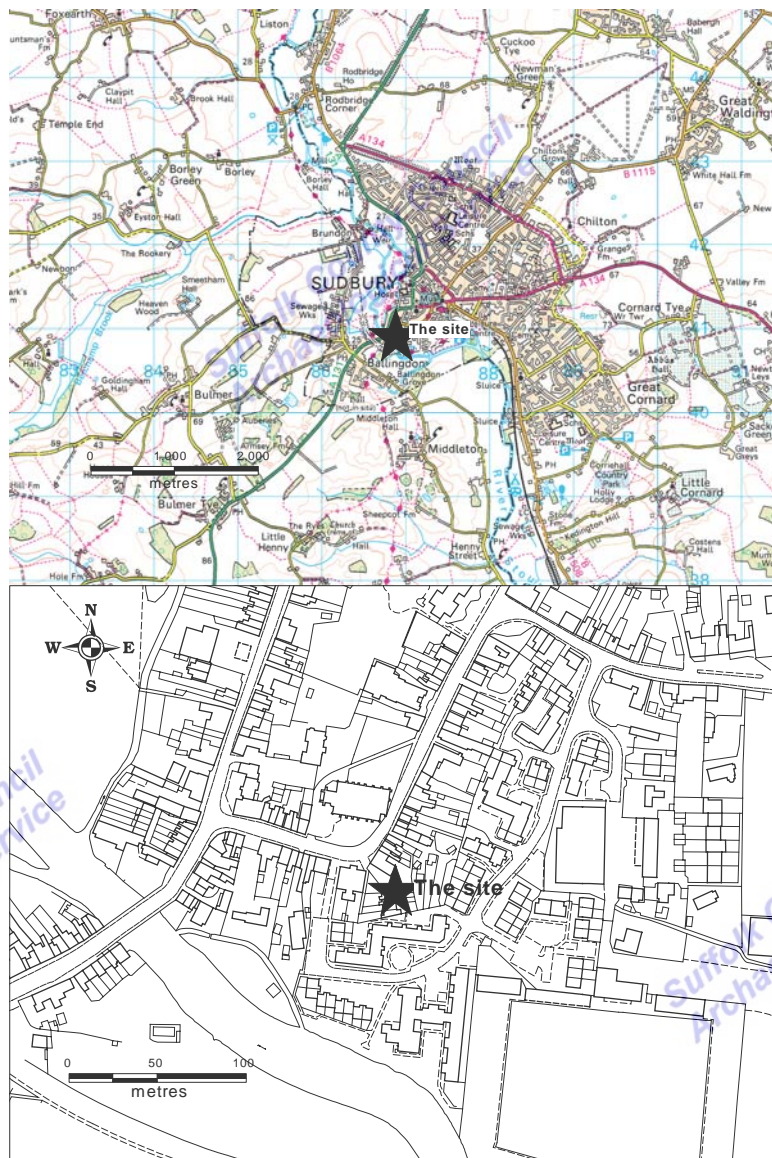


# 1, Orchard Place, Sudbury. SUY 072 Archaeological monitoring report.

**Planning Application No:** B/04/00768/FHA  
**Grid reference:** TL 8690 4092  
**Date of fieldwork:** 17th/18th August 2004  
**Project Officer:** Jo Caruth  
**Oasis reference:** suffolkc1-3686  
**Report no.** 2004/172

An archaeological monitoring was undertaken at 1, Orchard Place, Sudbury in advance of the construction of a small extension to the rear of the house. The site lies within the defined Area of Archaeological Importance for Sudbury just north of the River Stour and west of the site of

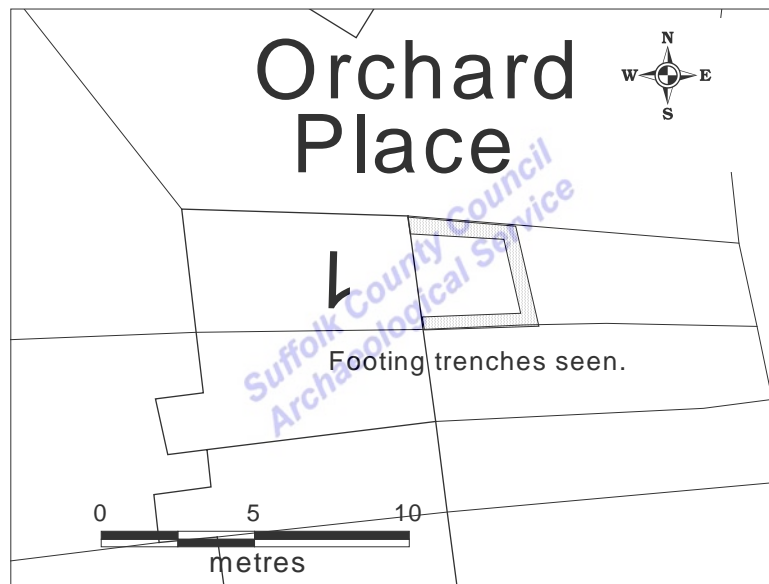


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Figure 1 Site location

the medieval Franciscan Friary. Although now within a built-up part of the town the site lies on land that was originally thought to form part of the flood plain for the River Stour and a line can be projected from corner in a river tributary to Ballingdon Bridge which runs through Orchard Place.

