

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

57-59 College St, Bury St Edmunds BSE 290

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007
(Planning app. no. SE/07/0226)

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and
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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by BT plc and was monitored by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The excavation was carried out by Andrew Tester, David Gill, Philip Camps and Tim Brown, all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. Andrew Tester also managed the project.

Summary

An archaeological evaluation at 57-59 College Street identified the remains of a cellar with flint and mortar walls. The cellar had been infilled and a small trench exposed brick fragments that were medieval in date. It is uncertain how rare stone lined cellars were within the medieval town but it seems reasonable to suggest that this was from a high status building and may be related to Jesus College, which was dissolved during the Reformation. A flint surface with a mortar spread may have been contemporary. A sequence of brick foundations are thought to be the remains of the former workhouse which was sold in 1884.

SMR information

Planning application no.	SE/2007/0226/
Date of fieldwork:	5th-9th March 2007
Grid Reference:	TL 8540 6398
Funding body:	BT plc
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-36247

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of housing development at 57-59 College Street, Bury St Edmunds. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 3) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2007/0226. The developer, BT plc, funded the work.

The proposed development comprises six flats and is located at TL 8540 6398 and occupies an area of c.500sqm on the West side of College Street (Fig. 1). The site consists of the carpark to the rear of the telephone exchange to which it is attached, and is at approximately 43m OD.

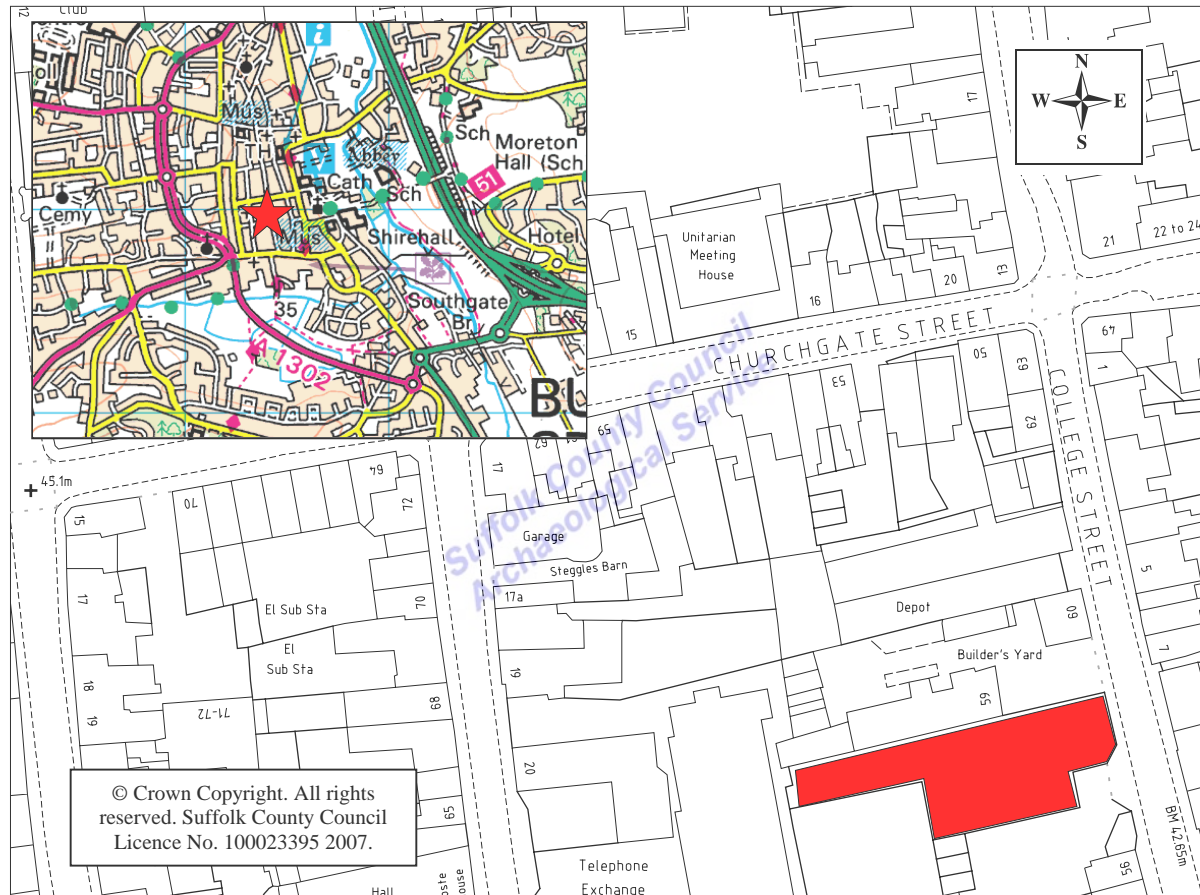


Figure 1. Site location plan

The potential of the site is related to its position towards the centre of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval town. Of particular interest is the location of the former Jesus College, which is thought to lie within the property, and is the origin of the street name. A documentary survey of the site, which was a requirement of the Brief and Specification is included as Appendix 2.

