

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

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## **39 Crown Street, Bury St Edmunds BSE 283**

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007  
(Planning app. no. SE/06/1385)

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by the site owners, Mr and Mrs Lawfield and commissioned by Mothersole Builders. The archaeological work was specified by Mr R.D. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) and the fieldwork carried out by Jo Caruth, David Gill and Andrew Tester from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

## Summary

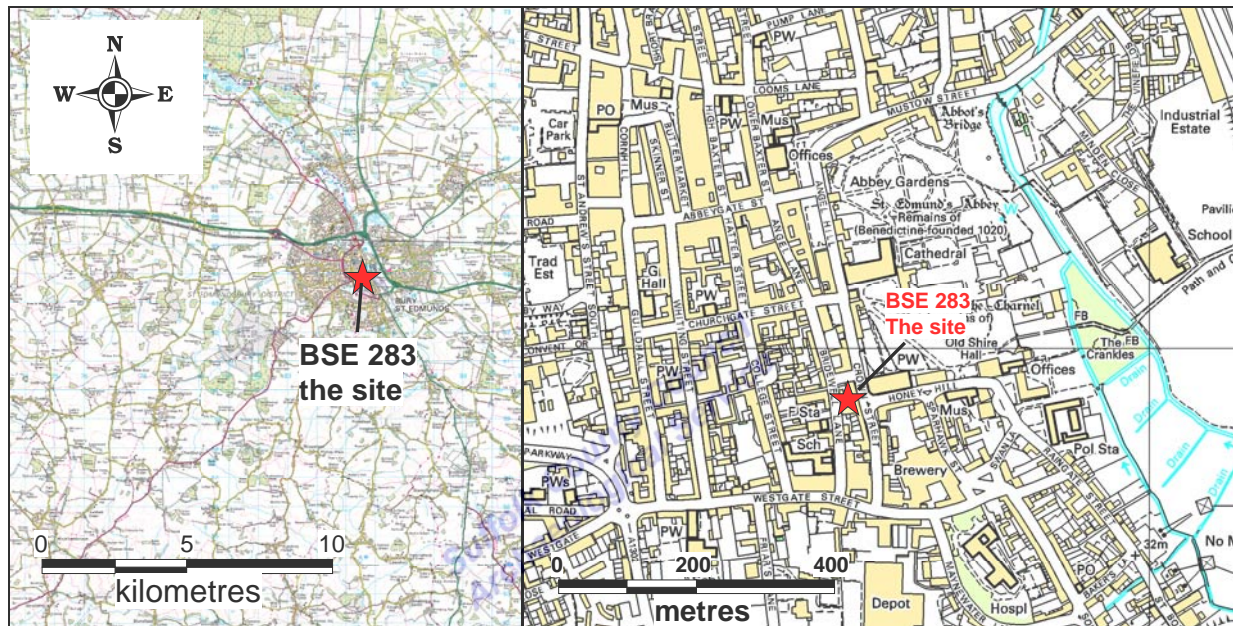
Monitoring during a small development at 39, Crown Street, Bury St Edmunds, within the early medieval planned town, identified four pits, two dated as 19th century or later and two undated. Also found was a possible post-medieval flint footing indicating that a wall belonging to a small brick out-building probably extended beyond its current line. The earliest feature found was indicated by a clean silt-filled sloped edge which seemed to cut natural but underlay all other features, its clean fill suggesting that it may predate the early medieval urban occupation of the town. Its function is not known. Finds from the site were all post-medieval.

## SMR information

Planning application no.	SE/06/1385
Date of fieldwork:	October 2006
Grid Reference:	TL 8557 6393
Funding body:	Mr and Mrs Lawfield
Oasis reference.	Suffolkc1-27158

## Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during a conservatory extension to 39 Crown Street, Bury St Edmunds. The site is located within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined in the local plan for Bury St Edmunds and lies in the 11th century urban area between two streets of the early planned town (Fig. 1). The aim of the project was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during the course of the groundworks in order to enhance the archaeological record for this part of the historic core of Bury St Edmunds. There was high potential for the identification of early medieval deposits during this work. Crown Street is one of the north-south aligned streets of the medieval town lying at c.41m OD approximately halfway down the east-west slope from the western edge of the town to the River Lark (Fig. 1).



