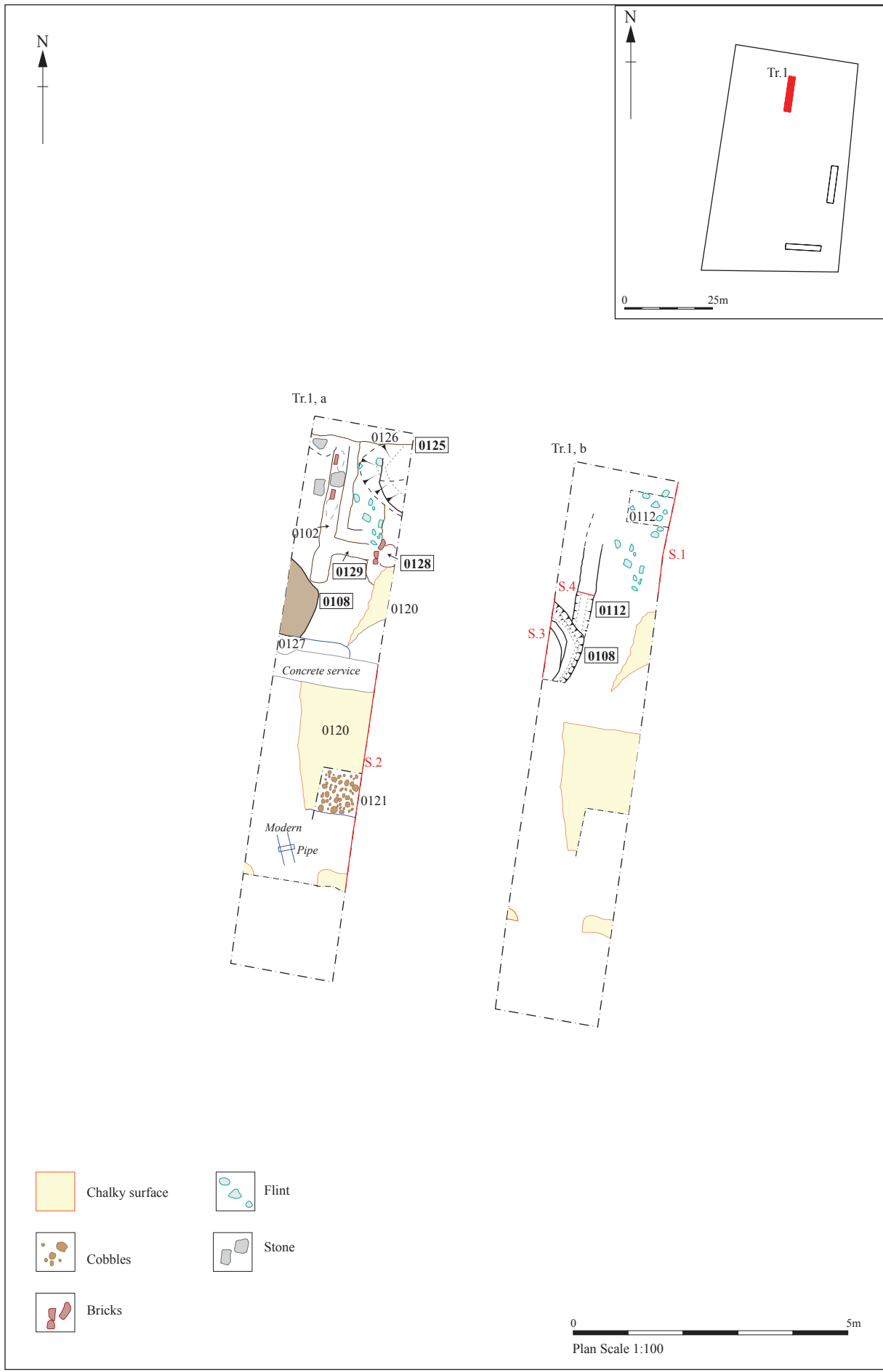


Figure 3. Trench 1, plans

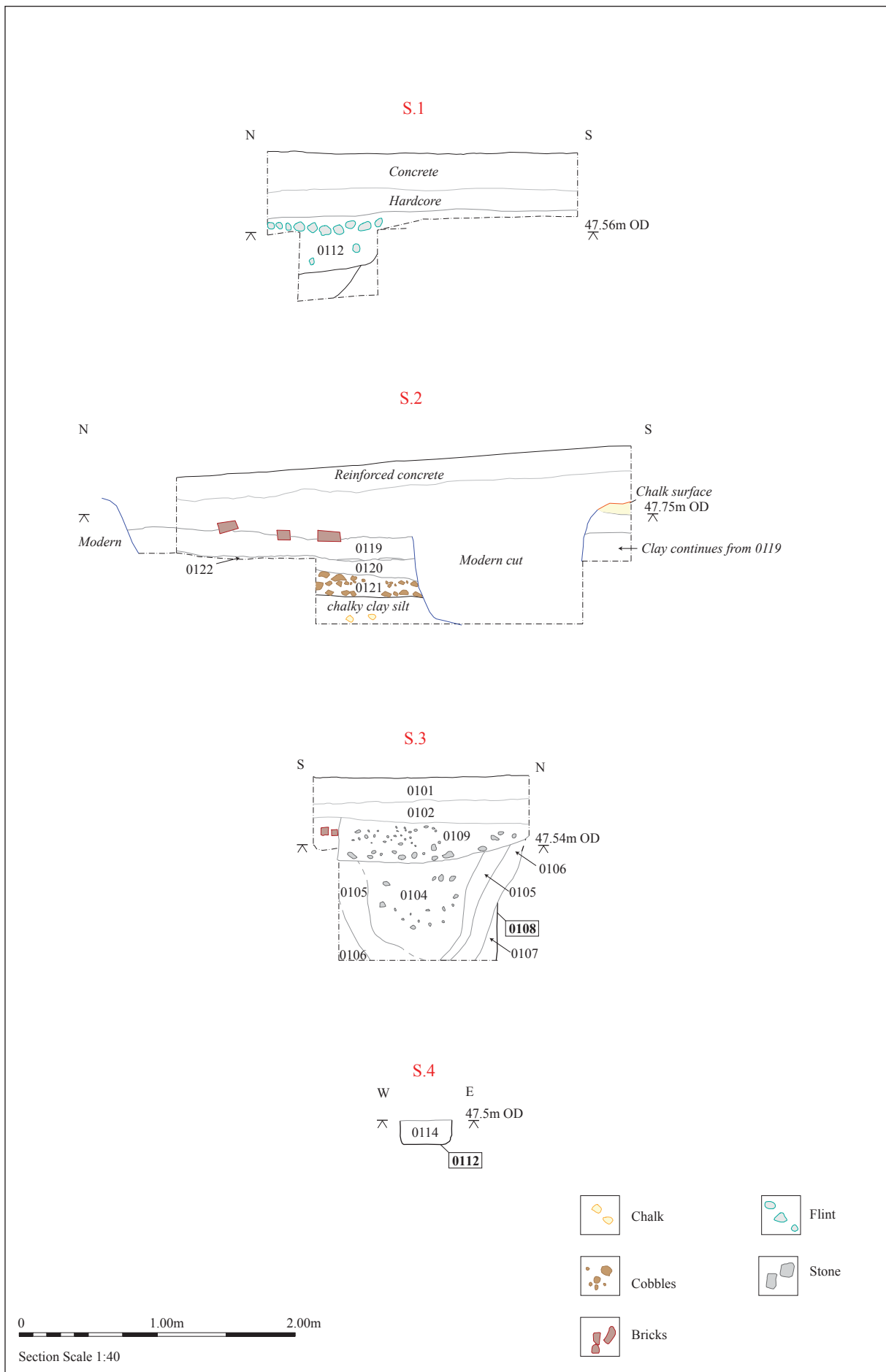


Figure 4. Trench 1, sections

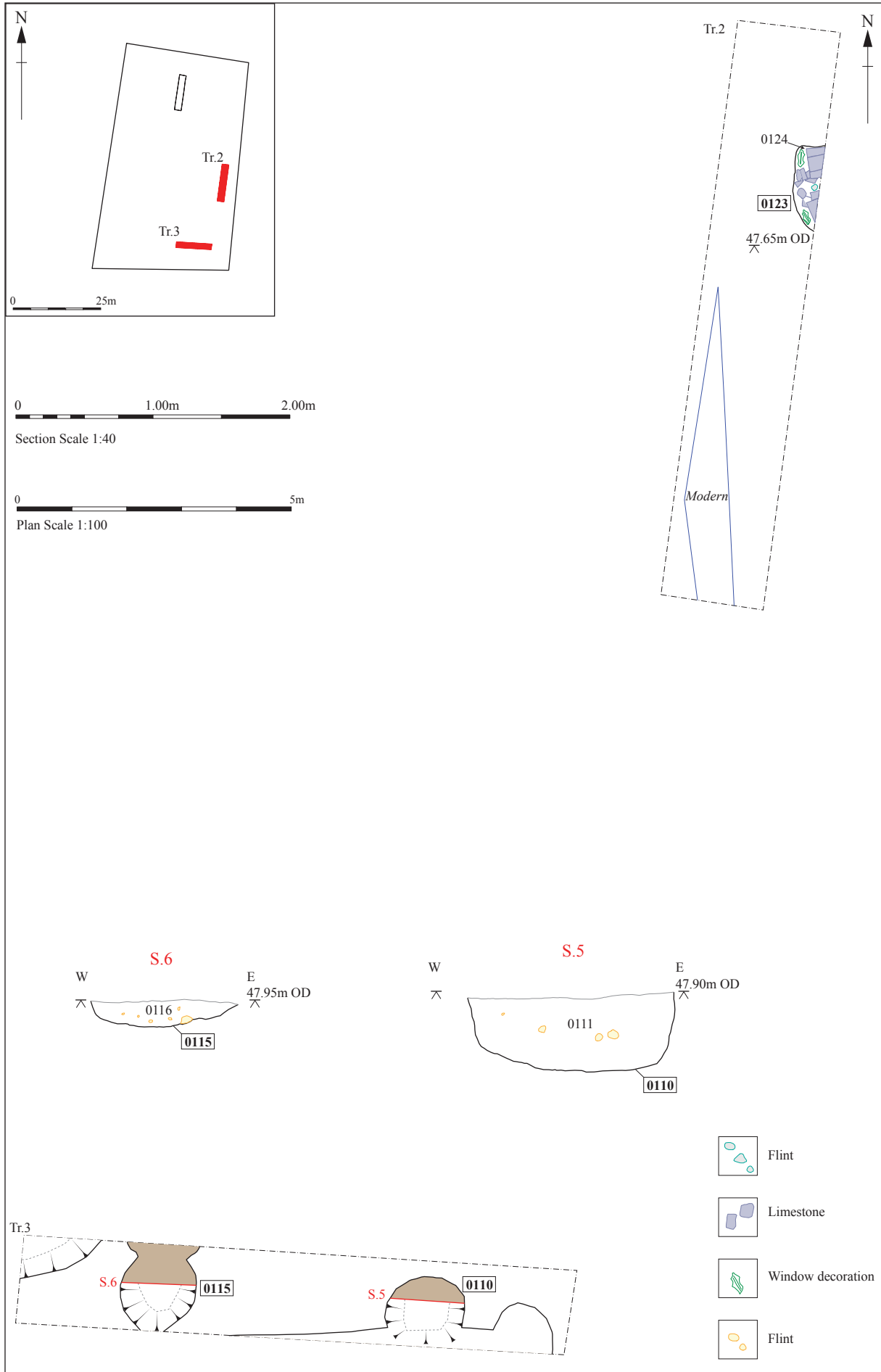


Figure 5. Trenches 2 and 3, plans and sections

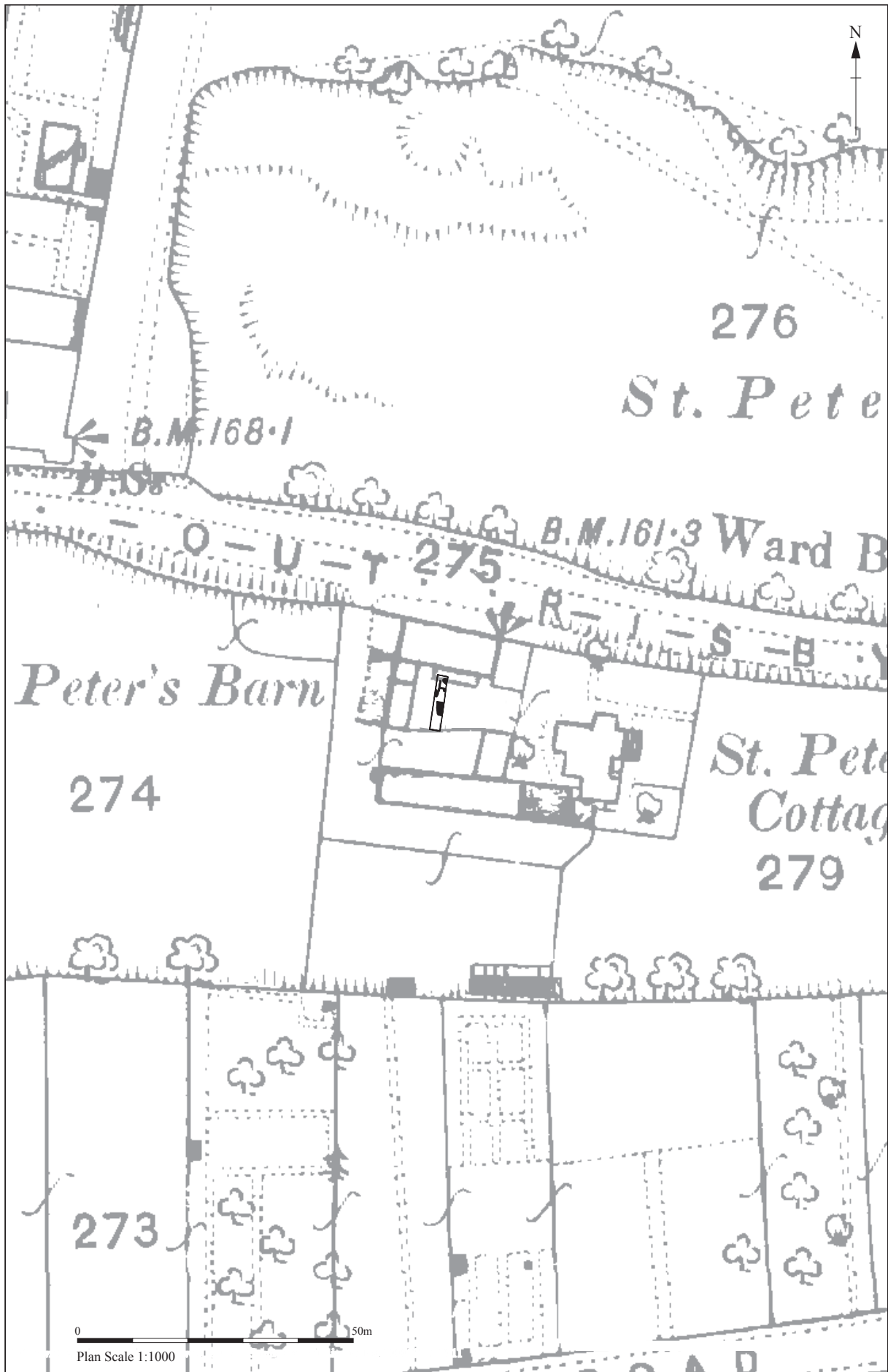


Figure 6. 1886 OS map with Trench 1

6. The Finds

Andy Fawcett May 2011

Introduction

A total of 138 finds with a combined weight 2357g was recovered from the archaeological evaluation at St Peter's Hospital. A full contextual breakdown of the finds can be seen in Table 1.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Shell		Other	Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g		
0104	56	857			4	27	7	146		L12-14th
0105	12	345			12	56	4	59	Fired clay 1 @ 31g	L12-14th
0106	2	82								L12-14th
0107	1	63			1	56	1	9		L12-14th
0111	2	6	5	57	4	30			Fired clay 1 @ 4g	L12-18th