2. Methodology

The site was evaluated by opening up c.40m of trenching contained within three trenches (Fig. 2). The largest ran east-west covering most of the length of the property; it was interrupted at the eastern end because of services and Trench three could not be fully investigated due to a service trench. The trenches were excavated through tarmac surface and construction sub-base exposing archaeological levels beneath. Machining depth varied between c.0.8m at the east-end of the trench to c.0.2m at the western end. Where natural subsoil was exposed it comprised red silt with chalky outcrops. Following the evaluation the carpark was reinstated and fresh tarmac laid. The site was recorded using a single context continuous numbering system. The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 with sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are

included in the archive. Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County Sites and Monuments Code BSE 290. Inked copies of section and drawings have also been made. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-36247) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER No. BSE 290.

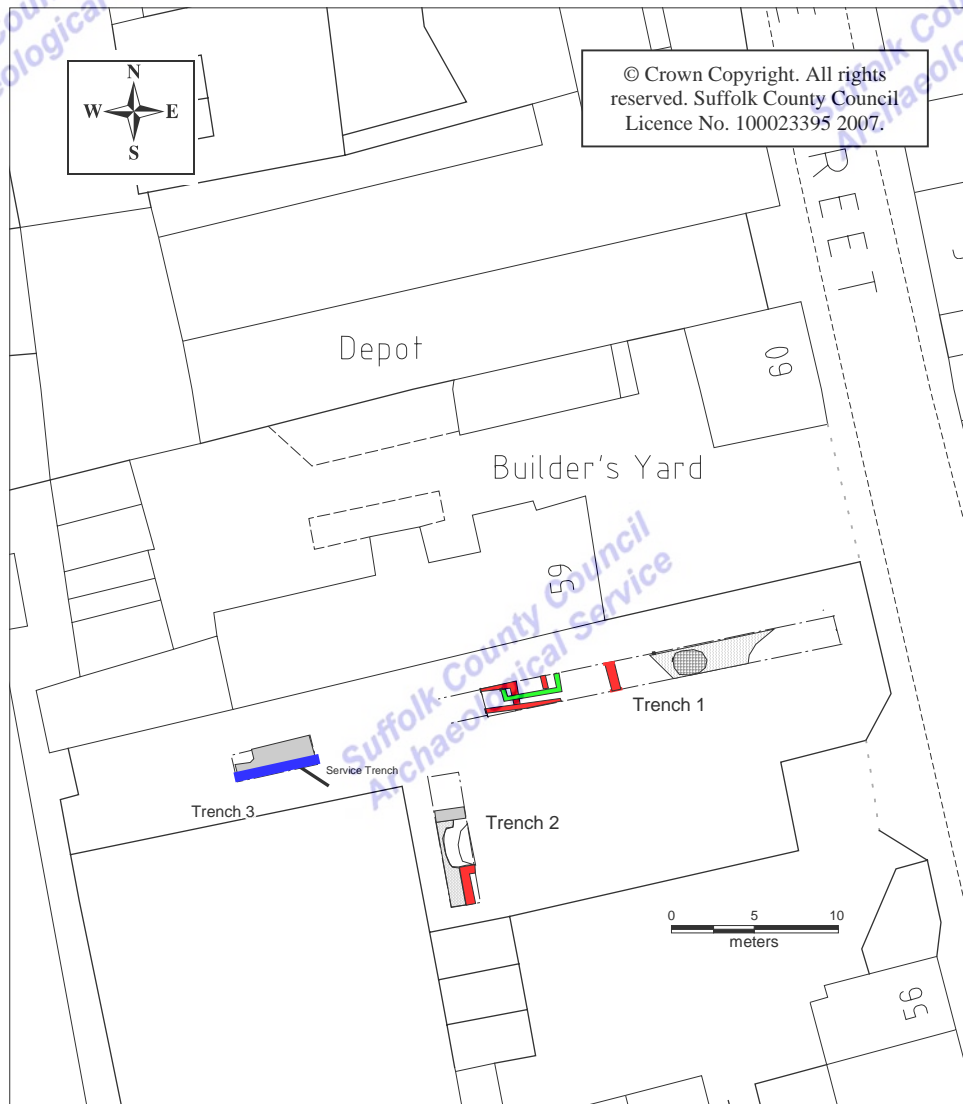


Figure 2. Trench location plan

3. Results

Trench 1 (Figure 3) was c. 22m in length and 1.8m wide and was aligned at c.90 degrees to College Street. Beneath the tarmac was a layer of coarse construction sub-base. This was deeper at the eastern end indicating a significant slope upward towards the back of the property, which had been ameliorated during car-park construction. Over the eastern-most 10m of trench, and the western-most 7m a layer of dark clay mixed with brick rubble was removed beneath the sub-base. At the eastern end of the trench natural red silt was exposed. Corresponding with a rise in ground level a rough flint surface appeared. This stretched for c.6m and contained a circular spread of loose mortar c.3m across. The rubble was cut by a series of drains, and a wall footing 0017, these were set in natural silt. Further to the west there were a series of shallow brick footings: 0022 and 0027 that were both formed of a single line of bricks set across the width of the footing which ran at right angles to the trench; 0018 and 0025 ran approximately east-west

and were set deeper. Wall 0025 overlay 0018, which was also cut by a pit, 0028, that contained 19th century bottle glass.

