

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/023

**Land Adjacent to Eastgate Street and
Minden Close, Bury St. Edmunds
BSE 329**

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to Eastgate Street and Minden Close, Bury St. Edmunds and identified two ditches, a series of large pits (one containing a deposit of horn cores), two smaller pits, deposits associated with the Abbey Precinct wall and possible floor surfaces. The majority of these features have been spotted dated to the mid-12th and 14th centuries, whilst only one ditch was dated to the post-medieval period.

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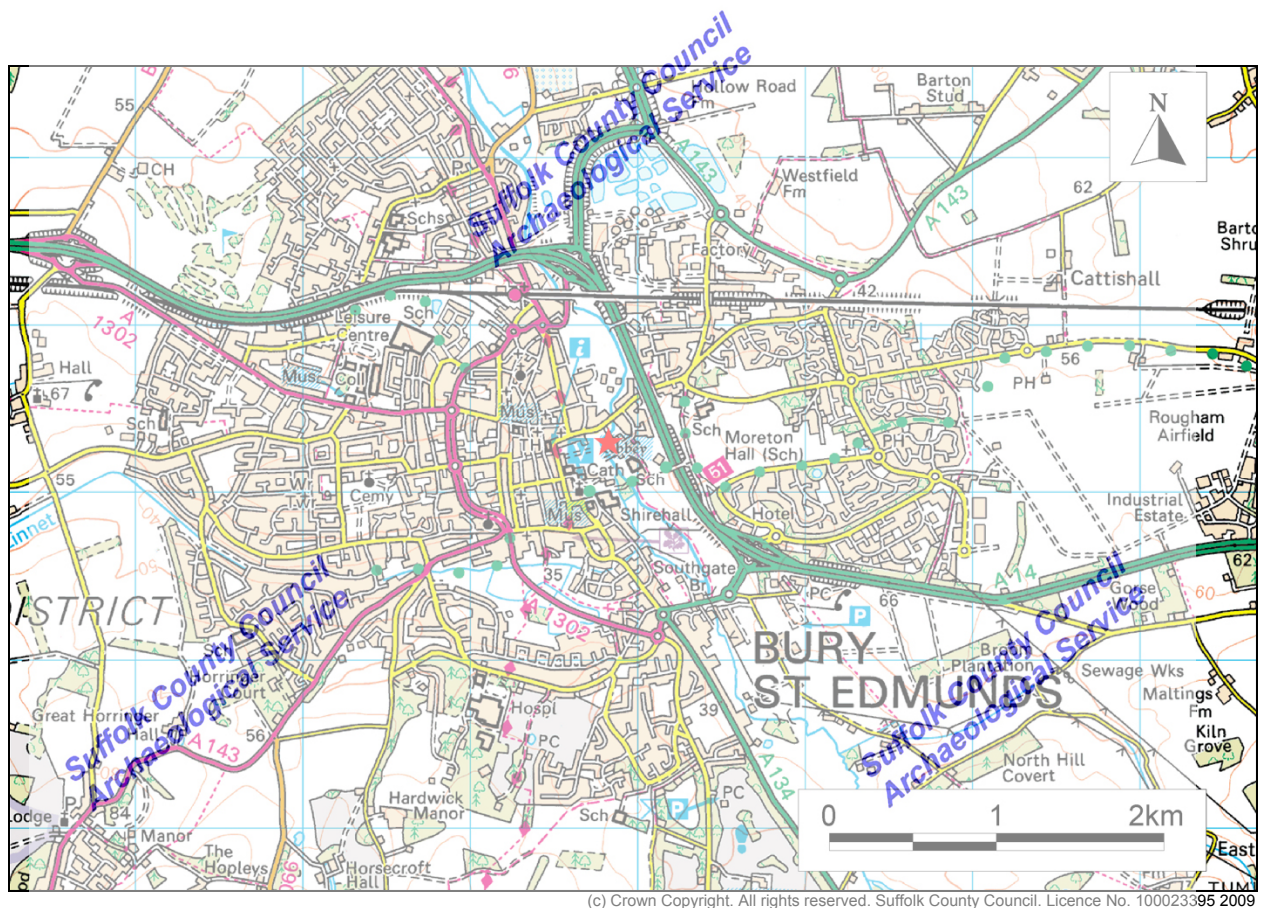
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1. Introduction

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) was commissioned by St. Edmundsbury Borough Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Eastgate Street and Minden Close, Bury St. Edmunds. The work was carried out ahead of a proposed residential building development between 24th and 31st March 2009 and undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Dr. Jess Tipper (SCCAS/Conservation Team).

The site is located near to the geographic centre of Bury St. Edmunds, to the south of Mustow/Eastgate Street and immediately adjacent to the east precinct wall of the Abbey on the east bank of the River Lark (Fig. 1). It incorporates the area formerly known as 'Eastgate Nursery' and at present is used infrequently by the District Council for car parking.



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Figure 1. Site location (marked with red star)

2. Geology and topography

The site is recorded as overlying river alluvium (calcereous clay soils); however on excavation of the trial trenches, the possible natural near the River Lark was fine gravels but at the highest point of the site was instead sandy gravels. No chalk or alluvium deposits were encountered (see also Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental report, forthcoming).

The evaluation area is an irregular shape (Fig. 2), following the limits of the former Eastgate Nursery. Both the south-west and south-east boundary of the subject site comprise the Abbey's Precinct wall; the north-west side of the site is bounded by the St. Edmundsbury Bowling Club. The River Lark forms the north-west boundary and the remainder are those shared by Abbey Cottage (not labelled).