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Figure 1. Site location

## Methodology

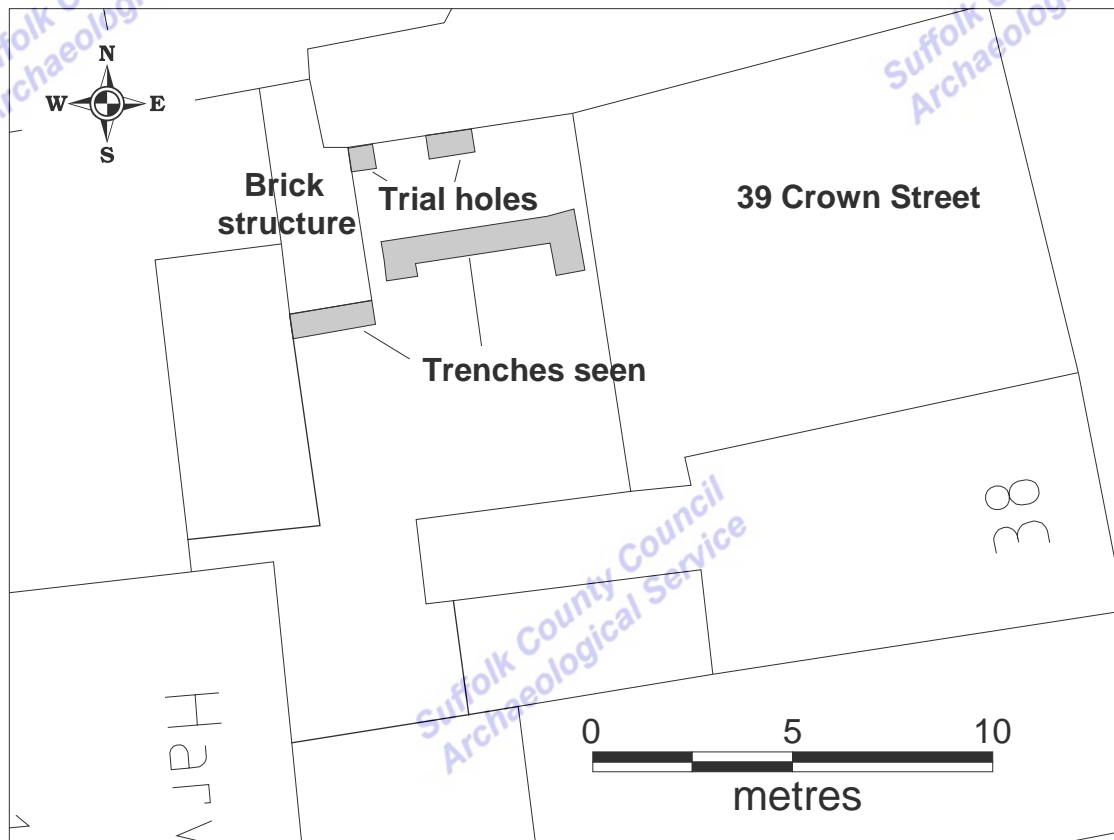
Five visits were made between 13th and 25th October 2006 during the excavation of groundworks. All groundworks were hand-dug and consisted of a single east-west aligned footing trench c.0.6m wide x 4.8m long, c.0.9m wide holes dug off the south side of the footing trench, two trial holes against the northern boundary wall and an exploratory trench alongside the brick structure at the west edge of the garden (Fig. 2). Sections and plans were recorded at 1:20 and digital photographs taken. A representative sample of finds from the up-cast soil were collected for formal identification, but nothing earlier than post-medieval roof tile was seen.

The site was recorded under the new Sites and Monuments Record parish code, BSE 283 and a copy of the report has been lodged with the OASIS on-line database, reference no. Suffolkc1-27158.

