

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

92 North Street, Sudbury SUY 071

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2004
(Planning app. no. B/04/00026/FUL)

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

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Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Chartfront Ltd and was monitored by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The fieldwork was carried out by John Craven and David Gill 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.

Finds processing was carried out by Kelly Powell and the specialist finds report by Sue Anderson.

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches for an extension at 92 North Street, Sudbury, located a large possible rubbish pit of late medieval or post-medieval date, and a foundation trench and brick lined well or soakaway of 19/20th century date.

SMR information

Planning application no. B/04/00026/FUL
Date of fieldwork: 3rd – 5th August 2004
Grid Reference: TL 8743 4147
Funding body: Chartfront Ltd
Oasis reference no. suffolkc1-3453

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Introduction

Three visits were made to the site (Fig. 1) from 3rd August to 5th August 2004 to monitor the removal of existing footings and the excavation of new foundations for the construction of an extension. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1), to fulfil a planning condition on application B/04/00026/FUL. The work was funded by the developer, Chartfront Ltd.

Interest in the site was based upon its location within the area of medieval Sudbury, which is defined as an Area of Archaeological Importance in the Babergh Local Plan. Therefore any ground works had the potential for disturbing archaeological evidence of the medieval settlement.

The site lies on a slight south-west facing slope, to the rear of the buildings fronting onto North Street. The footing trench largely followed the edge of an existing sunken concrete yard, which was 0.4 – 0.7m below the surrounding ground level.

Methodology

The trenches, covering an area of approximately 14 sqm, were predominantly excavated by a mini digger with some areas partially being excavated by hand. Three site visits were made during the excavation to monitor the groundworks. The main part of the trench was 0.7m wide and it was excavated in its entirety to a depth of 0.6m below the concrete yard or up to 1.3m below ground level.

Excavation of the majority of the trench, immediately bordering the two sides of the concrete yard, involved the removal of a previous foundation and meant that archaeological monitoring was limited to the profiles of the trench as the material removed was all modern. In addition the side of the trench against the concrete yard did not extend below the base of the concrete and nothing could be seen.

Results

The concrete yard was situated between 0.4 – 0.7m below the surrounding ground-level and was approximately at the same level as the natural subsoil of dark orange/brown silt and gravel. This was most clearly seen in the southern part of the trench, which exposed the natural subsoil throughout. The ground to the south of the trench had been truncated to the same level as the yard, exposing the natural subsoil. Similarly the northernmost part of the trench showed the natural subsoil under 0.7m of modern deposits.

Three features were identified in the remaining central part of the trench (Fig. 2).

0001 was a large feature, thought to be a pit, measuring approximately 3m wide. It was sealed with approximately 0.50m of modern material and was then a further 0.70m deep, cutting the natural subsoil. Its base was 0.6m below the level of the concrete yard at the very base of the trench. The edge to the south could be clearly seen, a steep sided cut in the natural subsoil and the base of the feature was flat. To the west 0001 was cut by feature 0003. The feature was mainly filled with a homogenous dark grey clay/silt loam, 0002, full of fine fragments of mortar and charcoal with fragments of brick, tile, animal bone and oyster shell. A second fill, 0007, was a charcoal deposit slumped into the west side of the pit and was partially cut by 0003.