0118			11	372	12	134			Mortar 2 @ 19g	Post-med
Totals	73	1353	16	429	33	303	12	214		

Table 1. Finds quantities

Post-Roman pottery

Introduction

A total of seventy-three sherds with a combined weight of 1353g was recovered from five contexts, three of which were pit fills (0106 Tr.1, 0107 Tr.1 and 0111 Tr.3) and two of which were cesspit fills (Tr.1 0104 and 0105). The assemblage is made up of pottery that is mostly dated from the late 12th to 14th century. A full breakdown of the pottery assemblage forms part of the site archive and a summary of this information is presented in the archive.

Methodology

The pottery was examined using a x20 microscope and all of the sherds were assigned to fabric groups. The codes for these fabric groups are those based on the Suffolk Pottery Fabric Series (S. Anderson unpublished fabric list). Form codes were allocated to types based upon those used in the Colchester post-Roman *corpus* (Cotter 2000, 50). All of the pottery has been recorded by sherd count and weight as well as estimated vessel equivalent calculations (E.V.E.'s).

The assemblage

In general the pottery is in a good state of preservation and displays only slight abrasion with many good sized pieces (the average sherd weight is 18.5g). The diagnostic element of the assemblage is also reasonable, with eight cooking pot rims and at least four base fragments identified. The larger part of the assemblage was retrieved from

the two cesspit fills in Trench 1, (68 fragments @ 1202g) which contained almost the entire collection of rims and bases.

With the exception of five sherds (114g) the pottery assemblage is principally made up of a range of locally produced Bury wares. The most common types are Bury sandy ware (BSW), Bury coarse sandy ware (BCSW), Bury medieval coarse ware (BMCW) and Bury medieval coarse and gritty ware (BMCWG). However of these the majority occurred in the BSW and BMCW fabric groups. The fabrics as a whole are generally dated from the late 12th to 14th century. All of the cooking pot rim and base fragments were noted within the Bury fabric types. The most frequent styles of cooking pot rim are the B2 (thickened flat top) and H1 types (flanged and upright neck) which can be seen in the Colchester catalogue (Cotter 2000, 50). Only two sherds exhibited decoration (applied strip with thumbing) and these were both in cesspit fill 0104.

Three sherds of general medieval coarseware (MCW) were also recorded (37g) as well as a single sherd (2g) of Glazed red earthenware (GRE). This post-medieval fabric was noted alongside a MCW sherd in pit fill 0111; both of these sherds were abraded.