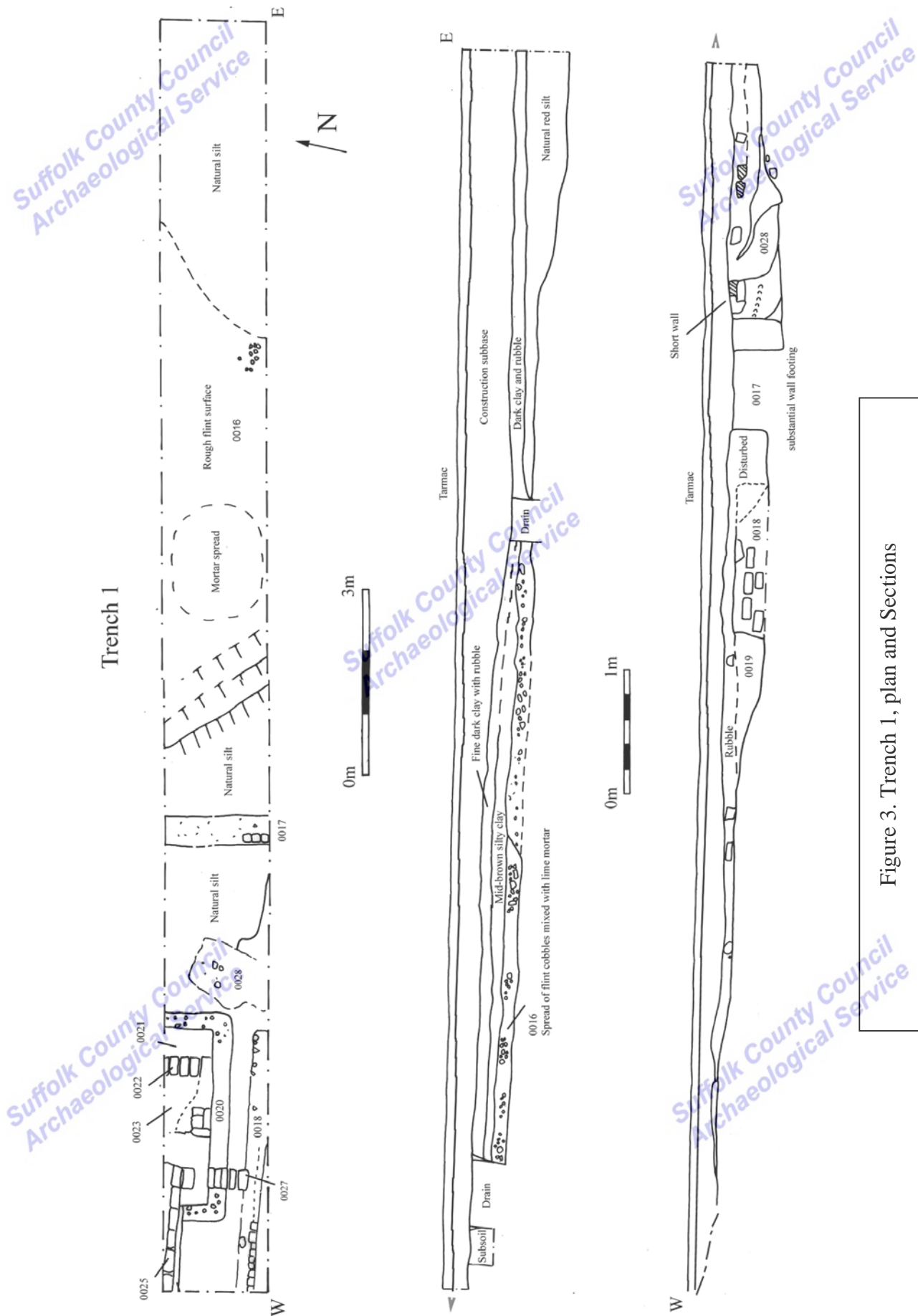
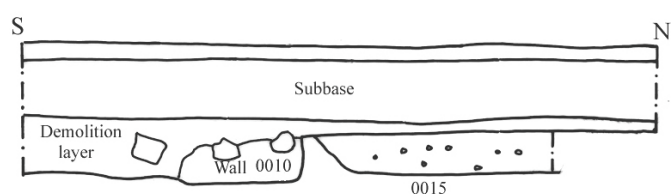


