

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

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**4 Bridge Foot, Cross Street, Sudbury**

**SUY 084**

Planning App. No B/07/00997/FHA/GP  
Oasis ID No. suffolkc1-34340

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2007

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© November 2007

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## SMR information

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<b>Planning application</b>	B/07/00997/FHA/GP
<b>SMR No.</b>	SUY 085
<b>Date of fieldwork:</b>	03-10-2007
<b>Grid Reference:</b>	TL 8678 4091
<b>Funding body:</b>	Mr. and Mrs. K Andrews
<b>Oasis reference</b>	Suffolkc1-34340

## Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 4 Bridge Foot, Cross Street, Sudbury as a condition of planning consent. The proposed development consists of a small extension to the north-west side of the existing property covering an area of just under 8m<sup>2</sup>. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Importance defined for Sudbury in the Babergh Local Plan. The site lies within fifteen metres of the north-east bank of the River Stour, immediately downstream of Ballingdon Bridge. Ground disturbance consists of eight metres of hand dug footing trench measuring 0.50m wide with an average depth of around 0.90m. The trench revealed only deep re-deposited dark brown silty soil, probably deliberately built up to provide levelling for riverside occupation. The deposit contained regular fragments of ceramic building materials including brick and tile, together with domestic pottery, glass and metallic debris. However, all of the datable finds were of post-medieval age, predominantly from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The deposit showed few signs of stratification and no natural geological deposits were reached.

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## 1.0 Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out 4 Bridge Foot, Cross Street, Sudbury as a condition of planning consent. The Brief and Specification for the monitoring was produced by Keith Wade of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (see Appendix). The site lies within fifteen metres of the north-east bank of the River Stour, immediately downstream of Ballingdon Bridge and within an Area of Archaeological Importance. The location is within the area identified as part of the Saxon and medieval town of Sudbury at the crossing point across the Stour; the river represents the boundary between Suffolk and Essex (see Figure 2). The Ballingdon Bridge site was recently archaeologically monitored during bridge replacement work (Gill 2007). At least six bridges are known to have existed at this crossing point, at least four of which are pre-twentieth century in date. The earliest documentary reference to a bridge at this location dates to the thirteenth century, but far older crossing structures are likely. The crossing lies on the projected line of the Roman road from Chelmsford and is the only point of access from the Essex side of the river into the town of Sudbury. Evidence has also been found of riverside revetments and post-medieval buildings adjacent to the river on the Sudbury side, where the profile of the banks had been augmented by the dumping of household and industrial waste.