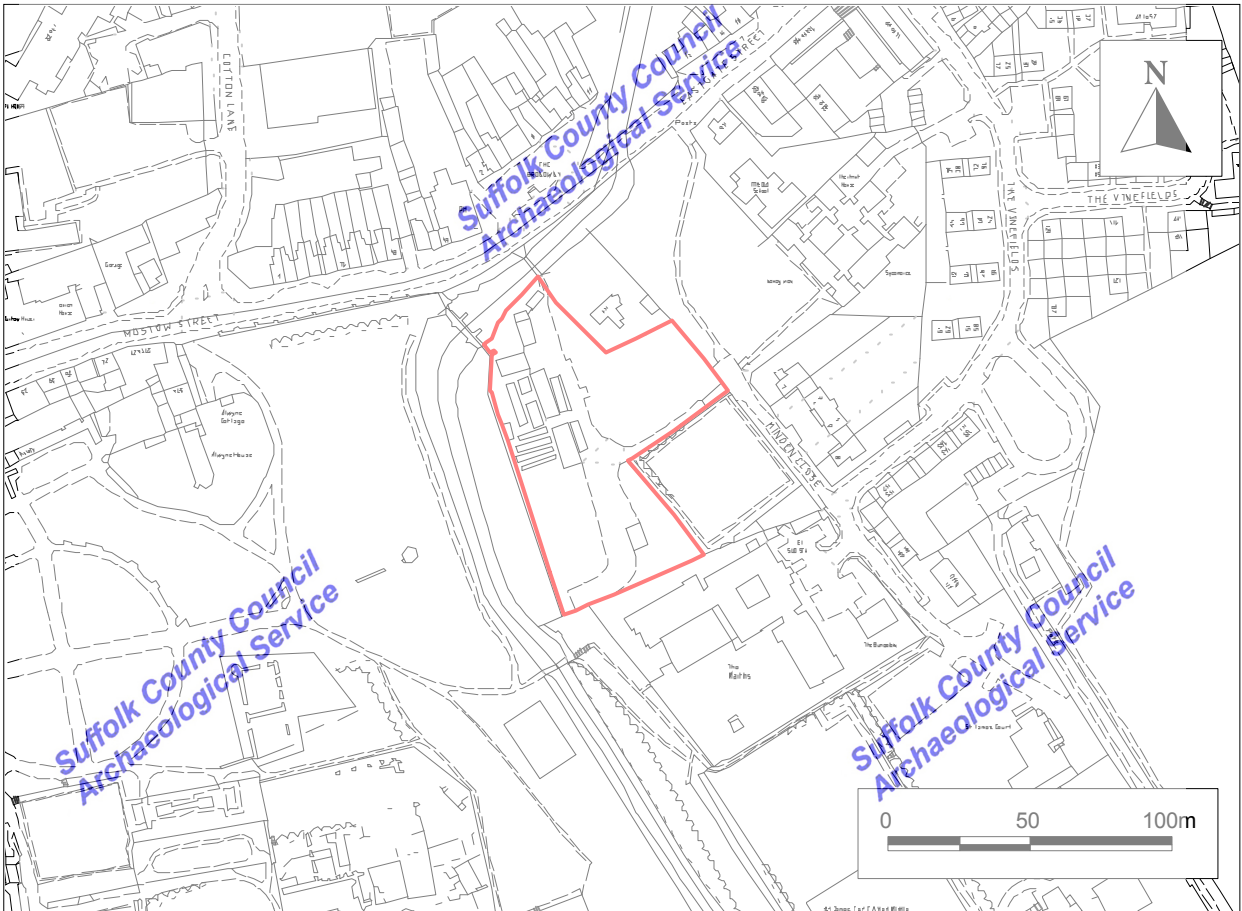


Figure 2. Proposed development area (outlined red)

At its lowest point, adjacent to the Precinct wall and closest to the river, the site lies at a height of approximately 31.5m OD and rises fairly sharply to the north-east to a height of just over 36m OD. In general, the land is flat over a broad 25m to 30m strip running parallel with the Precinct wall and into the grounds of Abbey Cottage and then rises towards the north-east corner of the site. There is an additional flat area adjacent to the south-west boundary of the bowling club which was landscaped to allow vehicular access.

Although now derelict, the present land-use is varied; the north-west part (previously belonging to Abbey Cottage) is set to grass, whilst the bulk of the remaining area comprises derelict/partially demolished glasshouses and areas of scrub. Two lines of fir trees form a broken right-angle boundary towards the east end of the site that de-limit a tarmac road. At the far west end of the site there is an extant single-storey building and a row of wooden sheds.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The proposed development area is situated immediately outside the Abbey Precinct wall and adjacent to the town's East Gate, but within the bounds of the medieval town of Bury St Edmunds itself. There are a number of documented findspots, historic buildings and previous archaeological interventions noted in the Historic Environment Record within 1km of the site and details of these can be found in the Desk-based Assessment that preceded this report (Rolfe 2008, 15 - 28). A general historic background to Bury St Edmunds and a brief summary of the Abbey and its historical significance can also be found in the Desk-based Assessment (Rolfe 2008, 9 – 12).

4. Methodology

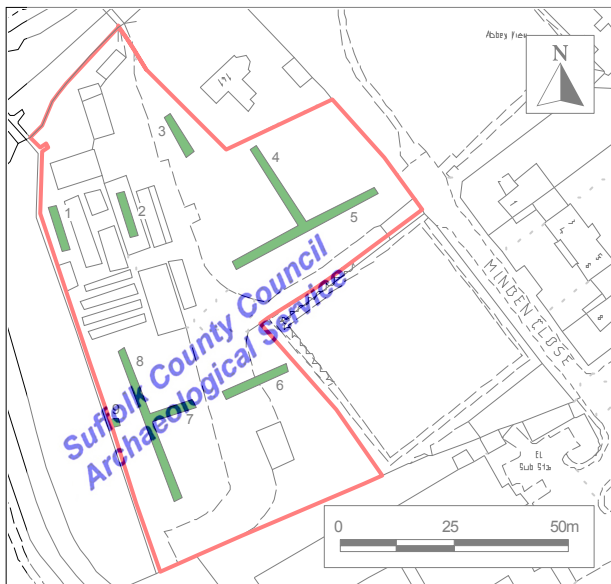
Before the evaluation started, the proposed development area was subject to a topographic survey and an environmental (contamination) assessment, carried out by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (Appendix 4 and Lemon 2009) and also a coring exercise, undertaken by Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental (reported separately, forthcoming).

The evaluation area covered approximately 0.54ha and was subject to trial trenching at 5% or 150m total length. This resulted in the instatement of eight 1.8m wide trenches of varying length that were sited in order to:

- a) target areas under threat from the proposed development, i.e. within proposed footing limits, whilst avoiding the remains of buildings (and other structures) related to the Nursery.
- b) achieve a thorough sampling of the entire area.
- c) allow examination of any stratified deposits adjacent to the Precinct wall.
- d) avoid unnecessary damage to the existing environment, i.e. extant trees.