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and Sections



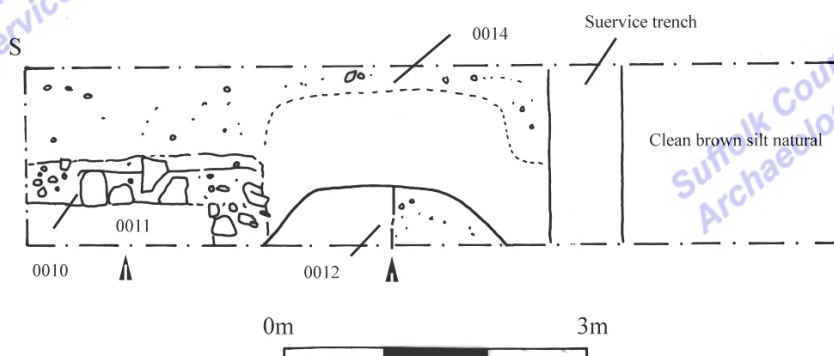
Plate 1. Flint and mortar cellar

Beneath the brick walls was a flint and mortar wall 0020 (marked in green in Figure 2). It was 0.3m wide and formed of small flints with a pale-brown lime mortar. The south side was complete and approximately 3.55m long. The returning east and west walls were so arranged that they would fall exactly within the property if the structure were square. There was a distinct inner fill, 0021, which was of green/brown sticky silt with patches of lime mortar and brick fragments. A small sondage was excavated into the fill revealing brick fragments that were approximately 1.5 inches thick. There were also fragments of salt glaze tile. A sufficient depth of material was removed to establish that this was probably the fill of an abandoned cellar (Plate 1). At the western end of the trench the natural was very close to the surface suggesting that the ground may have been truncated when the carpark was built.



0m 1m

Trench 2



0m 3m

Figure 4. Trench 2 plan and section

Trench 2 was 7.8m long and aligned at right angles to Trench 1. Following the removal of the tarmac and c.0.15m of sub-base a layer of rubble, 0014 was exposed. Beneath this were the remains of the corner of a wall foundation, 0010 that was made up of flint and brick and held together with lime mortar. This was suggested to be 17th –18th centuries from the bricks examined on site. Abutting against the wall and sealed by layer 0011 was pit 0012; it contained lime mortar fragments but no later material. At the north end of the trench natural brown silt was exposed.

Trench 3 was 4.8m in length. Following the removal of the tarmac and a thin layer of sub-base a cable running the length of the trench was encountered. The trench was not fully excavated but initial observation suggested that no substantial features such as flint and mortar walls survived within the trench.

Finds

No finds were recovered from the site. Bricks were identified on site as most of these were still bonded into footings.

4. Summary of Documentary evidence

The results of the documentary are contained in full as Appendix 1. The summary discussion below identifies the uncertainty over the nature of the site. There is only limited evidence for College Street during the medieval period. Six properties are recorded from the rental of 1433 but these are poorly located and none are mentioned in relation to the former Jesus College, which is the most significant early property associated with the area. Antiquarian Samul Tymms writing in the 19th century refers to Hugh of Northwold, Abbot of Bury 1215-1229, assigning a house on Barnwell Street for the residence of officiating chaplains for the charnel house (which survives as a ruin in the Great Churchyard of the Abbey). This appears to be the origin of the 'guild or fraternity of the sweet name of Jesus'. The location of Barnwell Street is uncertain. During the 15th century College Street was known as Hennecote Street. A clear reference to the College building is in the will of Jankyn Smyth from 1480 giving profits from land for their upkeep.

At the dissolution of the college in 1549 the main building is called the 'Colledge'. This name also appears in later wills and deeds. Two chantries were attached to Jesus College at the time of the dissolution. The records are unclear as to which side of the road the original Jesus College was on. Thomas Warrens 1776 map of has the site of 'Jesus College' marked on the east side of the street and 'the college' beneath the present site to the west which is the site marked on the Ordnance Survey map. From the middle of the 18th century a girls school was acquired for conversion to a workhouse on the present site and continued in use until it was sold (a photographic record of the property is in the Appendix and was taken from the 1884 sale plan of the property).

5. General Discussion

There were no undisturbed soil deposits surviving in the trenches. The evaluation made it clear that the foundations for the carpark and probably earlier buildings had truncated the site. A number of shallow footings, which probably relate to the former workhouse and school, were recorded particularly in Trench 1. These foundations were not deep, which suggests the natural silt and chalk were close to the ground surface before the carpark was built. Deposits which predate the workhouse include the rough flint surface with a spread of mortar contained within a hollow and flint structure 0020. This feature is interpreted as a cellar. No bricks were visible in

the construction and it is suggested that it was medieval in date. This interpretation is also consistent with the cellar infill that contained medieval brick fragments and tiles which are also likely to be medieval. No other medieval features were identified.

The lack of evidence for medieval domestic occupation may have been due to the truncation of the site. At the front of the property, for example, we might have expected evidence of ground beams or possible postholes if the buildings were Early medieval (posthole evidence for the backs of properties might still survive beneath the flint surface in Trench 1 set back from College Street).

Given the uncertainty over the location of a high status building, Jesus College, the identification of a cellar of medieval date is highly significant. The only medieval cellar excavated in Bury to date was probably built in the 11th or 12th centuries on Churchgate Street and was lined with timber. This structure of stone is likely to be later but was certainly built to a high standard. It seems reasonable to speculate that the cellar was related in some way to the 'Jesus College' mentioned in the documentary work. This might also explain the lack of evidence for domestic or indeed industrial waste to the rear of the site. The only other feature likely to be contemporary is the rough flint spread, which might be a courtyard. Whether the cellar was physically part of the main building or part of a range of building which stood either side of the street is open to the same speculation, prompted by the documentary work.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The evaluation exposed the remains of an unusual high status cellar of medieval date. This adds further to the speculation that the medieval Jesus College or buildings associated with it once stood on the site. Whilst highlighting the significance of this site the evaluation has suggested that the surviving archaeology will not be exceptionally complex although what survives is likely to be damaged by any building works because it is so close to the surface. It is therefore recommended that all areas of the site affected by construction be subject to full excavation. The evidence from Trench 1 indicates that there is a low probability of evidence surviving along the road frontage and that it may be deemed sufficient to carry out a close monitoring of building work in this area.