Of note in cesspit fill 0105 was a single sherd of glazed ware (75g). The sherd may be a fragment of a bridge spout from a jug, although the possibility of it being part of another vessel type cannot be ruled out, as the fragment does not seem robust enough to be functional. The fabric is buff with a pink tinge and the surface displays a light green glaze with darker green streaks. Within the fabric are sparse white ?clay pellets with sparse ill-sorted red iron ore. The fabric has some similarities to Scarborough ware (SCAR) but other production sites in Yorkshire cannot be ruled out. A range of fabric possibilities and jugs with bridged spouts can be seen in the McCarthy and Brooks study of medieval pottery (1988, 227-247). This was the only glazed ware present within the entire assemblage and it is likely to be dated from the mid/late 12th to late 14th century.

Ceramic building materials

A small quantity of CBM was noted in two contexts, pit fills 0111 and 0118, both in Trench 3.

Fill 0111 contained three miscellaneous fragments (26g) as well as two pieces of post-medieval roof tile. These are both in a medium sandy fabric with black ferrous inclusions (msfe) and displayed only slight abrasion. Pottery dating from the 12th to 18th century was also noted in this context.

Context 0118 contained a single fragment of abraded medieval roof tile (24g). It is in an estuarine fabric (est) with voids and calcareous inclusions and displays dark to lighter purple colours. Traces of mortar can be observed on one surface.

The remainder of the CBM assemblage in fill 0118 is made up of post-medieval roof tile (10 fragments @ 348g), although a later medieval starting date for some of the fabrics cannot be ruled out entirely. The pieces which display only slight abrasion, are all medium sandy, either with ferrous inclusions (msfe), clay pellets (mscp) or calcite (msc). The tile is hard fired and fully oxidised; a small number exhibit traces of mortar and at least one has mortar over the break, indicating its reuse. Animal bone and mortar were the only other finds within this context.

Fired clay

Two fragments of fired clay (35g) were identified, one each in cesspit fill 0105 and pit fill 0111. The piece in 0105 is only slightly abraded, and is in a medium sandy fabric which contained common ill sorted chalk, alongside sparse flint (msch). It is oxidised and has a light brown irregular-flat surface. This fill also contained pottery dated from the late 12th to 14th century. A similar fabric was noted at the Angel Hotel site (Anderson 2005, 6). The piece in fill 0111 is small and abraded, but the fabric is the same as that noted in 0105.

Mortar

Two fragments of mortar were noted in pit fill 0118. They contain abundant, mostly well sorted quartz, alongside common ill-sorted chalk. This fill also contained post-medieval roof tile.

Animal bone

Mike Feider

A rapid assessment was undertaken of the animal bones recovered from the evaluation. In total thirty-three bones were recovered which were in quite good condition, apart from a single instance of canid gnawing in context 0111.

Context	Cow	Sheep/Goat	Horse	Fish	Unidentified	Total
0104	0	1	0	0	3	4
0105	0	1	0	1	11	13
0107	1	0	0	0	0	1
0111	1	1	0	0	1	3
0118	2	0	1	0	9	12
Total	4	3	1	1	24	33

Table 2. Animal bone by context and species

Two juvenile cattle metacarpals were recovered from pit fill 0118, and another, possibly neonatal, metatarsal came from a second pit fill 0111. No other ageing information was available.

A sheep/goat tibia from cesspit fill 0105 had two small chop marks on the shaft. A horse astragalus from pit fill 0118 had a tiny chop mark on the joint surface, and a medium-sized mammal cervical vertebra from the same context appeared to have been axially split, but no definitive butchery marks survived.

Few conclusions can be made from such a small assemblage and no further work is recommended unless this material becomes part of a larger collection.

Shell

A small quantity of oyster shell was recorded in three contexts, although the majority of pieces were noted in the cesspit fills 0104 and 0105 (11 fragments @ 205g). The shell within these contexts is in a good state of preservation with many of the shell halves displaying only a small amount of wear. These two contexts also contained pottery dated from the late 12th to 14th century.

Conclusion

The range of finds recovered from St Peter's Hospital is fairly narrow and the assemblage is dominated by pottery and animal bone. Nonetheless the pottery presents a consistent picture in terms of dating and adds new evidence about this area

of the town. The only other site within the immediate area of St Peter's Hospital to yield medieval finds is the site of a potential chapel on the opposite side of the street (BSE 218). It is likely that the medieval ceramics represent domestic waste.

7. General discussion

The evidence from Trench 1 suggests that, with the exception of service trenches, archaeological levels are largely intact and that modern hardcore and concrete overlies archaeological deposits. A detailed interpretation of the remains is beyond the scope of this report but there is clear evidence of structural foundations that are likely to relate to St Peter's Barn which was demolished during the 20th century (In Fig. 6 Trench 1 is shown superimposed on the OS MAP OF 1886).