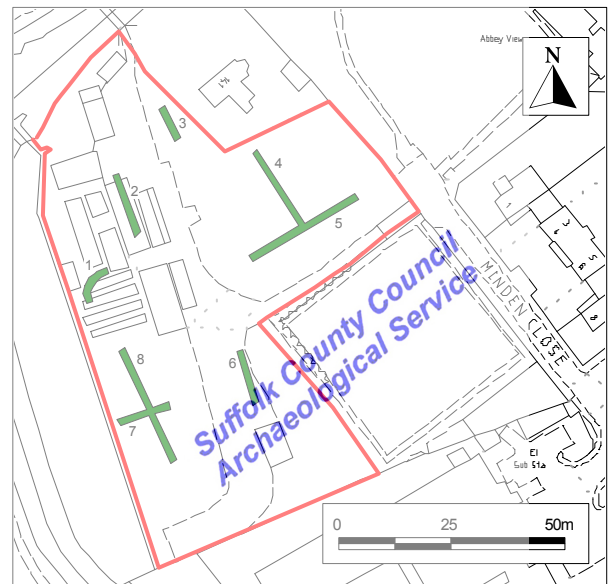
All the trenches were excavated mechanically using a 3CX JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist. Overburden was removed and stockpiled adjacent to each trench and was rapidly scanned for finds.

Alterations to the original trench plan were instigated due to poor satellite signal whilst laying out the trenches with the GPS and also due to the presence of a service pipe that ran parallel with the Precinct wall (Trench 1) (Figs. 3 and 4).



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Figure 3. Original trench locations



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Figure 4. Revised trench locations

All features and deposits were recorded using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets and plans were drawn at 1:50, whilst sections were drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. A colour photographic record of all exposed features and deposits was taken using a high resolution digital camera, supplemented by 35mm black and white film.

Five environmental samples were taken.

The site archive is stored in the SCCAS main store at Bury St Edmunds under HER no. BSE 329 and a digital copy of the report has been submitted to the Archaeological Data Service at: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

The evaluation trenches revealed that archaeological features or deposits were present across the entire proposed development area - with the exception of the area immediately south of St Edmundsbury Bowling Club (Trench 6), which had been severely truncated and was blank. Pits were the most common feature, extending beyond the limits of Trenches 1, 2, 7 and 8 and were too numerous to quantify at this stage or to define clearly in such restricted spaces. Two ditches were present in the north-west part of the site and two possible surfaces were identified in Trench 7. All the pottery recovered was medieval in date unless stated otherwise.

5.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 5)

Trench 1 was originally located in the west corner of the development area, adjacent to and parallel with the Precinct wall (Fig. 3), but was relocated 13.5m to the south-east due to the presence of a service pipe that also ran parallel with the wall (Fig. 4). It was 11m long and contained three large pits.

Pit 0028 extended beyond the west edge of Trench 1 and was more than 5m long by 1.5m wide. It had a shallow profile (as far as could be seen within the confines of the trench) and was at least 0.3m deep (Fig. 9, S.4). It contained single fill 0029, mid grey brown silty clay with two lenses of mid orange gravels. No finds were recovered.

Pit 0039 was 1.07m deep but had unknown dimensions in plan, due to truncation by pit 0059. In profile, the pit had steep sides and a flat base and contained three fills (Fig. 9, S.5). The lowest fill 0042 comprised mid orange sands and gravels up to 0.42m thick and was overlain by 0049, mid grey silty gravel up to 0.48m thick. The final fill was 0041, 0.42m thick mid orange sand and gravel. Three sherds of pottery were recovered from fills 0041 and 0049.

Pit 0059 was over 5.5m wide by 0.77m deep and extended beyond the north-east end of the trench. It had a stepped profile with a flat base and contained two fills, the lowest of which was 0040, mixed light grey clay silt and light greenish yellow clay (0.75m thick) and 0024, mid grey clay silt (0.43m thick) (Fig. 9, S.5). Pottery, animal bone and roof tile were recovered from both fills.

5.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 5; Plate 1)

Trench 2 was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and located within the footings of a glasshouse immediately south of the south-west corner of the extant single-story brick structure (Figs. 3 and 4) near the north-west end of the development area. It was extended northwards by 4.8m (total length 14.5m) in order to identify a possible limit of the deposits observed within.

Hand-cleaning of the trench revealed a series of seven deposits/features, possibly intercutting pits, which covered 87% of the trench and all but one (pit 0012) extended beyond its limits. As a result only 0013, the latest deposit and fill of 0012, was excavated. This allowed recovery of finds, and in particular, dating material in order to establish a *terminus ante quem* for the stratified deposits below. It was decided, in agreement with Dr. Jess Tipper that further hand-excavation of the deposits in the trench by sondage for example, would prove inadequate for determining the sequence of events therein and disturb them detrimentally. Excavation therefore ceased after 0013 was removed and recorded. All unexcavated deposits are presented in Table 1, commencing from the south-south-east end of the trench.

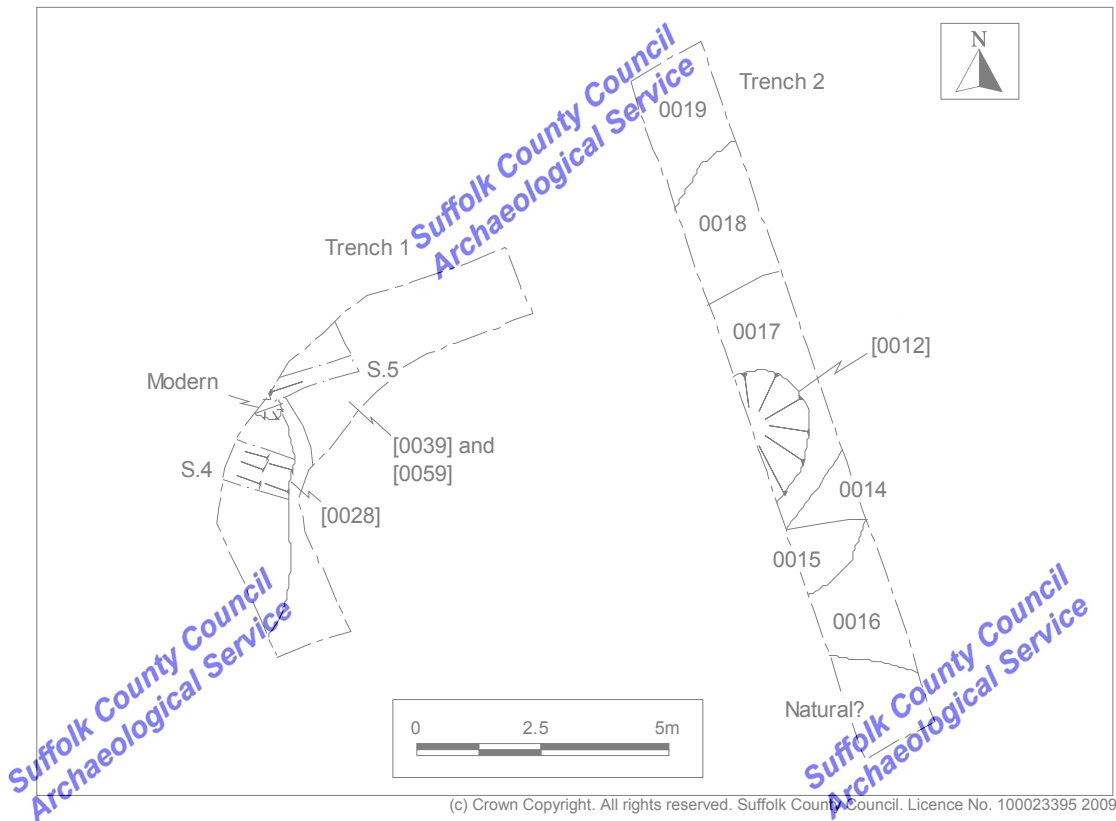
Pit 0012 was located centrally within the trench, at its west edge and was circular in plan. It was 2.5m in diameter by approximately 0.30m deep and contained single fill 0013, light brown silty clay from which animal bone, CBM, and an iron object (SF 1001) were recovered. Two other deposits also contained finds: pottery and two fragments of