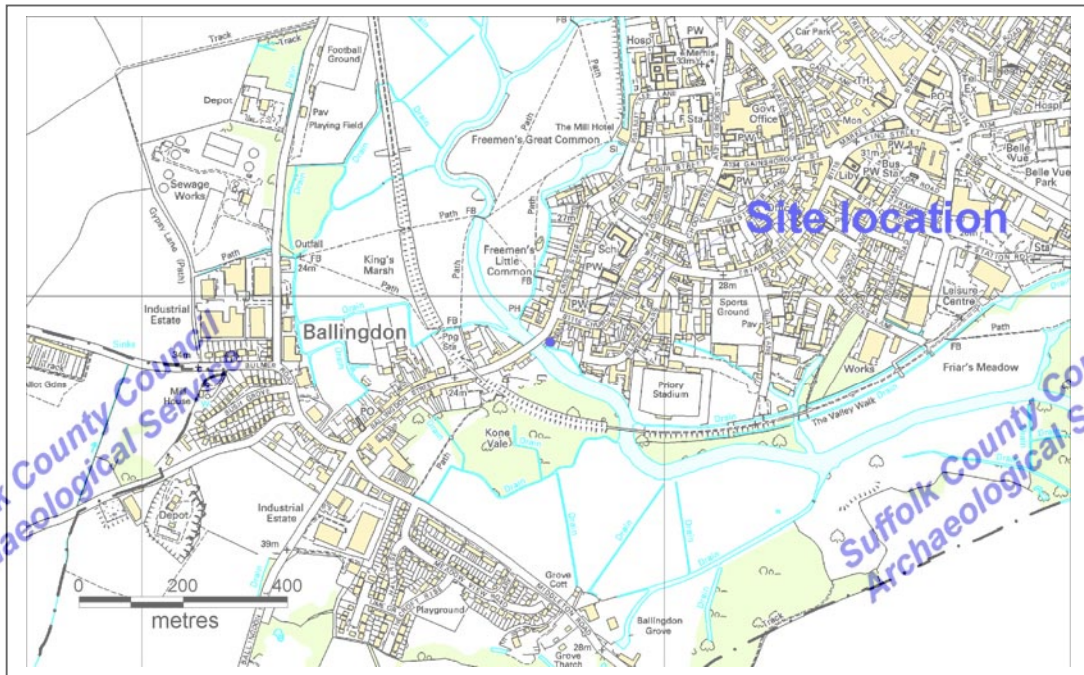


Figure 1. Site location

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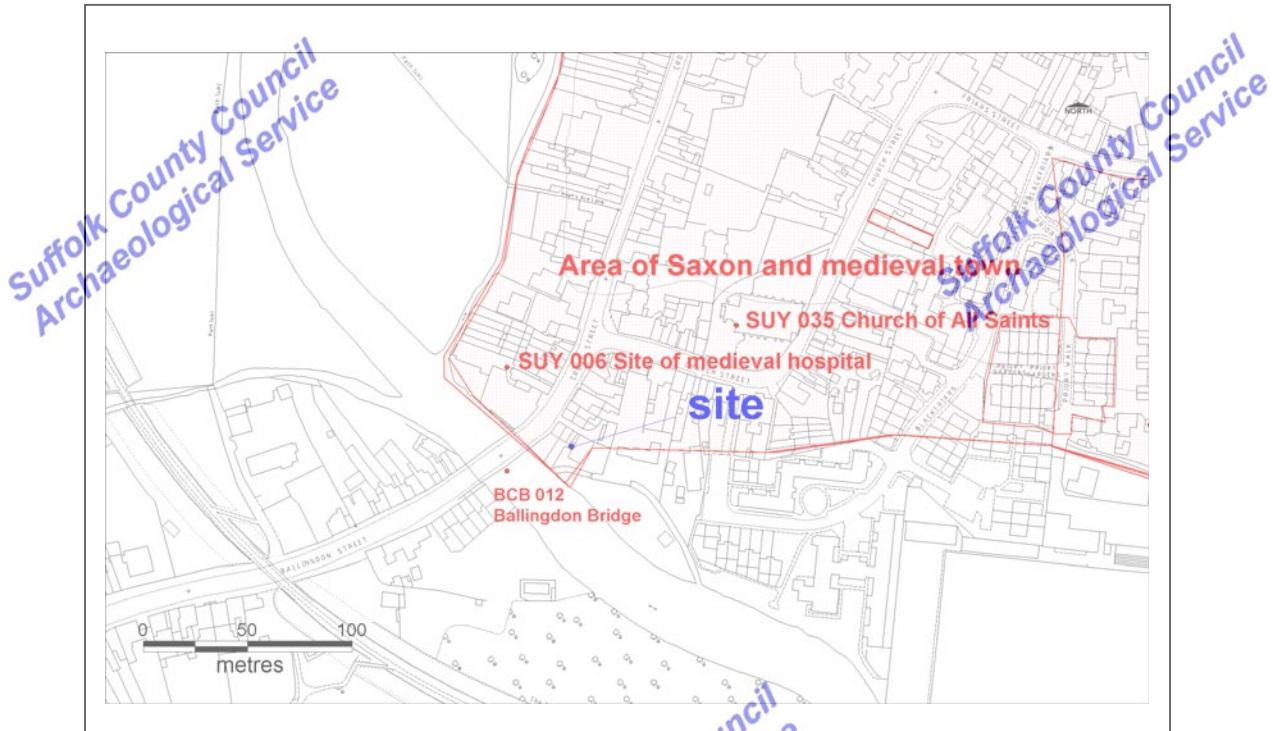