The footing trenches for the extension were monitored during two visits. All trenches showed comparable soil profiles with deep deposits of homogeneous brown loam to up to 2m below ground level in the north footing trench and c.1.75m in the east and south. The greater depth in the north trench is largely due to a higher ground level against this boundary. Post-medieval brick and tile was apparent within the upper deposits. Two hollows filled with peat were apparent at the base of the east and south trenches and these were bottomed at c. 2.1m below ground level. These both looked like deliberately cut features rather than natural. Animal bone and possible cherry stones were recovered from this peat. 15th-17th century pottery was found in the upcast soil.



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Figure 2 Location of footing trenches

OPNO	Number	Weight	Description	Spotdate
0001	1	43g	Pmed Whiteware pottery, unglazed. Possible small bowl	17thC+
	2	232g	LMT cistern base and body (possibly 2 vessels)	15/16th C
0002	2	20g	Animal bone – butchered rib fragments	
	1	6g	Animal bone, medium mammal, juvenile tibia fragment	
	1	53g	Sheep/goat mandible	
	8	2g	Slightly carbonised cherry(?) stones	

Table 1 Finds Quantities

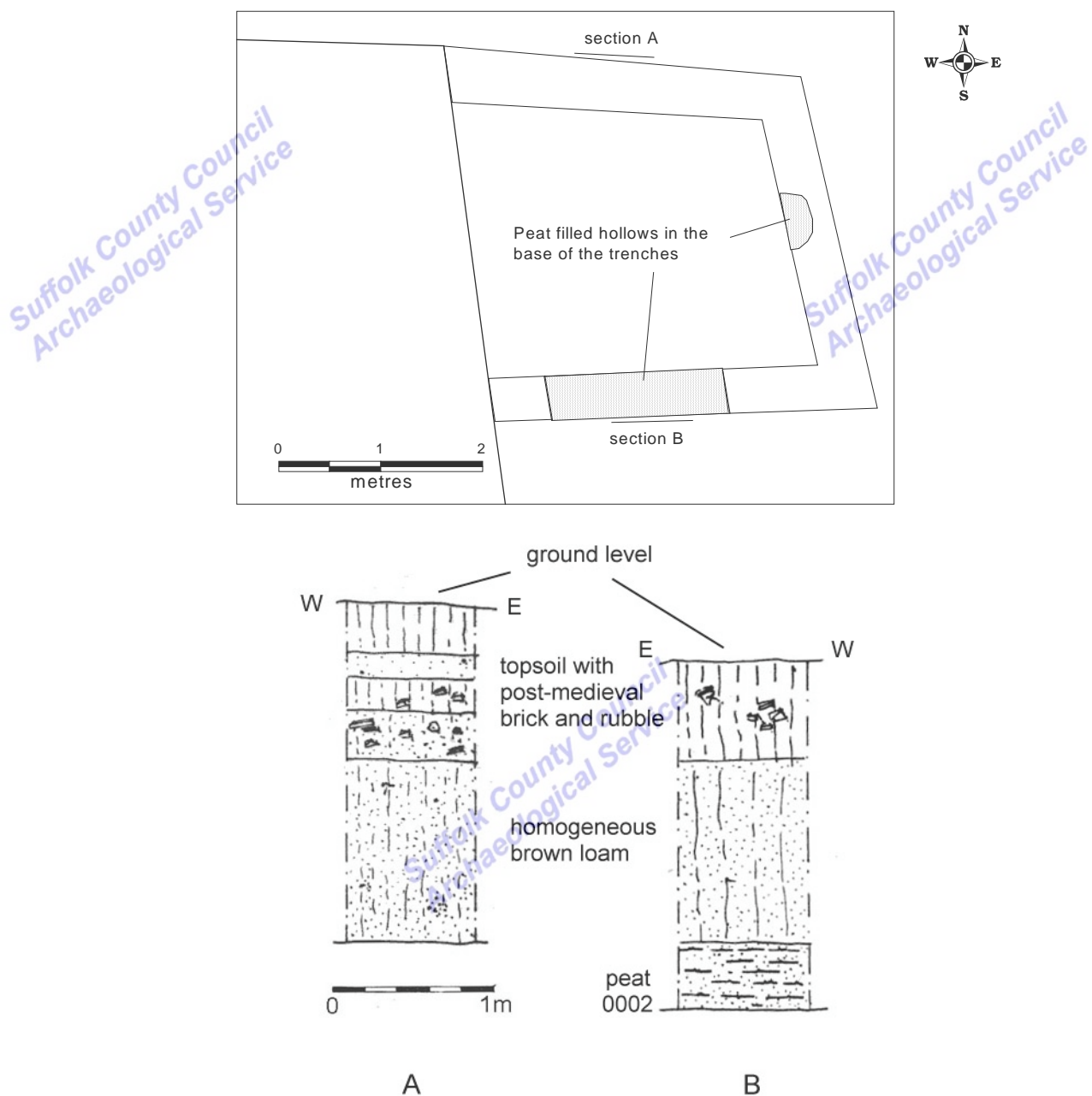


Figure 3 Plan and sections of results

### Conclusion

Very deep deposits were encountered on this site with peat at the base, from which occupation debris was recovered. The deep homogeneous soil probably represented a single deposit and may be the result of deliberate building up of ground levels in order to reclaim land that was previously prone to flooding, for development. The presence of small cut features filled with peat demonstrate human activity within the flood plain prior to its reclamation. The evidence from the finds, in particular the dated pottery recovered from the built-up soil suggests that this may have happened in the early post-medieval period as the town was expanding and pressure on space became the driving force.

This small monitoring has added to the growing collection of archaeological information being gained from work in Sudbury and will contribute to the understanding of the development of the town from the medieval period onwards.

Jo Caruth  
November 2004