tile were recovered from amongst the horn cores (0014) and a single sherd of pottery and eight roof tile fragments were recovered from 0017, which directly underlay pit 0012.

The remaining 13% (at the south-south-east end of the trench) comprised sands and gravels covering approximately 2m. It is unclear at this stage if this deposit was natural or redeposited natural.

Context	Description	Extent in plan
0016	Mid brown silty clay	3.10m
0015	Mixed mid brown silty clay and light yellow brown clay	1.25m
0014	Abundant horn cores within a mid brown silty clay matrix containing patches of light yellow brown clay	1.00m
0017	Dark brown silty clay	4.50m
0018	Light yellow brown clay	2.50m
0019	Light yellow brown clay, separated from 0018 by a thin (less than 0.10m) band of mid yellow clay	2.60m

Table 1. Trench 2 - unexcavated contexts



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Figure 5. Plan of Trench 1 and 2

5.4 Trench 3

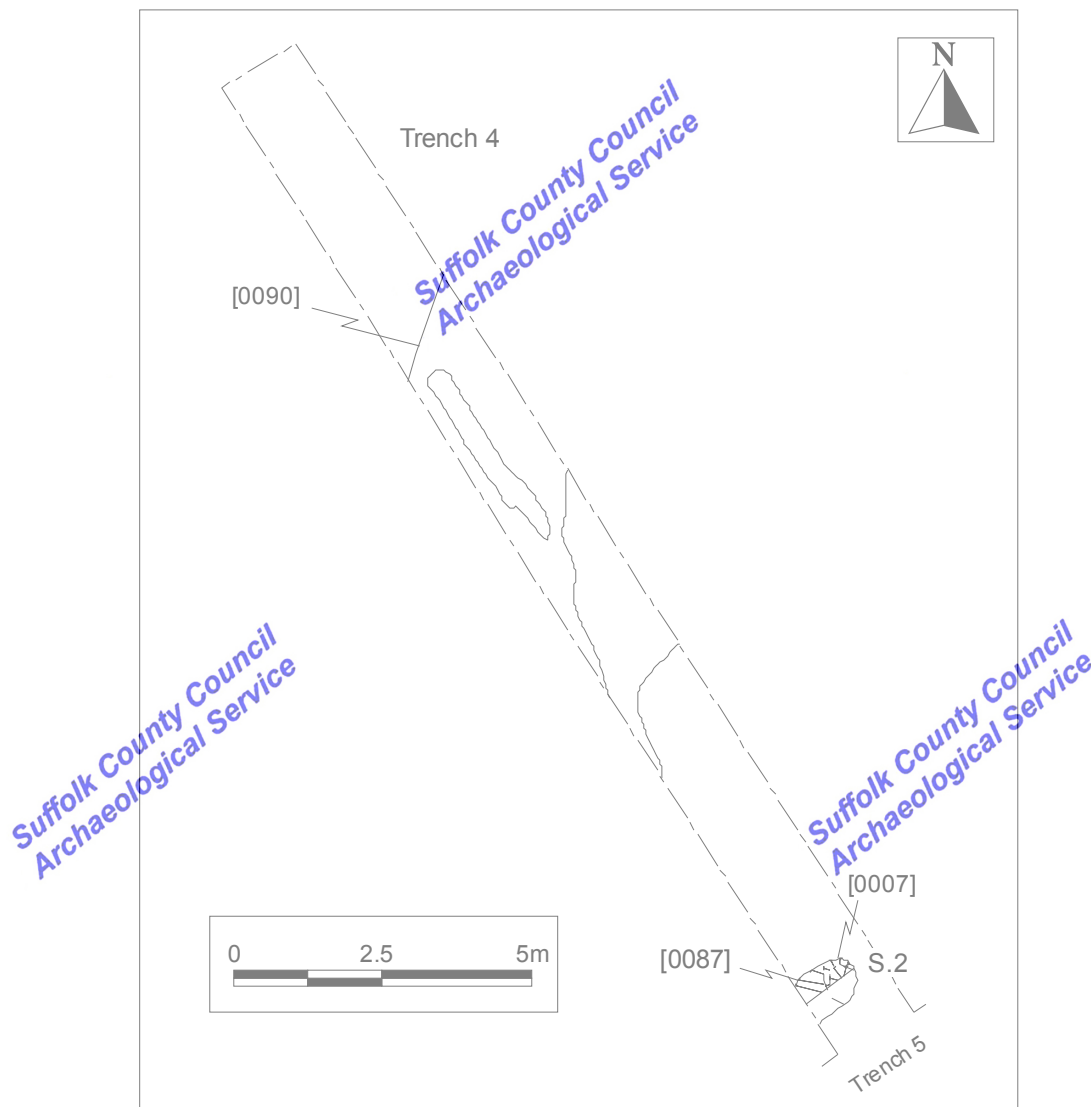
Trench 3 was located on a small patch of grass approximately halfway between the single-story brick structure (west) and Abbey Cottage (east) (Figs. 3 and 4). It was 7.8m

long, aligned north-west to south-east and contained a series of at least three deposits (including topsoil, see 5.1), which were observed in a machine-excavated sondage.