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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January 2008

Appendix 2 Documentary Report

Introduction

Much of the history of this site has been published. These various sources offer two locations for the former medieval Jesus College. It is the intention of this report to follow the discussion as to the site of the college and trace the reference back to the original sources.

The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St Edmunds.

Margaret Statham

The site of the medieval Jesus College is marked on the Ordnance Survey maps of this area. In Margaret Statham 'Yesterday's Town Bury St Edmunds' published in 1992, she describes the origins of the various charitable institutions in the town. One of these was 'the former William Barnaby almshouses, which have recently been converted into town houses. The original buildings on this site formed part of the College of Jesus, which was founded by Jankyn Smyth to provide a residence for the priests of St Mary's and St James's. As well as the College itself, the complex included six tenements, two of which were to be let, while the other four provided homes for four poor old men. These were bought by William Barnaby ... this and other property from the Crown and then conveyed the almshouses to the Feoffees in 1570. Although writers on Bury, such as Tymms, state that the College stood on the west side of College Street where the Telephone Exchange and some town houses are now, recent research suggests that its site was on the opposite side of the street, on the south side of the turn into Church Walks'. This poses the question as to the exact location of the college from which the street has taken its name.

On a map of 'Bury in the Fifteenth Century' showing the medieval names of the roads published in Margaret Lobel's 'The Borough of Bury St Edmunds' the former name of College Street is given as 'Bernewelle Street'. This name appears in a town rental of 1295 (Redstone). The earliest reference to College Street is given in another of Margaret Statham's works as 1496. Margaret Statham also reconsidered Lobel's map of the 15th century town and produced her own sketch plan of 'Bury St Edmunds (1433)'. On her sketch plan (ref. P 517) she offers the name 'Hennecotestrete' as the former name of College Street. Both authors used a 1433 Sacrist's rental for their reconstructed maps of the town.

Margaret Statham's opinion as to the location of the college site had only recently changed. In her earlier 1988 work 'The Book of Bury St Edmunds' she described the former 18th century Workhouse in College Street. This building was used by the combined parishes of St Mary and St James and replaced their own parish workhouses. 'This building continued to be used after the adoption of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 until 1884, when the inmates were removed to the Thingoe Union Workhouse ... Many of the workhouse buildings were demolished then, but some of those retained were used by the St Edmunds Working Men's Association ... one of the buildings was used as the Scot Headquarters until the early 1960's'. There is a copy of the 1884 sale plan of this site published in her work together with a photograph of the buildings below this the caption states 'The central block was on the site of the College of Jesus, which became a private house after the dissolution. Francis Pynner was once the owner and, immediately before it became the Workhouse, it was a girls' boarding school'.

Photographs and Plans

The photograph shows the buildings from the northeast and looks over the former boundary wall that ran along the western side of College Street. It seems likely that the buildings thought to have been the college were the structure whose gables faced the street. The building was used as stores, a dining hall and rooms for aged residents and able-bodied women. This photograph is one of a series of photographs probably taken shortly after the closure of the workhouse. The views of the buildings include a view from the south showing and internal divisions of the yards between the 'college' and the boundary wall along College Street (Fig. 1).



Fig. 2. View of the Workhouse

The view of the entrance on College Street (Fig. 2) is of particular interest as it shows that the footings of the boundary wall was made up of stone rather than brick the wall appears to have been constructed at different dates with the doorway inserted at possibly the same date as the upper part of the wall.



Fig. 3 Entrance to the workhouse from College Street

The view from inside the main entrance to the doorway and entrance passage of the College indicates that there was a slight upward slope from the road to this main building flanked on either side with later structures (Fig. 3). Behind the building on the right hand side of this photograph and below a gable window on the College there appears to be an entrance to a cellar.



Fig. 4 View of the main workhouse building

Another photograph (Fig. 4) shows the buildings at the northern end of the site that have been recently converted into houses. Further photographs showing the internal arrangements of this building are in the planning files for 1999.



Fig. 5. Buildings on the northern side of the site

The published photograph (Fig. 5) has already described. These photographs have been copied for this report and combined with the sale plan show that much of the area behind the boundary walls has been free of later building.



Fig. 6 View of the workhouse from College Street

The original plan is at the record office (Fig. 6 and 7). This was one of a number of printed plans and sale particulars of buildings in Bury deposited from the Moyse Hall Museum at the record

office in 1952. As in the case of most of these plans they have been detached from other documents. On the original plan the standing buildings are marked in green, the site boundaries are marked in red, as are the numbers that suggest that site when offered for sale was subdivided and sold in separate lots. Most of the buildings either side of the 'Boys' Yard' to the north of this site are still standing. The main range including the 'Boy's School' have been recently converted in houses and offered for sale. The condition of this building before its restoration was carefully recorded and a report presented to St Edmundsbury as part of a planning application in 1999.