The most datable feature within the trench was pit 0106 along the western edge, which was contemporary with the medieval hospital that was attached to the Abbey. The desk based assessment draws attention to the likelihood that the development site was probably part of the hospital complex the presence of a cess pit containing pottery and other finds in some quantities is consistent with this.

There was no dating evidence for the sequence of surfaces close to the pit. The upper surface of clay was probably inside a building but the chalk and stone layers beneath may represent a courtyard or farmyard surface. A comparison of the levels within the trench indicates that the surface from where the pit was cut was level with clay surface 0119 (c.47.54OD) and that the stone surfaces were as much as 0.4m deeper. This shows that the surface must have been quite worn.

It is uncertain however, whether any or all of the surfaces were related to the farm or to the various phases of hospital that preceded it. The build up would seem to imply a complex history that could only be established by more extensive excavations. sorted out by a more extensive excavation.

Slot 0112 was the earliest feature on the site because it was stratigraphically earlier than cess pit 0104. It has been tentatively identified as a footing trench which was associated with the medieval hospital.

8. Recommendations

The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of archaeological remains in all three trenches that are likely to relate to the former hospital. These are not, however, of sufficient importance to require preservation *in situ*; but are likely to require a mitigation strategy in order either to minimise damage to the archaeology or record it before it is damaged. The precise requirements will depend on the details of the work taking place and the methods of construction. It is noticeable that the most significant archaeology so far identified is towards the front of the site which does relate to the medieval hospital and is likely to require excavation if the ground level is to be lowered below the 'type 1' sub-base.

No archaeological features were exposed in trench 2 but the architectural stones from the later pit are in themselves important and should be recorded. There is clearly the potential for further remains in this area and it is suggested that any soil stripping should be closely monitored and appropriate measures taken to record the site.

Similarly a close monitoring of any site strip in the area of trench 3 with limited hand excavation concentrated where footing trenches area excavated may be considered sufficient to record features in this area.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Archive Store Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive on SCC server svr-etd077\Arc\Archive Field Proj\BSE\BSE367

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Finds Store Bury St Edmunds.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Andrew Tester, Duncan Stirk and Preston Boyles. The graphics were prepared by Crane Begg and Ellie Hillen. Jonathan Van Jennians processed the finds and Andy Fawcett reported on the finds; the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

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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.

Appendix 1. Selected Plates



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north.
The top of pit 0108 can be seen bottom left in the trench (1m scale).



Plate 2 Trench 1 Section 2 through clay chalk and stone surfaces, looking east. (scale 0.5m).



Plate 3. Trench 1 Section 3 looking west, Pit 0108 and foundation 0112 (0.5m and 1m scale).



Plate 4. Trench 2 looking north (1m scales).



Plate 5. Trench 2 Pit 0123 looking east (0.5m scales).



Plate 6. Trench 3 looking west. .



Plate 7. Trench 3 looking north. Pit 0110 (1m scales).

Appendix 2 BSE 367 Context List

Context Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description
0100				U/S trench 1
0102				Concrete trench 1
0103				Pink hardcore
0104	0108	Cesspit	Fill	Mid-light grey brown. Clay silt Firm. Frequent small chalk. Moderate small flint.
0105	0108	Cesspit	Fill	Very dark grey brown ashy silt. Friable. Frequent flecks fo charcoal. Occasional small chalk. Occasional small pebbles.
0106	0108	Pit	Fill	Mixed light brown - mid brown sandy clay and sandy silt. Firm. Frequent flecks and small chalk. Occasional small stones.
0107	0108	Pit	Fill	Light greenish grey sandy silt. Firm. Frequent flecks and small chalk. Not bottomed.
0108	0108	Cesspit	Cut	Sub-square. Sharp BoS at top, steep vertical straight sides. Uneven base. Seems to cut a foundation.
0109		surface	Layer	Layer of cobblnig. Some largish rounded stones up to 15cm.
0110	0110	Pit	Cut	Circular pit, truncated below concrete.
0111	0110	Pit	Fill	Mid brown clayey silt. Very firm. Uniform fill.
0112		deposit	Layer	Clay and flint. Very compact. Flints c. 15cm.
0113	0113	Trench	Cut	Possible foundation trench of compacted gravel. Linear, N-S aligned.
0114			Layer	Red brown compact gravelly material (sandy silt). Occasional medium flints 2-5cm and chalk flecks.
0115	0115	Pit	Cut	Circular pit. Very compact.
0116	0115	Pit	Fill	Mid brown silty sand with chalk inclusions. Uniform fill.
0117	0117	Pit	Cut	Possible quadrant of pit in west end of trench 3.
0118	0117	Pit	Fill	Mid brown silty sand. Some chalk flecks.