The lowest encountered deposit was 0089, 0.61m thick mid grey brown silt clay. Overlying this was 0088, 0.48m thick mid grey clay silt. No finds were recovered from either deposit, but a single fragment of rooftile was recovered whilst the trench was being excavated.

5.5 Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

Trench 4 was also aligned north-west to south-east and formed an approximate 'T'-shape with Trench 5 (Figs. 3 and 4). It was 19.5m long and located in the north-east corner of the development area. One ditch and two pits were identified.



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Figure 6. Plan of Trench 4

Unexcavated ditch 0090 was oriented north to south and crossed the centre of Trench 4 at an oblique angle, continuing along the 34m contour (Appendix 5) into Trench 5. It was approximately 6.5m wide and at this point (see 5.4 below) contained a single mixed fill of redeposited light yellowish orange sandy gravels and dark greyish brown sandy clay (topsoil intrusion).

Pit 0087 (Fig. 9, S.2) was located at the junction of Trench 4 and Trench 5. It was 0.23m deep and more than 0.43m in diameter and had a flat-base (a full profile was not visible). One fill, 0086, was observed and comprised mixed mid yellowish orange and dark greyish brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered.

Pit 0007 truncated pit 0087 on its north side (Fig. 9, S.2) and was oval in plan. It was 0.92m wide by 0.5m deep and had a wide, u-shaped profile. The lower fill 0025 (0.14m deep) was a mix of the upper fill 0008 and mid orange yellow silty sand and contained no finds, whilst 0008 (0.44m deep) was mid grey clay silt from which pottery and a fragment of rooftile were recovered.

5.6 Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

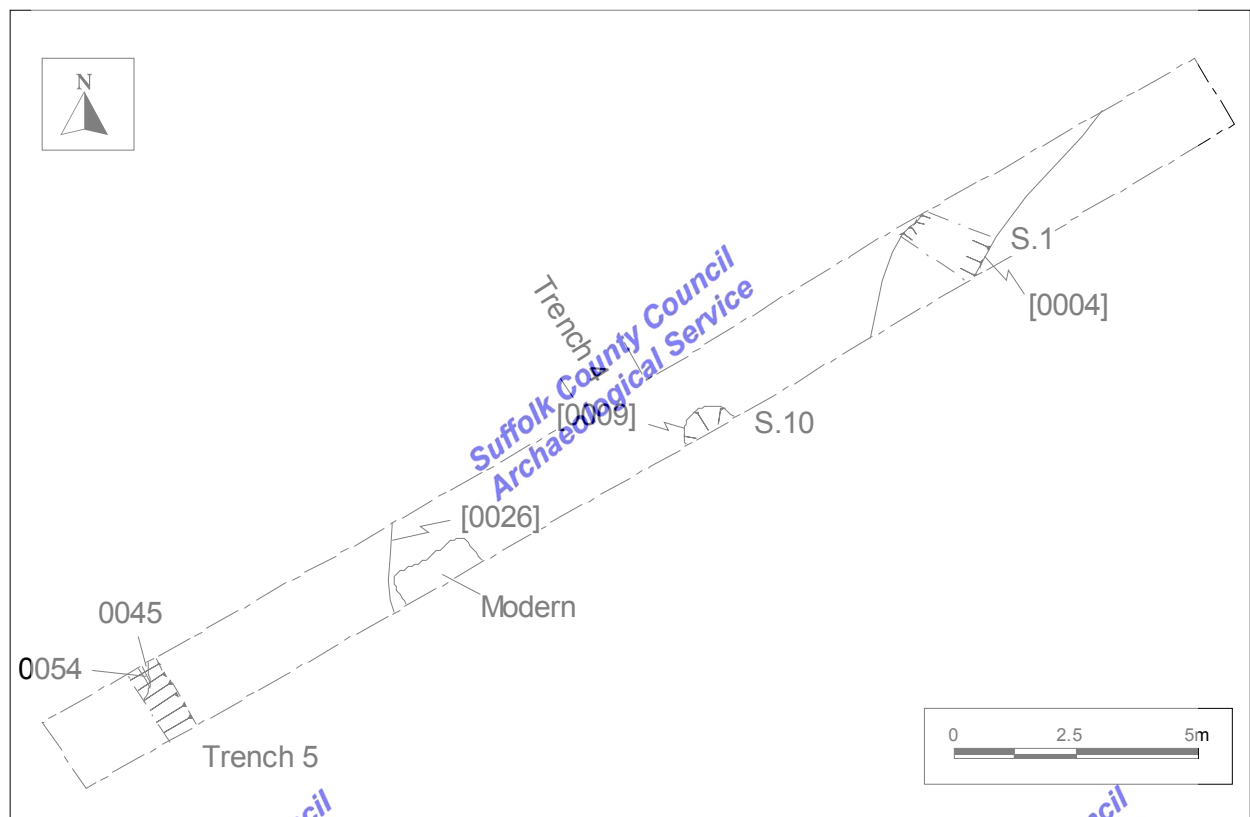
Trench 5 was aligned west-south-west to east-north-east and formed an approximate 'T'-shape with Trench 4 (Figs. 3 and 4). It was 27.4m long and contained two ditches, a pit and two layers.

Ditch 0004 was oriented approximately north-east to south-west and ran obliquely across Trench 5 approximately 6m from its east-north-east end. It was 1.6m wide by 0.35m deep and had a shallow, u-shaped profile. It contained two fills (Fig. 9, S.1), the lowest of which, 0006, was 0.25m deep light orange brown silty sand. Upper fill 0005 0.35m deep and was mid brown silty sand from which pottery, animal bone and flint were recovered. The central location of fill 0006 within the cut may indicate a re-cut.

Ditch 0026 (Fig. 5) was the south-westward continuation of ditch 0090 (see above, Trench 4) and was located at the west-south-west end of Trench 5. A machine-excavated sondage into part of this ditch revealed that it was over 1.8m deep and contained a single fill comprising dark grey clay silt (0027). A single sherd of 16th to 18th century pottery was recovered from near the base of the sondage.

Pit 0009 was sited just under 12m from the east-north-east end of the trench and lay partially beyond its south edge. It was 1.2m in diameter by 0.18m deep with a shallow, flat-based profile. Single fill 0010 was mid grey clay silt mixed with a small proportion of pale yellow silty sand and contained a single sherd of pottery.