Fig. 7. Plan of the old workhouse, H. lacy Scott, 1884 map1

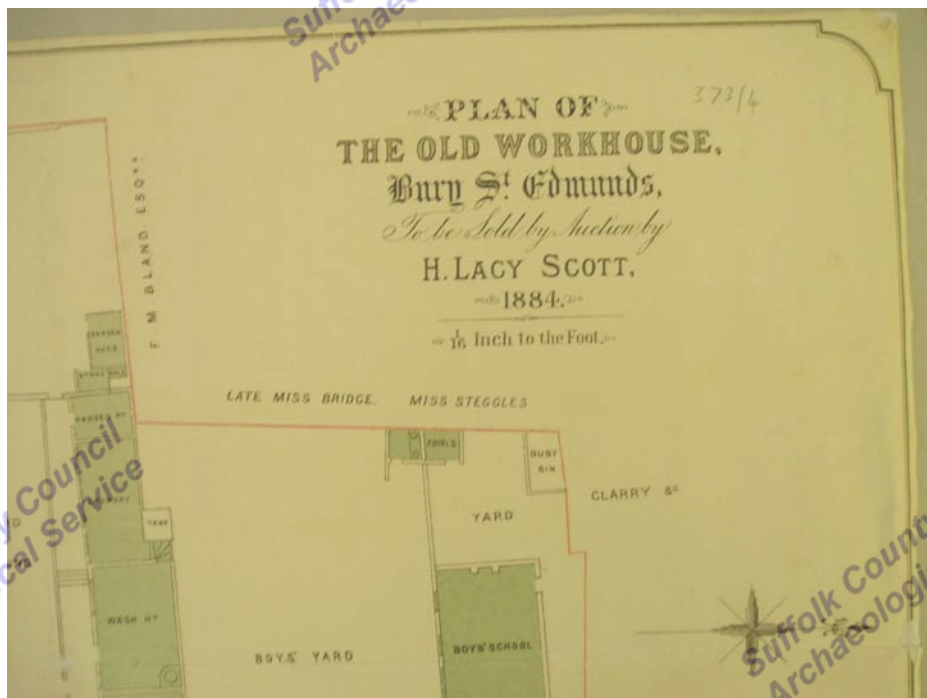


Fig. 8. Plan of the old workhouse, H. lacy Scott, 1884 map2

Further confusion as to the site of the college appears on Thomas Warren's 1776 map of Bury printed inside the cover of Margaret Statham's 1988 book. Those buildings shown in the photograph of the former workhouse are marked on his map with the number '9' and described in the legend as 'The College'. Warren also marks a site on the corner of Church Lane and College Street with the letter 'G' and this is listed as 'Jesus College'.



Fig. 9 Thomas Warren map 1776 showing development area

Lillian Redstone

Margaret Statham is a former archivist and one of her predecessors at Bury Lillian Redstone prepared a report on behalf of the National Register of Archives on the business records of the builder and contractor Henry G. Frost in 1951 (ref. NRA 10).

On page 2 of her handwritten report she lists the 'Deeds Relating to No's 13-16 College Street, Bury St Edmunds 1748-1910'. These begin with a conveyance dated January 1748 between 'Mills Fluce of Bury, joyner & others to Thomas Evans of Bury esq the 'Old College' in College Street; Abuttal Church Path (College Street to St Mary's Church) north, Messuage now or late in the occupation of John Cocksedge south, College Street west, included are two new erected tenements & a shop at the east end of the property in the occupation of Mills Fluce'. The file includes a rough copy of an early 19th century plan of the site. The plan shows the position of the buildings ranged around a small close called 'Weazel Court'. Though there is no point of orientation on this sketch map the position of the buildings and plot of land is that same as those shown for the site of 'Jesus College' on Thomas Warren's 1776 map of Bury.

Samuel Tymms

Samuel Tymms (1808-1871) was at one time the honorary secretary of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History. During his long career he published a number of works on the history of Bury St Edmunds including 'A Handbook of Bury St Edmunds'. There were six editions of this work the last being published in 1891.

In this book he devotes a separate section to 'Jesus College (*formerly the Workhouse in College Street*)'.

‘Abbot Northwold, when he founded the chapel of the charnel, assigned a house in Barnwell Street for the residence of the officiating chaplains, and this appears to have been the origin of the ‘guild or fraternity of the Holy or Sweet Name of Jesus’, and of the college of secular priests incorporated by Edward IV under the title of a warden and six associates. The Manor of ‘Swyftys’, in Preston, said by Weever to have been given to the college by Cecily, mother of Edward IV, appears in the will of Jankyn Smyth to have been bequeathed to them for this great benefactor for the maintenance of his chantry at St Mary’s altar in St Mary’s Church. The guilds of the Holy Name of Jesus; of the translation of St Nicholas, or Dussegild (so named from its council of twelve), was granted, 2nd Edward VI to Richard Corbet esq. The college hall was the residence of Henry Payne, Esq counsel to the Earl and Countess of Bath. In 1639 it was the residence of Francis Pynner, gentleman, one of the benefactors to the town. His touching account of his sufferings during the plague in 1637, and the great fire of 1608, may be seen in the volume of ‘Bury Wills’, published by the Camden Society. The house was purchased in 1748, and devoted to the purposes of a workhouse until 1884, when it was resold, and is at present used for sawmills, &c’.