Context Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Category	Description
0119		surface	Layer	Thick layer of redeposited clay. Hard brick etc. impressed in surface. Limit on north side unclear because of truncation. South side continued. At least 7m long.
0120		surface	Layer	Layer of degraded chalk (and cracked) remains of surface. Was a buff colour, not white.
0121		surface	Layer	2 layers at least of cobbling. Rounded stones c 0.15m biggest. Very hard. Located in sandage.
0122		deposit	Layer	Layer of fine silt which accumulated between surface 0120 and clay 0119. No finds.
0123	0123	Pit	Cut	Pit on east side of trench, only partially excavated. Contained carved stone. Includes door or column base and fragments of windows. Decorated on latter is style.???
0124	0123	Pit	Fill	
0125	0125	Pit	cut+fill	Shallow pit with bricks in. Suggest late post-medieval
0126	0126	Ditch	cut and fill	dark brown silt with a few loose bricks at north end of trench. Unable to see more than one edge possibly robbed footing. Similar fill to 0127
0127		Ditch	cut and fill	similar to 0126 cut by concrete but cuts pit 0108
0128	0128	post pad	cut and fill	bricks laid on the ground covered by layer of ash and surrounded by stones. Possible post pad
0129	0129	foundation	cut and fill	very base of possible east west foundation. Not very certain but could link pad 0128 with trench 0102
0130	0130	unknown	Cut and fill	features on south edge of trench comprising linear feature with possible pit at the western end. Neither feature was excavated.

Appendix 3. Brief and specification



The Archaeological Service

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

SITE ADJ. ST PETER'S HOUSE, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK (SE/11/0188)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. **The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**
 - 1.1 Planning permission has been sought from St Edmundsbury District Council for the erection of a 30-bedroom extension to St Peter's House, 29 Out Risbygate, Bury St Edmunds (TL 844 644). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
 - 1.2 An archaeological evaluation of the site is required prior to determination of the application, in accordance with policies HE6.1, HE6.2 and HE7.1 of PPS 5. This will enable the impacts of the development to be fully assessed so that the Local Planning Authority can take into account the particular nature and significance of the heritage assets at this location.
 - 1.3 The site is located on the southern site of Out Risbygate on the western side of Bury St Edmunds, at c.49m OD. The soil is loam over chalk and chalky drift.
 - 1.4 The background and potential are presented in a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Cheffins and a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) by APS. These are available to view online with the application at <http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk>.
 - 1.5 The proposed development area (PDA) is in an area of Archaeological Importance, lying within the boundaries of the complex of the medieval St Peter's hospital (County Historic Environment Record BSE 048). Burials and a medieval foundation as well as disturbed material associated with the hospital have been recorded during monitoring of extensions to St Peter's House to the east (BSE 218, BSE 307), but the development area has not been subject to systematic archaeological survey. Whilst there is an existing building on the site (former car showroom) there is nonetheless high potential for important archaeology to exist, and aspects of it *may* merit preservation *in situ*. Archaeology could include buildings and/or burials and other complicated deposits and features. The depth, nature, extent, quality, date and level of preservation of remains on the site is unknown. Any underlying remains could be damaged or destroyed by aspects of the development, including construction, footings, services, landscape and site clearance.
 - 1.6 In order to inform any potential archaeological mitigation strategy, this document provides a Brief and Specification for linear trenched evaluation of the development area.
 - 1.7 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and, if necessary, will be the subject of an additional specification.
 - 1.8 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.

- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, would be a sufficient basis for the discharge of any future planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of an agreed scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise St Edmundsbury District Council that any condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged (assuming planning permission is forthcoming).
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Three trial trenches 1.8m wide and adding up to a total net length of 30m are to be excavated to cover the proposed area of the new development, including landscaping at the front. Trenching has been discussed on site with the applicant. An indicative trench plan is provided.
- The applicant may wish to discuss the final trench location in terms of: the proposed building foundations; existing concrete surfacing; services.
 - Trench 1 should be located to sample a rise in the ground surface which may correlate to a building shown as 'St Peter's Barn' on an 18th century map. As well as providing a general evaluation of archaeological deposits, it should ascertain whether any building remains survive and whether they are significant.
 - Trench 2 will sample archaeological levels on the middle of the site and determine any impacts of past landscaping, which may be less in this part of the site as it appears to have originally been lower down the natural slope..
 - Trench 3 is intended to sample archaeological levels and determine any impacts of past landscaping, particularly terracing.
 - Human remains may be encountered
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.50m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, floors, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Buried soils and layers should be sampled according to an appropriate strategy (for example, hand dug test pits).
- 3.8 Archaeological contexts should be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 3.9 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.10 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.11 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.12 As this is a medieval hospital site, **human remains may be encountered**. Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.13 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.14 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.15 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