Layers 0054 and 0045 were truncated and effectively sealed by ditch 0026. The lowest layer 0054 was similar to fill 0027, whilst layer 0045 was mixed mid grey clay silt and mid orange fine sands and gravels. Both layers were approximately 0.25m thick. No finds were recovered.



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Figure 7. Plan of Trench 5

5.7 Trench 6

Trench 6 was originally oriented as Trench 5 but was rotated 90 degrees to align north-west to south-east in order to maintain vehicular access to this part of the development area (Fig. 4). It was 12.4m long, no more than 0.1m deep and contained no archaeological features. This part of the site appears to have been severely truncated (landscaped) in the modern period.

5.8 Trench 7 (Fig. 8)

Trench 7 (13.8m) also shared the same orientation as Trench 5 and was located in the south-east corner of the development area, abutting the Precinct wall at its west end. In order to more fully evaluate the area, it was decided to join Trench 7 and Trench 9 together (Figs. 3 and 4) to form a 'cross'-shape with Trench 8. As the trench appeared to contain little natural material it was decided to excavate three slots, each of which sampled a different area. At the west end of the trench, Slot 1 adjoined the Precinct wall in order to examine the sequence of deposits abutting, overlying and potentially underlying its foundation. Slot 2 (2m away) was excavated through a clay floor and flint cobbled surface. Slot 3 was situated at the east end of the trench and examined the deposits located there. The excavated slots revealed the presence of a possible pit, a posthole and a series of layers, including two possible floor surfaces. The results are presented by slot.

Slot 1

The Precinct wall slot (Fig. 8) was excavated to a depth of 1.18m below the ground surface. Thirteen deposits were observed, two of which did not extend to the recorded section. Table 2, below, describes the deposits that appeared in section from earliest to latest (Fig. 9, S.3). Deposits and features that did not appear in section are presented below; topsoil is described above.

Context	Description	Thickness	Relationship with Precinct wall 0051	Finds
0077	Mid brownish grey sandy clay	+0.2m	Earlier	Pottery; animal bone; CBM
0065	Mid brownish grey silty clay	0.13m	Earlier	Pottery; animal bone
0063	Mid greyish brown silty clay	0.06m	Earlier	-
0062	Mid brownish grey silty clay	0.09m	Earlier	-
0058	Mixed mid greyish brown silty clay and small patches of grey chalky clay	0.04m	Earlier	-
0060	Mid yellowish brown clay silt	0.07m	Unclear	Pottery; animal bone
0053	Light yellowish orange gravelly silt	0.06m	Unclear	-
0033	Mid orange gravel in a clay silt matrix	0.18m	Later	-
0030	Pale whiteish yellow mortar	0.05m	Later	-
0052	Mid greyish green gravels in a silty clay matrix	0.14m	Later	-
0011	Dark brownish grey silty sand. Same as 0043; 0055; 0071	0.36m	Later	Animal bone

Table 2. Slot 1: deposits adjacent to the Precinct wall, Trench 7

Deposits which did not appear in S.3 are 0031 and 0032, two mortar deposits like 0030, and 0067, a sub-circular posthole with a u-shaped profile. 0067 was 0.52m in diameter

by 0.2m deep and contained single fill 0064, light yellowish white clay. No finds were recovered from layers 0031 and 0032, or from posthole 0067.

Precinct wall 0051 was the west boundary of the site and also marked the west end of Trench 7. It forms part of the standing remains of St Edmundsbury Abbey and as such is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 2). At this point along its length the wall is constructed primarily of flint and mortar although there is a small element of stone present. Some small squarish holes set high may be putlog holes. The upper half to three-quarters of the wall has lost much of its external surface as a result of weathering and also, no doubt, a lack of repair post-1539, when the Abbey was formally dissolved (Meeres 2002).

Where exposed in the evaluation trench (Plate 2), the Precinct wall has three distinct bands. The lowest band, including the footing is constructed with small to medium broken and whole flint nodules (not coursed) set quite closely together. The mortar is a pale yellowish white colour and has been neatly pointed so as to be flush with the flint. The footing is surprisingly small, given the (surviving) height of the wall as a whole. It steps out from the main body of the wall by no more than 0.18m at this point and is slightly sloped (presumably to allow rain water to drain away from the base of the wall) and is only 0.16m high. In the next band, the flints are set three deep and on the left-hand side in particular have very little mortar to bond them. The majority are whole medium-to-large sized nodules. In the middle of this band a small section of wall is missing where some collapse has occurred.

These two bands of flint are presently beneath ground level. It is unclear whether this was also the case during the lifespan of the Abbey.

Above the present ground level, the lower part of the wall retains the outer face and comprises a series of roughly coursed flints set in greyish white mortar, which differs from that below ground level (see above). The difference may indicate re-pointing, although when this took place is unclear. The flints in the outer face of the wall vary from small to large nodules, some of which are broken with the exposed face showing.

Slot 2 (Plate 3)

The second slot (Fig. 8) was sited 3.25m from the Precinct wall (0051) and excavated to a depth of 1.22m below ground level. Ten deposits, excluding topsoil, were identified and are described from earliest to latest in Table 3, below. See also Fig. 9, S.9.

Context	Description	Thickness	Finds
0079	Mid brownish grey silty clay	+0.28m	
0070	Mid brownish grey clay silt	+0.20m	Pottery, animal bone; iron ?bar (SF 1003)
0078	Mid orange sands and gravels	0.24m	-
0068	Mid grey silty clay	0.13m	Pottery, animal bone
0069	Mid yellowish green silty clay	0.13m	Pottery, animal bone
0066	Mid orange sands and gravels	0.08m	-
0038	Mid brown clay silt	0.12m	Pottery, animal bone; iron object (SF 1002)
0036	Flint cobbles set in a mid brown clay silt matrix, similar to 0038	0.10m	-
0035	Light whiteish yellow chalky clay with mortar	0.09m	Animal bone
0071	Same as 0011; 0043; 0055	0.38m	-

Table 3. Deposits identified in Slot 2, Trench 7

Pit 0023 was located 5m from the west end and partially beyond the edge of the trench. It truncated deposits 0035, 0036 and 0038 and was sub-rectangular in plan with a squared profile and was 1m long by 0.14m deep. It contained single fill 0022, mid brown sandy clay from which CBM and animal bone were recovered.