Hugh of Northwold was abbot of Bury 1215-1229 as successor to Abbot Samson and John of Northwold was abbot from 1279-1301 and it is uncertain which of these is referred to in Tymms’ work.

Tymms was the author of ‘Bury Wills’ published in 1850. This work includes a transcript of the will of Francis Pynner of Bury dated 26th April 1639. He bequeathed ‘my messuage called the Colledge, wherein I nowe dwell, and my two messuages thereunto adioyninge, whereof one is in the occupacon of Henry Booty, or of his assignes, and the other of them in the occupacon of John Hynes, or his assignes with their and every of their appurtenances, unto such person and persons as at the tyme of my death shalbe the right heire or heires unto to mee the said Francis Pynner’. He also appointed ‘my loving cosen Mr Jeremy Burrow, clerke, shall have the private use of the chamber within the said messuage called the Colledge; and also the private use of all the bed and bedding commonly used in the said chamber with free ingresse, egress, and regresse into and from the said chamber, into and from the yards belonging to the said messuage called the Colledge’.

Tymms also transcribed the will John Smyth or Jankyn Smyth’s dated 12th December 1480 in its original Middle English. The details of this will appear in the Rev J. C Cox’ account of the ‘College of Jesus, Bury St Edmunds’ published in the Victorian County History of Suffolk. ‘Six days after drafting his will, the founder executed a deed conveying the manor of Swifts to trustees, who were assign all the profits to the master and president of the college of priests ‘newe builded within the town of Bury to be wholly applied to the building and sustention and repair of the college’. The adjoining chantry and perpetual gild received its royal licence the following year.

The same article gives the full details of the dissolution of the college including the report of the commissioners as to the college’s property. The document mentions the ‘Capytall Messuage nowe called the Colledge’ and ‘vj small tenements’ though without exact details of their locations. There were also two chantries attached to the college.

Incorporated Guardians of the Poor

The minute books of the ‘Incorporated Guardians of the Poor’ are amongst the Bury St Edmunds Borough Records. They begin in 1748 when the guardians were incorporated in ‘pursuant to an Act of Parliament for that purpose made in the 21st Year of the reign of his present Majesty King George the Second’ (1748). At a meeting of this new body held according to the Old Style

calendar on 2nd March 1748 it was reported 'from the committee appointed to treat with Mr Woodroffe for the purchase of the House in the Colledge Street in this Burgh in the Occupation of the widow Hesbrooke for the use of this Corporation. And to consider of ways immediately to raise moneys for the purchase of the said House and to fit up the same for the reception of the poor within the Care of the Corporation that they had agreed with Mr Woodroffe for the purchase of the said House at the price of four hundred and twenty pounds'. The purchase of this property had been originally proposed at their meeting on 6th October 1748.

At a further meeting held on 1st June 1749 it was reported that 'pursuant to their order of the second of March last has paid Four Hundred and Twenty Pounds part thereof to Mr Thomas Woodroffe for the purchase of the House in the Colledge Street'. At the same meeting the guardians appointed Mary Crick 'mistress of the said Workhouse called the Colledge'.

The first minute book for corporation cover the years 1748 to 1787, unfortunately their minutes contain in a single large volume has no index or pagination. There are another two minute books detailing the work of the corporation until 1830. These books represent the best source for a detailed history of this site and that of the adjoining buildings though further study of these documents is unlikely to be of particular value to the archaeological assessment.

Deeds

Amongst the deeds deposited at the record office there are two documents relating to the College. They are a conveyance in the form a lease and release dated 25th and 26th March 1699 between Caroline Lee spinster and Susanne Goddard, widow both of Bury of a third part of 'All that messuage or tenement and of all and singular the houses, outhouses Edifices, Buildings, Barnes, Stables, Yards, Gardens, Orchards, Grounds, Ways ... as the same are situated lyeing and being in Bury St Edmunds aforesaid in or near to a certain streete called Colledge Streete late in the tenure of Edward Goddard gent husband of the said Susanne Goddard and nowe in the occupation of William Fiske ... formerly the estate and inheritance of Sir John Lee father of the said Caroline Lee and by his last will and testament ... bearing the date (9th December 1671) ... given and bequeathed unto Katharine Darcy the Honourable Elizabeth Fielding and the aforesaid Carolina Lee his three daughters'. This document is endorsed as 'Madam Lee's conveyance to Mrs Susanne Goddard of a third parte of the Colledge in Bury'. There is also another endorsement in which Carolina Lee acknowledged the receipt of £160 13s 4d as payment for her share or the property (ref. E4/6). The will of Sir John Lee was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and this document is now available on-line through the National Archives website, unfortunately the will does not mention individual properties and simply refers to 'All my manors messuages lands tenements and hereditaments whatsoever scituate in the countyes of Suffolk, Essex and Middlesex' (ref. PROB 11/342).

There is a further deed for this site in solicitor's collection (ref. HB500/B/25). In September 1713 Mrs Anne Goodrich the widow of Mathew Goodrich and her eldest son Mr Robert Goodrich conveyed together with property in Stanton 'All those two parts (the whole of three parts to be divided) of one capital messuage or tenement commonly called or known by the name of the Colledge scituate lyeing & being in Colledge Street in Bury St Edmunds ... in the occupacon of Robert Goodrich deceased ... and also all two parts (the whole in three parts to be divided) of two small messuages or tenements with their appurtenances to the said Capitall Messugae adjoining scituate in Colledge Street aforesaid one whereof was heretofore in the occupacon of John Hyde ... and the other heretofore in the occupacon of John Roote' to Mr Mathew Goodrich another son of Anne and Mathew Goodrich and brother of Robert. Unfortunately the other two deeds in this bundle relate to the property in Stanton and not the Bury properties.

