

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

**41 NORTHGATE STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS
BSE 293**

**A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
Planning Application SE/06/2856
NGR: TL 8547 6486
OASIS Ref. Suffolke1-26431**

Unfunded

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/024

Summary

An Archaeological watching brief carried out during the excavation of footings uncovered evidence of gravel quarrying and the build up or dumping of a green/brown loam. This is interpreted as waste material from the town probably from the medieval period.

Introduction

The building of a double garage on 41 Northgate Street, Bury St Edmunds was subject to a Watching Brief as part of a planning condition on application SE/06/2856. The property is located towards the North Gate of the old medieval town. It is set at a height of c. 32m OD, in a built-up area.

Methodology and Results

The site was visited when most of the footing trench had been excavated. A sketch of the sections was made alongside an annotated plan. Approximately 90% of the footings were seen and some spoil was examined on site. The location of the garages is shown in Figure 1. The depth of natural is indicated on the site plan. An exception is a small section along the northernmost trench in which a cut feature was judged to be slightly deeper than the footing.

Sections

The profiles were recorded from the surface and the fills were similar throughout the building. These consisted of:

c.8m of grey black garden soil.

between 0.9m and 1.8m of 'green' brown loam with rare inclusions of oyster shell and animal bone. The natural subsoil was of gravel and sand.

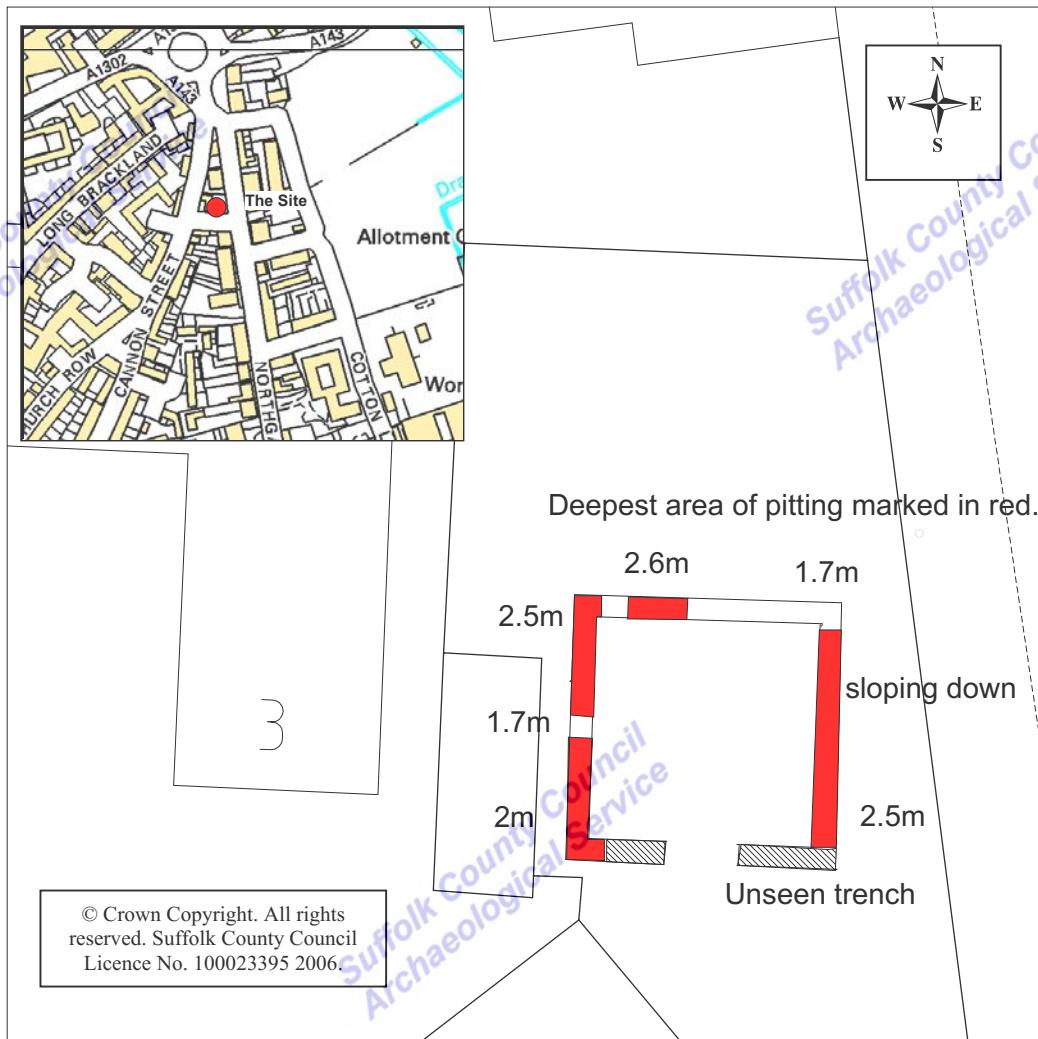


Figure 1. Site location plan

Discussion

The evidence from this site is similar to that found at other locations close by on Northgate Street. The uneven shape at the bottom of the trenches is almost certainly the result of gravel extraction. This seems to have occurred piecemeal by the digging of individual pits which became linked over time creating an undulating, reduced, ground surface. The area including the pits was then infilled with domestic (?) waste from the town. This layer is undated. No pottery was seen, although the monitoring was not intense, but there were a few finds of oyster shell animal bone and fragments of peg tile. None of these finds were recovered but it is suggested that the tile is post medieval.

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