## Results

Four pits were identified in the section of the footing trench and attached holes, one, 0007, looked like a relatively modern tree hole (Figs. 3 and 4). 0003 was a broad flat-based pit with two apparently *in situ* 19th century bricks in the base (Figs. 3 and 4). 0005 was a smaller pit, possibly a posthole, which was cut by 0003 (Figs. 3 and 4) with an even pale grey-brown chalky silt fill and from which no dating evidence was recovered. Stratigraphically the earliest pit seen was 0009 which was cut by 0005 and 0007, so neither edge was identified. This had a banded fill of chalky clay and brown silty clay with chalk and stone fragments included (Figs. 3 and 4). The base of 0009 sloped down to the west, towards the small brick structure at the end of the

garden. It is not clear what this feature represented and no datable finds were recovered from it. At the base of the east end of the section was a layer of clean orange silt, 0002 which appeared to have a cut edge at its west side and cut or overlay chalky yellow clay natural (Figs. 3 and 4). 0002 was not natural, but there were no finds from it to provide a date, however the layer was visible to the end of the section, within 0.5m of the house and almost certainly continued eastwards under the existing buildings.



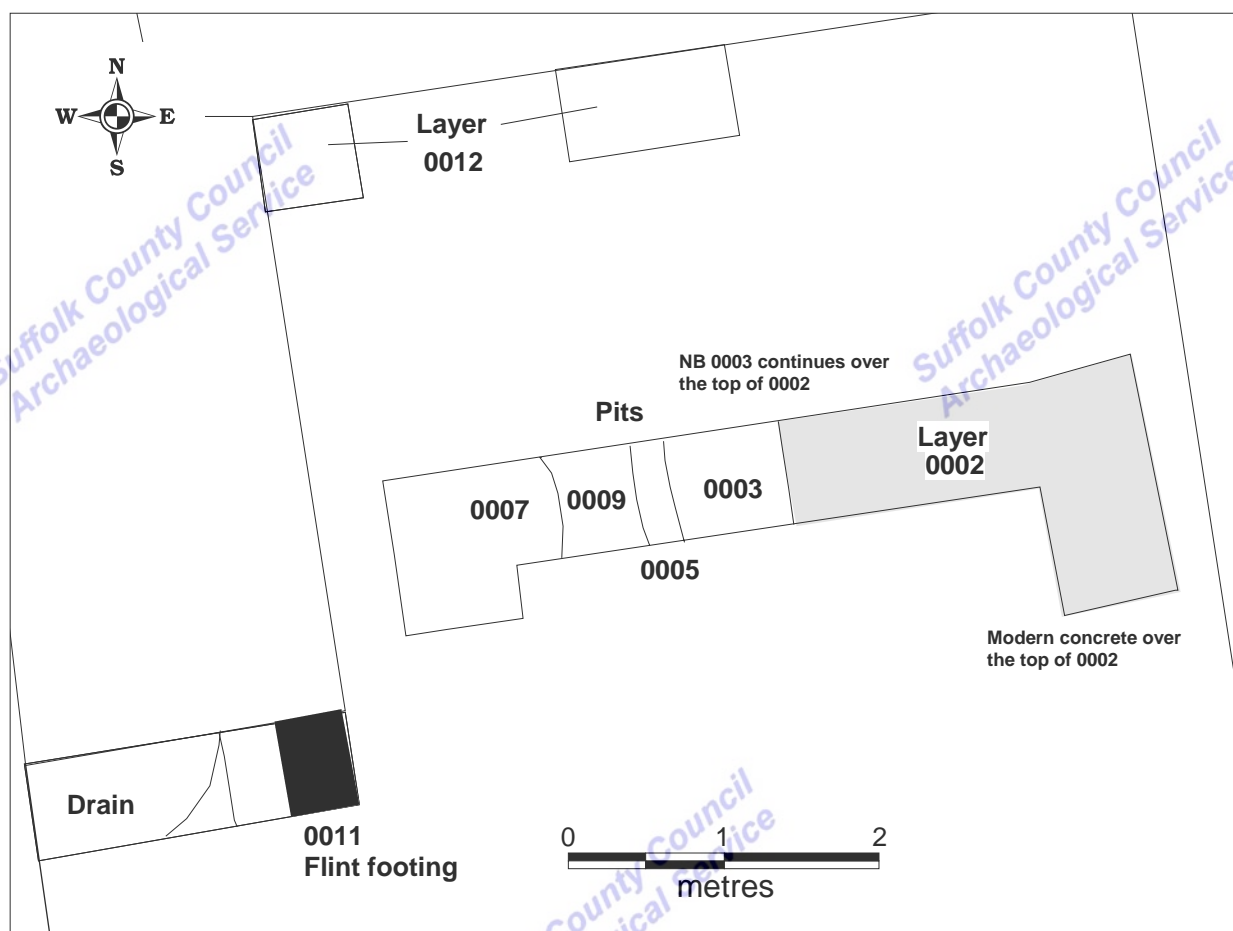
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Figure 2. Location of trenches and holes seen

Three pieces of post-medieval roof tile and a fragment of a 19th century stoneware drainpipe (Richenda Goffin, pers. comm.) were recovered from the up-cast soil of the footing trench excavation.