Medieval Rentals

It is interesting to note that there are no references to College Street in a number of 16th century rentals such as the Sacrist's rental of 1526 or the town rental of 1547 (Breen) or in the unpublished post-dissolution rental for 1542 now held at the National Archives at Kew (ref. TNA SC6/HenVIII/3434). Vincent Redstone translated the town rental for 1295 and this lists five tenements in 'Bernewelle Street' all under the estate of the Sacrist. In this rental the first property under the heading 'Bernewelle Street' is 'The Sacrist holds 3 rods of arable land in Friar's Lane'. Friar's Lane is on the southern side of Westgate Street.

Both Margaret Lobel and Margaret Statham have used the unpublished Sacrist rental of 1433. The original document is held at the British Library and a photostat copy is available at Bury (ref Acc. 1055). According to Margaret Statham College Street was known as 'Hennecote Street'. This name appears in the 1433 rental under the Latin heading translated as 'In Westgate Street with Hennecotestrete'. It also appears as 'Hennecotestrete' in a marginal gloss. There are six properties listed though only the first two abutted on the street to the east. Of the other properties John Redynhalle's tenement lay 'between a lane called Maisterandrewystrete on the east and the tenement of Margaret Cherche on the east and abuts towards the south on the King's highway or Westgatestrete'. Another tenement also abutted on Maister Andrew Street and another two on Maidwater Lane'.

There are later notes added to the 1433 rental that list the later owners and link the document to the 1526 rental. Both the tenements in Hennecote Street in 1433 can be found in the later rental that post-dates the establishment of the College. The college is not mentioned in the descriptions and these properties are unlikely to have been in the immediate area of this site.

There are no deeds in the Guildhall Feoffment collection for the site of William Barneby's almshouses. This is somewhat unusual. There is a single medieval deed in the collection for a property in 'Bernewellestrete' (ref. H1/5/2) dated in Latin on 'Monday after the feast St Peter in Cathedra in the 23rd year of the reign of King Edward the son of King Henry'. Edward I was the son of Henry III and the 23rd year of his reign began on 20 November 1294, the feast of St Peter in the Cathedral of Antioch is on the 22nd February. The deed relates to 'One messuage with all the buildings and its other appurtenances situated in the town of St Edmund in a road called Bernewellestrete between the messuage of John of Berewyk on one head and the tenement of Adam of Flempton and John of Berton on the other head on the kings highway aforesaid and tenement of Adam the rector of Shymplingge'. The property was conveyed from Robert called Derman and Mary his wife to Richard the son of Adam Milun of Westley. This deed is not linked to other documents in the collection.

Conclusion

At the dissolution of the college in 1549 the main building is called the 'Colledge' this name appears in the will of Francis Pynner in 1639, the deeds of 1699 and 1713 and in the Guardians of the Poor minute book for 1748. These documents are not linked to one another in any other way that could show that the property is the same.

Margaret Statham suggests that the site of the almshouses on the opposite side of the road was the college and the deeds described in Lillian Redstone's 1951 report to the National Register of Archives suggests that the site to the south of Church Walk was known as the 'Old College'. This site is marked as 'Jesus College' on the 1776 map of Bury.

At the time of the dissolution in 1549 there were six tenements linked to the college. These buildings are mentioned in the later Guildhall Feoffment records. The Feoffment did not own the site of 'Colledge' and it seems reasonable to accept that the later Workhouse had been the site of the college established in 1480.

If the building shown in the late 19th century photographs was the same as the late medieval college then other areas of the site that were used as yards may not have been built on since 1480. The site therefore offers a rare opportunity to examine a relatively undisturbed medieval road frontage. There are very few references to either Hennecote or Bernewelle Street though there may be others in yet unpublished sources, it is therefore inappropriate to suggest further documentary research for this site.

Anthony M Breen February 2007

References

Suffolk Record Office Bury St Edmunds

Moyse Hall Museum Maps and Plans

373/4 Printed plan of old Workhouse in College St, Bury (Scale 1/16' = 1 ft) showing the functions of all rooms, and names of neighbouring owners. For Sale 1884

Photographs

K511/47 6-479 & K511/1101 The Workhouse, College Street, Bury St Edmunds circa 1884

Bury St Edmunds Borough Records

D5/1/1 Minute Book Incorporated Guardians of the Poor 1748 – 1783

Property Deeds

E4/6 'The Colledge' College Street 1699

Greene and Greene Solicitors

HB 500/B/25 2 messuages late 1 messuage in Stanton All Saints 2/3 of capital messuage called the 'Colledge' and 2 small messuages adjoining, College Street, Bury St Edmunds 1713-1737

H1/5/2 Deed Guildhall Feoffment Collection February 1295

Photostat

Acc 1055 Rental of the Sacrist for the town of Bury 1433 (British Library Harl. 58)

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