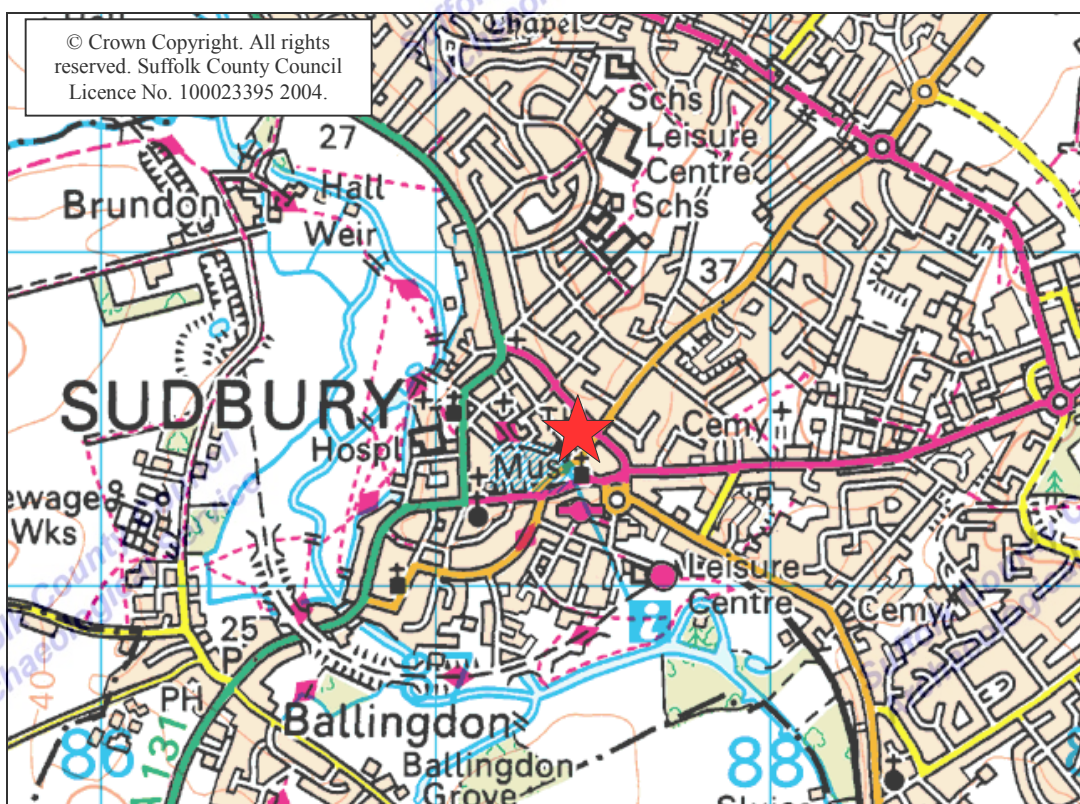
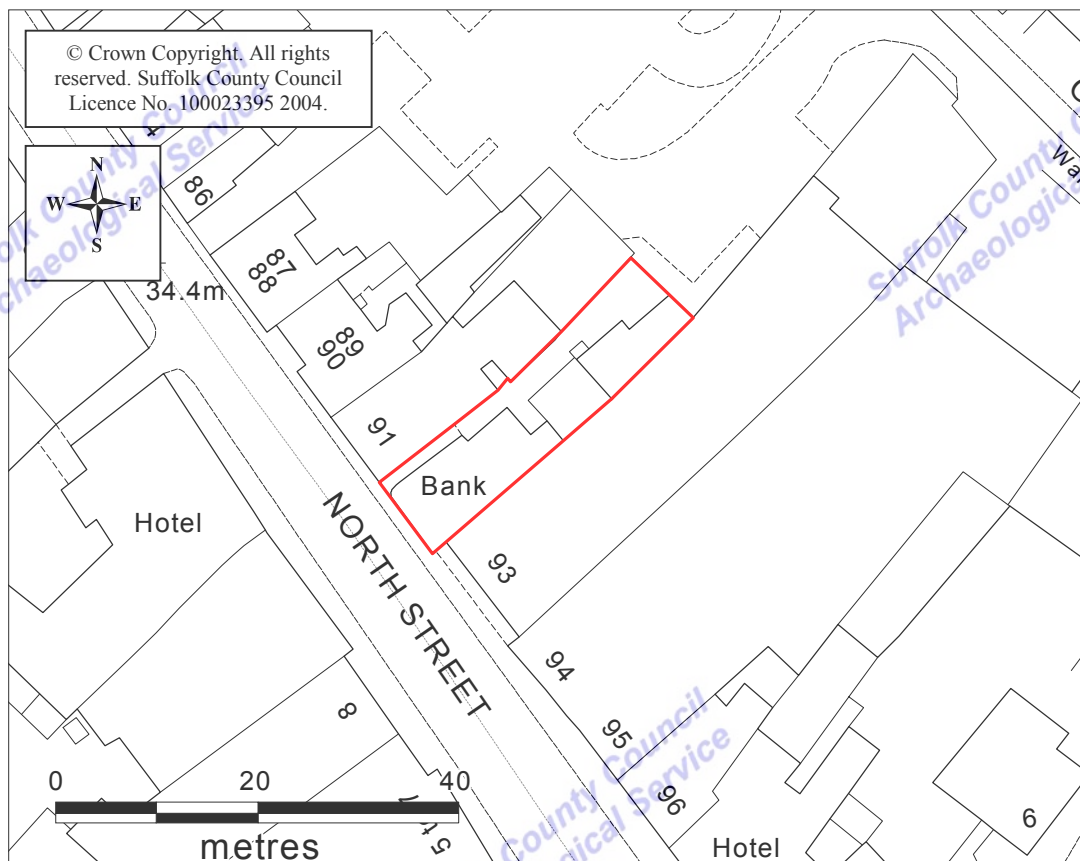