Examination of the trial hole beside the south end of the brick structure showed a degraded flint footing aligned with and continuing beyond the current end of the north-south wall (Figs. 3 and 4). Although there was no dating evidence for this footing, the rough flint work made up of small flints with a yellow sandy mortar had an appearance and make-up characteristic of post-medieval period construction. This was overlain by brick rubble in a dark loam. A modern drain cut the remaining western half of the section. The north-south wall of the structure had a limestone window arch built into it (Fig. 5), the tracery of which indicates a perpendicular style window dating from the mid 14th-16th centuries. This was heavily weathered and salvaged from an earlier building.

A trial hole dug at the corner between the brick structure and the northern garden wall and another against the garden wall half way along its length showed a soil profile of brick rubble at the base of the wall overlying an occupation layer of green-brown silt containing fragments of chalk and animal bone. This had a level horizon and overlay orange gravelly silt natural.



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Figure 3. Summary of results

Context	Feature	Identifier	Description
0001		Finds	Unstratified finds
0002	0002	Layer	Orange silt, clean, even and homogeneous but not natural which was only apparent in the east end of the trench. C. 0.3m depth was seen but it continued beyond the base of the trench.
0003	0003	Pit cut	Shallow flat-based pit, 0.5m deep x >2.7m long, filled with 0004.
0004	0003	Pit fill	Fairly loose brown silty clay with some chalk and occasional brick fragments. 2 19th century bricks, apparently in situ could be seen within the fill at the base of the cut.
0005	0005	Pit cut	Small pit c.0.5m wide x 0.35m deep filled with 0006, cut by 0003 and cut 0009.
0006	0005	Pit fill	Pale grey-brown silty clay with some chalk flecks
0007	0007	Pit cut	Circular pit >0.8m deep and c.0.9m in diameter. Filled with 0008. This cuts 0009.
0008	0007	Pit fill	Mixed pale-mid brown silt with occasional lenses of yellow clay and frequent chalk flecks. This was loose with frequent roots and may have been a tree hole. Although there was no objective dating evidence this looked very modern.
0009	0009	Pit cut	Slightly sloped, flat base cut of a probable pit which was cut by both 0005 and 0007.
0010	0009	Pit fill	Banded fill of 0009, with chalky clay interleaved with brown silty clay with some chalk and stone fragments. There was no brick or tile in this and it was cut by 0005 and 0007, so could be medieval.
0011	0011	Structure	Degraded rough flint and mortar footing seen aligned with and beyond the wall of the brick structure. This had medium sized rounded flints in a coarse sandy mortar and looked post-medieval. Suggests that brick structure was originally longer?
0012	0012	Layer	Green-brown silt worked soil with occasional chalk and animal bone fragments, overlying natural. Seen in two holes against the northern boundary wall. Previous occupation soil?
0013	0013	Layer	Very dark loam with brick rubble, overlying 0011.

