

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

DOUBLE GARAGES ASSOCIATED WITH NO. 40 EASTGATE

Bury St Edmunds

BSE 298

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS

Planning Application No. SE/05/02202

NGR: TL 8606-6466

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-34090

Funded by: Tony Clarke Homes

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Summary

The archaeological monitoring of garage footing excavations revealed two undated pits. These could not be examined closely due to the instability of the trenches but from the soil profile it is suggested that they have some antiquity.

Introduction

The excavation of footings for a double garage built on land to the rear of 40 Eastgate Street was subject to an archaeological monitoring. The work was carried out to an Outline Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2005/02202/. The main potential of the site is based on its location close to the medieval town and specifically Eastgate Street, a major route into the town which may date from the Anglo-Saxon period. The site is located at a height of 34m OD.

Methodology

The site was monitored on the 13th November after footings had been excavated. The trenches were c 0.45m wide and up to 2m deep. Notes were made on site but the trenches could not be closely examined because of the extreme depth and consequent risk of collapse. No finds were recovered from the site. The spoil was stored on site but as the quantities of spoil were far in excess of the potential spoil from the pits it was not closely examined.

Results

The majority of the footings were c.2m deep with the East and West trenches slightly shallower. The profile was fairly consistent throughout with c. 0.3-5m of topsoil (often disturbed) with c.50-75m of lighter brown soil. Below this was natural subsoil of fine decayed chalk with some fine gravel. Two pits could be identified from the surface of the trench. Pit 0002 was at the eastern end of the northernmost trench. It was c.1.5m across towards the surface and 0.75m wide at the base which was at 2m and had very steep sides. The fill was of light brown sandy loam, which was similar to the soil layer above the natural along the remainder of the trench. No finds could

be seen from the surface (such as brick or tile) and there was little variation within the fill of the pit. Pit 0003 was shallower at c. 1.5m and only c.1m across towards the surface. It was also filled with a pale brown fill similar to the lower subsoil layer.

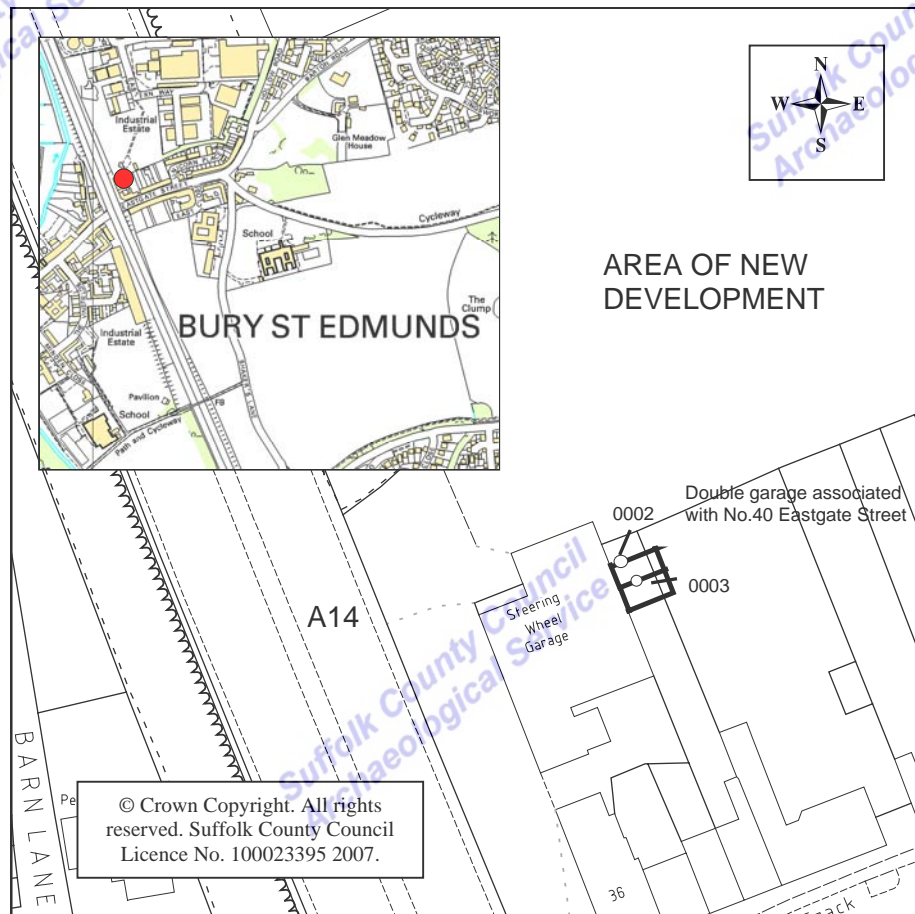


Figure 1. Site location plan

Discussion

The soil profile and the pits could not be examined very closely and the interpretation offered here could not be proved. Given this proviso it appeared that the soil profile was well developed and that most of the disturbances were recent and superficial. The two pits were an exception and have the appearance of a type that would have been commonplace in back gardens throughout the town from the early medieval period onwards holding rubbish from cottage industries or more commonly cess and household waste. The garage falls within land that was part of 40 Eastgate Street which may have been the source of the material.

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