Figure 2. The site in relation to the County Historic Environment Record  
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Figure 3. The site on the c.1880 OS  
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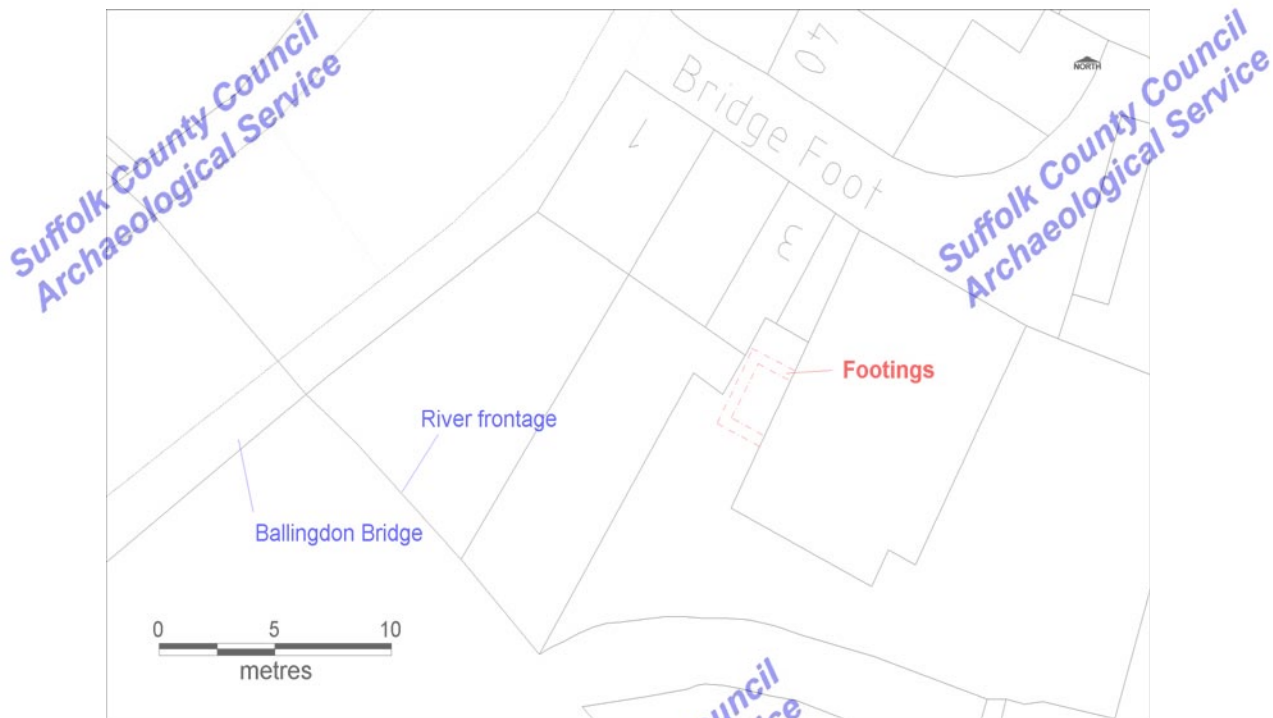


Figure 4. Plan of excavated areas

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## 2.0 Methodology

Keith Wade (SCCAS Conservation Team) produced the Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring (see Appendix). During the site visit, it was possible to examine all of the development area after it had been stripped of garden paving slabs. Access to the site is very restricted and as a result all of the ground-works were carried out by hand. All ground disturbance including site clearance and the entire run of the footing trenches were examined and recorded after a small amount of hand cleaning. Details of the ground disturbance and soil profiles were recorded onto a detailed site plan in addition to *pro forma* Observable Phenomena context sheets. Digital 6.0mp photographs were taken of section faces, surfaces and all general aspects of the site. All of the stripped, levelled and excavated surfaces were searched, together with the upcast spoil, with the aim of retrieving datable archaeological finds. Site conditions were generally good in terms of visibility and moisture levels.

The Site has been allocated a County Historic Environment Record code of SUY 084 and an OASIS form has been completed for the project (suffolkc1-34340).