Table 1. List of contexts

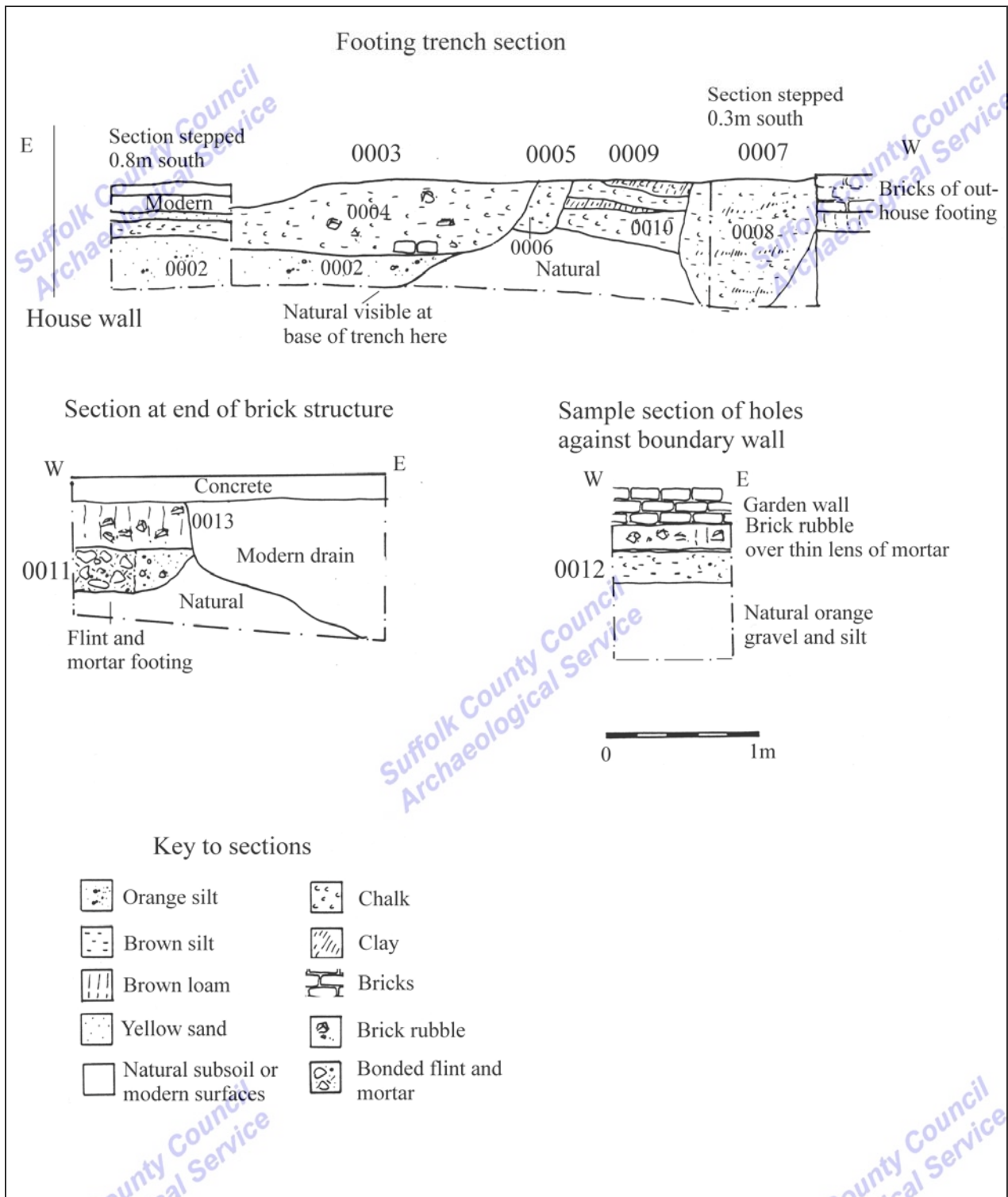


Figure 4. Sections

## Discussion and Conclusion

This monitoring identified a sequence of four pits, two of which were 19th century or later and the earliest of which may have been medieval. Probably earlier than all of these was a layer of clean orange silt which seemed to have a deliberate west edge cutting natural and probably continued under the existing houses. It is not clear what this layer represented but the clean silt fill suggests that it is unlikely to be associated with urban occupation and that it may therefore pre-date the early medieval development of the town in this area. The gently stepped slope and



extent, over 2.5m, of the layer suggests a substantial feature and the fill is consistent with that of a mineral extraction pit. Alternatively it might represent the west edge of a large north-south aligned ditch. Although the western edge looks to be cut, it is feasible that this edge actually represents a water eroded channel, and that it might therefore be a geological feature, perhaps a naturally infilled irregularity in the east-west slope from St Andrew's street down towards the River Lark. Any additional opportunities to examine the soil profiles at the rear of Crown Street have the potential to contribute to the interpretation of this feature.