Two layers did not appear in section 9: layer 0037 was pale brown silty clay and exposed after the removal of 0034, but was stratified below 0035 (as seen in plan). Layer 0034 overlay 0035 and was removed prior to the excavation of Slot 2. It comprised orange gravels in a sandy clay matrix from which a cow metatarsal was recovered and was between 0.07m and 0.08m thick.

Slot 3

The third slot lay at the east end of the trench and was excavated to a depth of 1.6m below ground level. Six deposits (excluding topsoil) were identified and are described in Table 4 below.

Context	Description	Thickness	Finds
0061	Mid grey silty clay	0.18m	-
0048	Light greyish green silty clay	0.14m	Animal bone
0047	Mid orange gravelly sand	0.16m	-
0046	Dark grey sandy silt	0.16m	Animal bone
0044	Mid grey orange silty sand	0.34m	Animal bone
0043	Same as 0011; 0055; 0071	0.37m	Animal bone; rooftile

Table 4. Deposits identified Slot 3, Trench 7

5.9 Trench 8

Trench 8 formed a 'cross'-shape with Trench 7 and was oriented north-north-west to south-south-east (Fig. 8). It was 27.4m long and contained an unknown number of pits which extended beyond all limits of the trench. One 2.3m long slot was excavated in the southern half of the trench where at least three pits and four layers (excluding topsoil) were identified (Plate 4).

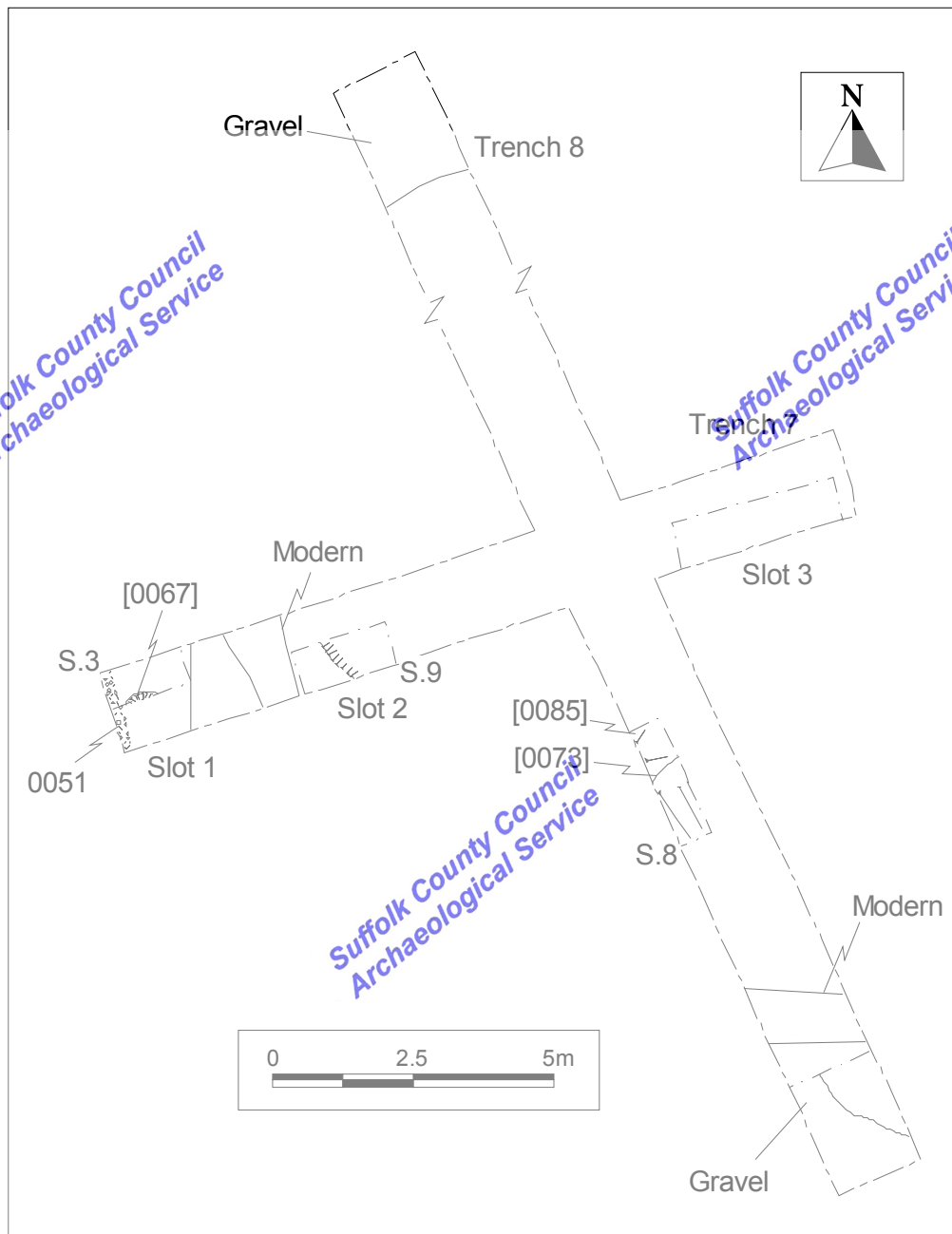
Pit 0082 was truncated by pit 0073 and only visible at a depth of between 1.76m and 2.04m below ground level (Fig. 9, S.8). No sides were visible within the slot, but the (possible) base was and sloped down gently from north-north-west to south-south-east. At least four fills were identified, the lowest of which was 0083, bright mid orange yellow small fine gravels, up to 0.18m thick. Overlying this was 0081, mid brownish grey silty clay. It was 0.36m thick and formed an unusual rounded shape (Fig. 9, S.8). Overlying this was 0084, which was very similar to 0083, but less bright and only 0.16m thick. The horizon clarity between fills 0083 and 0084 was poor. The remaining fill was 0080, bright mid orange yellow gravel up to 0.16m thick. No finds were recovered.

Pit 0085 was located at the north-west end of the slot and was truncated by pit 0073 (Fig. 9, S.8). It contained one fill (0075), mid brownish orange gravelly sand up to 0.38m thick. No finds were recovered. The relationship between pit 0082 and pit 0085 is unclear.

Layer 0072 overlay pit 0085. It was 0.16m thick mid orange green silty clay. A single animal rib was recovered.

Pit 0073 was not visible in plan but had a distinctive flat-based, steep-sided profile. It was at least 0.24m wide by 0.76m deep and was filled by mid orange brown gravelly silt (0074) that became siltier towards the base (of the pit). Pottery, bone and a single fragment of roof tile were recovered.