- 3.16 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT. Suitable arrangements should be made with the client to ensure trenches are appropriately backfilled, compacted and consolidated in order to prevent subsequent subsidence.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 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.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a HER 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.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive the provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.12 If the County Store is not the intended depository, the project manager should ensure that a duplicate copy of the written archive is deposited with the County HER.
- 5.13 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project.
- 5.14 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.15 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>) with ADS or an other appropriate archive depository.
- 5.16 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.17 An unbound hardcopy of the evaluation 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 with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, two hard copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.18 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

- 5.19 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER, and a copy should be included with the draft report for approval. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Abby Antrobus

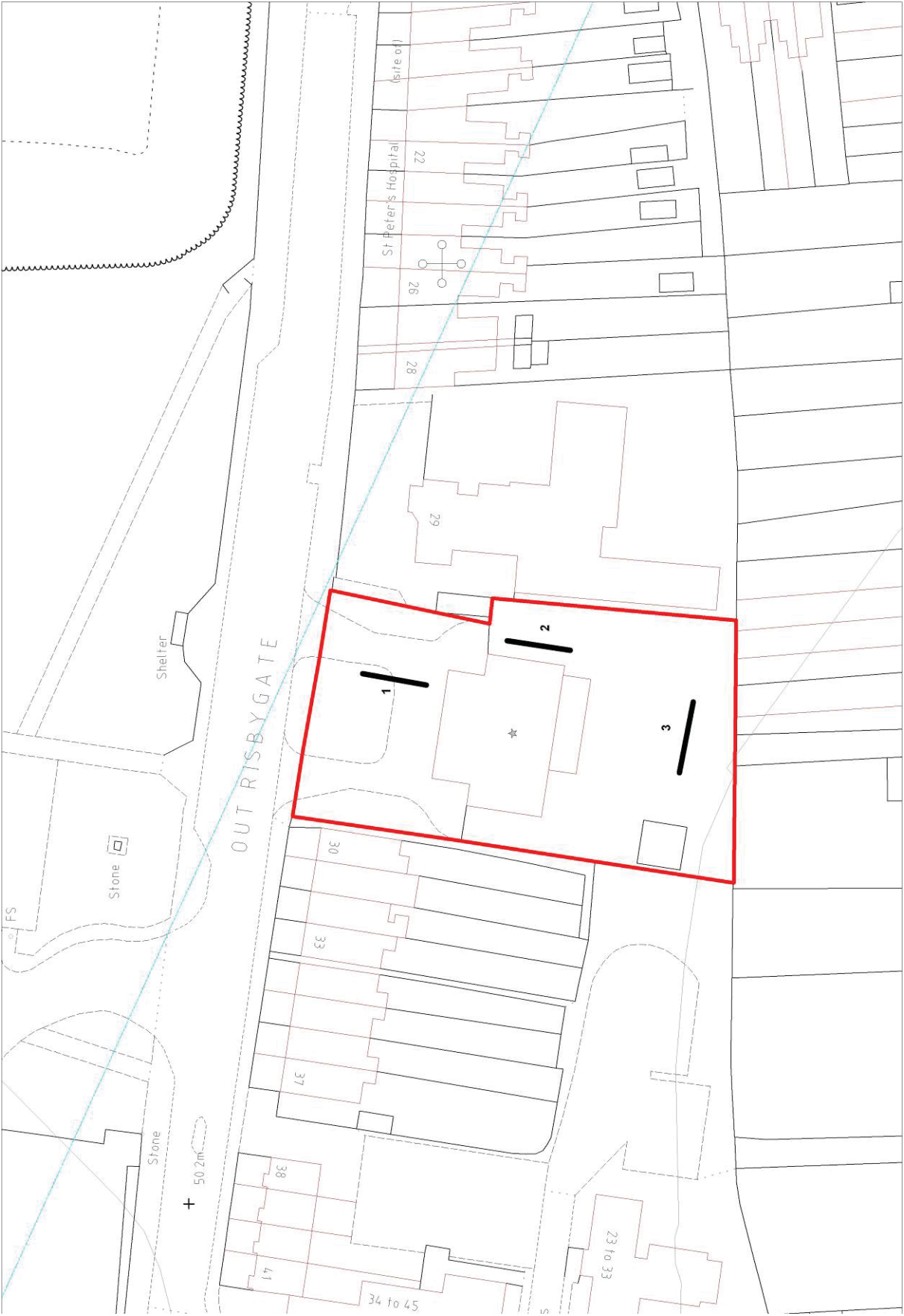
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Date: 31 March 2011

Reference: Bury St Edmunds/2011_0188

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

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



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