Figure 5. Photograph of re-used window

The trial hole against the end of the brick structure revealed a flint footing aligned with, but beyond the north-south wall of the structure, suggesting that it may once have extended further to the south. However this footing was characteristically post-medieval in appearance and although the structure contained a medieval limestone window this is certainly reused and the structure was probably early Victorian in date. Examination of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1886 (Fig. 6) seems to show a wall extending from the corner of the brick structure.

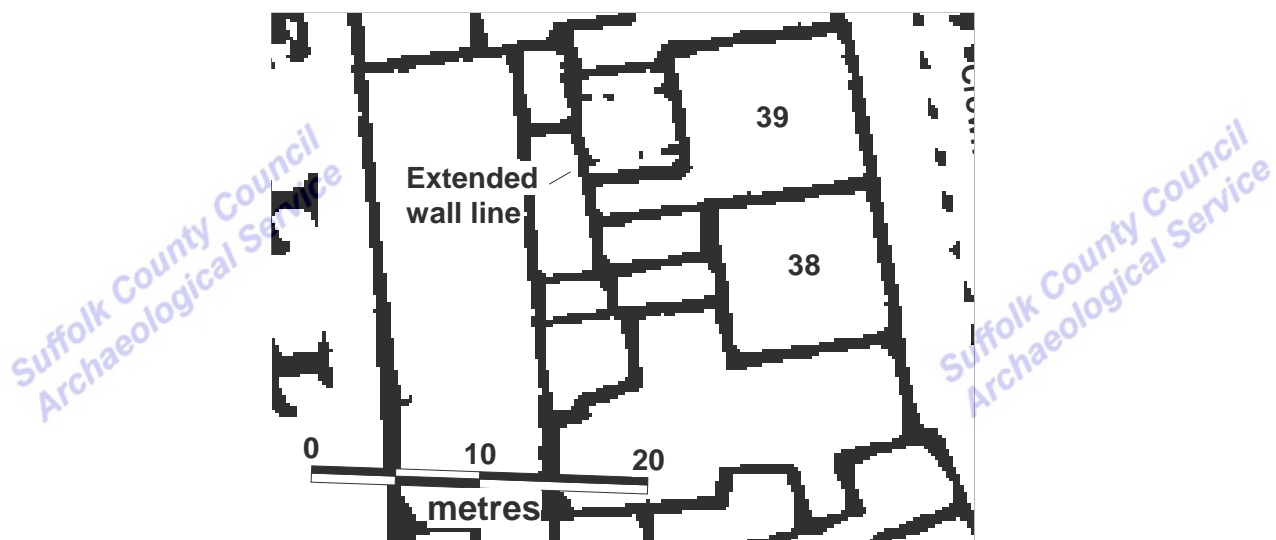


Figure 6. Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map 1886

Two holes against the northern boundary wall showed an earlier occupation soil, 0012, above natural, and although no dating evidence was recovered from this it potentially dates back to the medieval period. Its preservation only below the wall, undisturbed by later activity in contrast to the soil profile seen in the trench to the south, indicates that this is a longstanding property boundary.

Jo Caruth  
May 2007

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**



***Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development***

39 Crown Street  
Bury St Edmunds

*Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.*

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application SE/06/1385). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring of development as it occurs, coupled with provision for an archaeological record of any archaeology that is observed.
- 1.2 The development area is within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined in the Local Plan, it lies in the 11<sup>th</sup> century urban area between two streets of the early plan. There is high potential for settlement and associated occupation debris.

Ground disturbance for the extension will result from : underpinning the boundary wall, a toed slab, new foul drain and inspection chamber

- 1.3 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/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 (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 PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.
- 1.4 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in “Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England” Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.

- 1.5 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 this office before execution.

## 2. **Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation for underpinning, drains and slab formation.

In the case of any ground disturbance the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist whilst they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

## 3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

#### 4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted ‘observing archaeologist’ to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the ‘observing archaeologist’ to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one hour per 3 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. In the case of ground reduction for the slab unimpeded access at the rate of one hour per 5 square metres must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, 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.
- 4.7 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by ‘*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*’ (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

#### 5. **Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. 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.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features.. 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, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: RDCarr

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2006

Reference: Brief for mon\_39CrownStBSE

**This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE**

Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR 01284 352443