Figure 1. Site location plan

0003 was a rectangular feature, extending approximately 0.7m into the trench. Sealed by 0.1m of modern material it was approximately 2.5m wide and was then a further 0.9m deep, its base being 0.6m below the level of the concrete yard. The feature had vertical sides and a flat base, to the north it cut feature 0001, to the south it cut a layer of pale brown silt (0010) and the natural subsoil.

0003 had a series of fills, the upper fill, 0004, was composed of mid yellow clay mixed with brown loam with fine fragments of mortar, tile and charcoal and two large blocks of cemented red bricks. This extended to a depth of 0.6m and lay above a band of dark silt and charcoal, 0005, which was 0.05-0.1m thick. Beneath 0005 was the basal layer of the feature, 0006, a homogenous dark brown loam.

0008 was a red brick lined well or soakaway, with the remains of a destroyed domed cap approximately 0.3m below ground level. The interior of the walling, at the top, was cement lined. The central fill was a dark brown homogenous loam, 0009. The base of this feature was not seen as it extended below the depth of the trench.

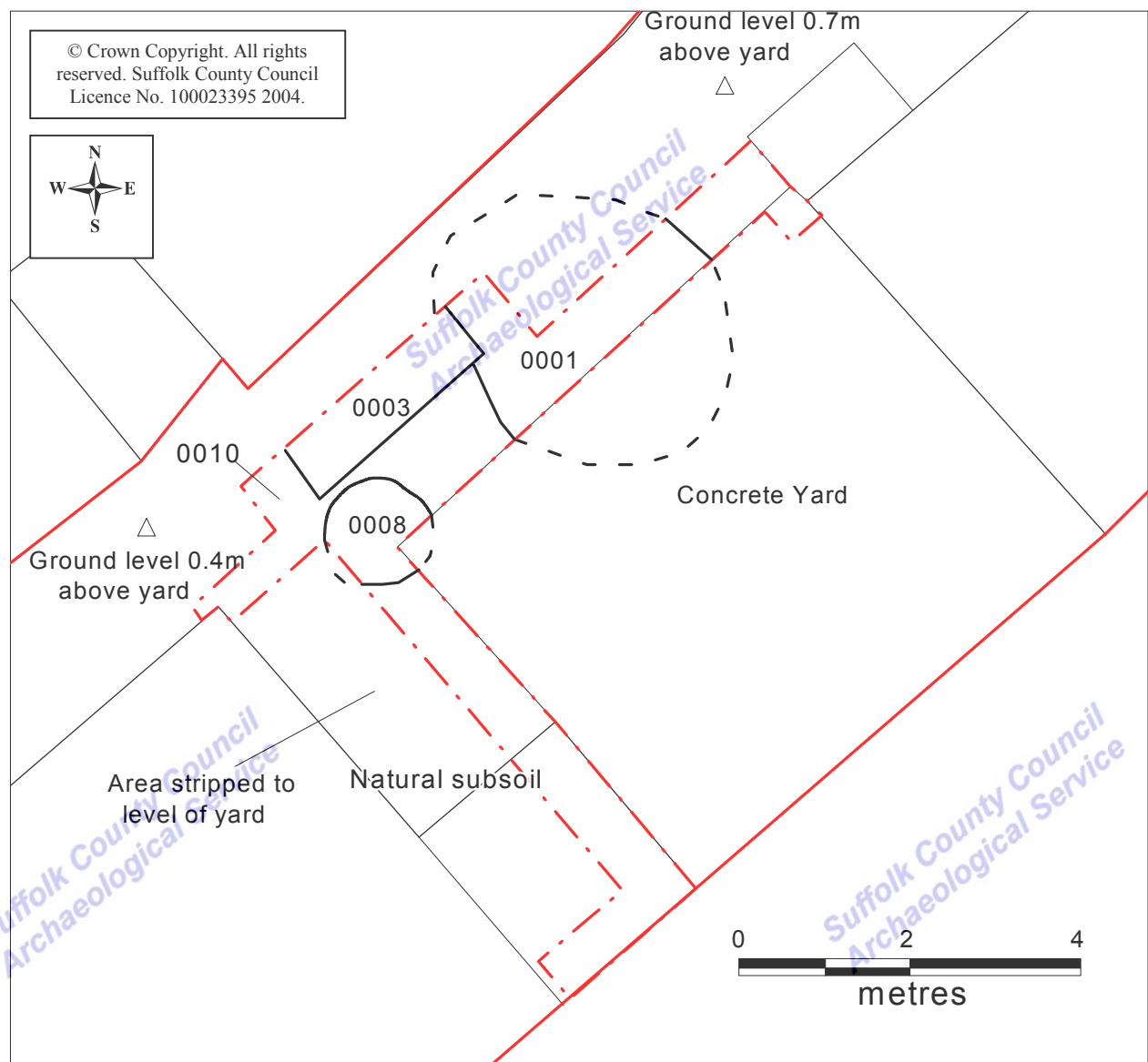


Figure 2. Trench plan

Finds and environmental evidence

Sue Anderson

Finds were collected from two contexts, both fills of large pit 0001. From 0002 there were three fragments of peg tile (134g) in red-firing medium sandy fabrics, and four animal bones (145g). These were a juvenile cow metatarsal, the distal end of a sheep metapodial, a pig humerus shaft which had been sectioned through the distal end, and a ?pig tibia shaft which was chopped at one end and gnawed at the other. From 0007 there was a large sherd of unglazed redware pottery (67g). All finds were probably of late or post-medieval date (16th-18th centuries?).

Summary and Conclusion

The trench showed a thick build up of modern deposits overlying the natural subsoil. Any topsoil layer was previously removed and it is not possible to identify the original ground level. The building of the sunken concrete yard had previously entirely destroyed the archaeological layers on its location as it was cut into the natural subsoil and limited archaeological monitoring to one side of the footing trench.

Feature 0001 is probably a large pit, of a late medieval or post-medieval date, located in the yards or gardens behind the properties fronting onto North Street. Its main single fill and range of finds indicate a rapid and deliberate infilling which included small amounts of domestic waste and building rubble.

Feature 0003 and well 0008 are thought to be of a later, more modern date, perhaps 19/20th century. 0003 may be a former foundation trench, with its vertical sides and presence of brick masonry, perhaps relating to a previous outbuilding to the rear of the main property. 0008, whether it was a well, soakaway or underground tank, based on its covering by modern ground build up, appears to have gone out of use in the early 20th century.

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

92 NORTH STREET, SUDBURY

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent for a rear extension to 92 North Street, Sudbury, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/04/00026/FUL). 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 medieval Sudbury, defined as an Area of Archaeological Importance 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.

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 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 time-table.

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.

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.
- 5.7.1 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: 30 April 2004

Reference: /Sudbury-NorthSt04

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.