### 3.0 Results

The footings covered an area of just under 8m<sup>2</sup> with a total length of 8.00m. The trench was 0.50m wide with an average depth of around 0.90m. A single, generally homogeneous deposit occupied the entire trenched area, consisting of re-deposited dark brown silty loam with some clay content. There were little visible indications of any stratification within the deposits, other than a gradual lightening in colour towards the base of the layer; no natural geological deposits were reached. The excavated deposit contained regular fragments of ceramic building materials including brick and tile, together with domestic pottery, glass and metallic debris (not retained). However, all of the datable finds were of post-medieval age, predominantly from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

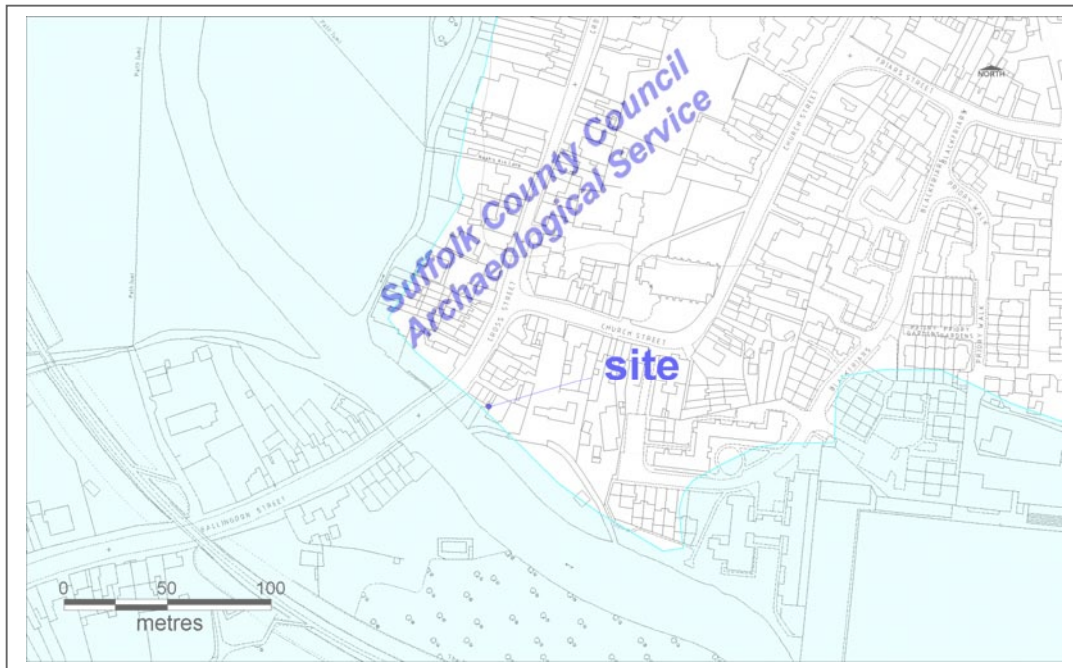


Figure 5. River floodplain

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### 4.0 Conclusions

The deposit revealed within the footing trench, probably represents deliberately made up ground designed to provide levelling and ground elevation for riverside occupation. Artefactual material, including domestic



ceramics, glass and discarded metalwork, seen within the deposit, indicates a relatively late date of formation; the ceramic building material also supports this interpretation. Just as is evidenced for the medieval period, there would have been continued incentives for taking opportunities to raise ground levels in this area of Sudbury, as the location is naturally prone to flooding. Figure 5 indicates the current possible extent of the river floodplain, while the 1880 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3) also indicates areas that were liable to flooding during the nineteenth century.

## 5.0 Acknowledgements and List of Contributors

This project was funded by Mr. and Mrs. K. Andrews and was monitored by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The fieldwork was carried out by Robert Atfield from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

## 6.0 Bibliography

Gill, D., 2007 'Archaeological Monitoring Report: Ballingdon Bridge, Sudbury. BCB 012' SCCAS Report No. 2007/020, Bury St. Edmunds.

## 7.0 Appendices

### Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

#### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

#### 4 BRIDGE FOOT, CROSS STREET, SUDBURY

#### 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 (B/07/00997/FHA/GP). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.

1.2 The proposal lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined for Sudbury in the Babergh Local Plan and will involve significant ground disturbance.

1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.

1.4 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 would be 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 the medieval occupation of the site.

- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

### 3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 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 timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

### 4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should 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 footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench 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 should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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. 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets should 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: Keith Wade  
Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 2 October 2007

Reference: /4 Bridge Foot, Cross

**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.**