Lying above fill 0074, but not sealing the pit was 0057, a 0.04m thick layer of pale whiteish yellow mortar. This was overlain by 0056, mid brownish orange silty sand between 0.12m and 0.34m thick from which pottery and animal bone were recovered.



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Figure 8. Plan of Trench 7 and 8

The final (excluding topsoil) layer observed in this slot was 0055, a dark greyish brown clay silt very similar in composition and colour to 0011, 0043 and 0071 (see above). It varied between 0.38m and 0.82m thick and contained forty three sherds of pottery. Although this deposit directly underlay the topsoil (0001) in Trenches 7 and 8, its dark colour and general composition indicated it was not subsoil. A paler version of this deposit (0076; 0.47m thick) was also observed in Trench 5, extending partially into the south-east end of Trench 4. No finds were recovered from 0076.

The uppermost or latest deposit in all trenches (except Trench 6, which had been severely truncated to allow vehicular access) was dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (0001) that varied in depth between 0.22m and 0.5m. No finds were recovered.

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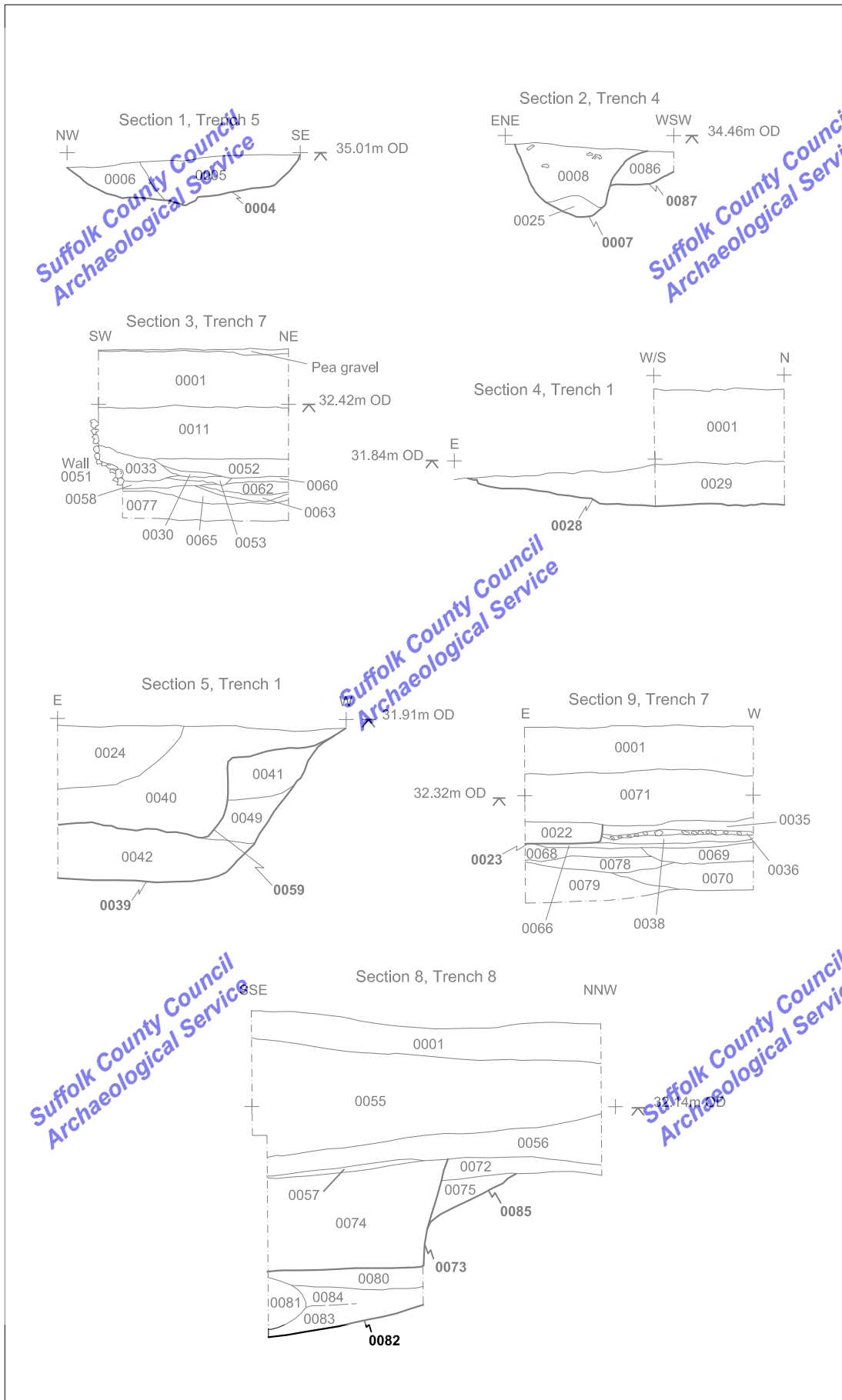


Figure 9. Selected sections, scale 1:40 on A4

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

6.1 Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected during the evaluation. A full catalogue by context is included as Appendix 3.

Find type	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	141	1214
CBM	35	2223
Fired clay	1	4
Mortar/plaster	24	3888
Glass	1	211
Worked flint	14	216
Burnt flint/stone	1	1
Slag	1	12
Animal bone	176	2410
Shell	42	252

Table 5. Finds quantities.

6.2 Pottery

Introduction

A total of 141 fragments of pottery was recovered from the evaluation, weighing 1.214kg. Nearly all of the assemblage is medieval, but a single fragment of post-medieval date was identified. The pottery sherds are mainly small in size and there are no examples of complete or substantially complete vessels. None of the pottery is considered worthy of illustration, either intrinsically or because it forms part of a significant group. The ceramics have been fully catalogued and a table is presented in Appendix 3.

The assemblage

The largest part of the assemblage dates to the medieval period, and is composed for the most part of wheel-thrown greywares (110 frags @ 0.942kg, 77.5% by weight of the total ceramic assemblage). A small number of early medieval sherds dating to the 11th-12th century were identified, most notably a single fragment of Yarmouth-type ware in context 0072. These were associated with other medieval coarsewares dating to the Late 12th-14th century. Several different types of local coarsewares were identified, the most common fabric types being Bury Medieval Coarsewares, including several variants such as Bury Coarse Sandy Ware and Bury Medieval Coarseware (L12th-14th C). Although mostly body sherds were present, some diagnostic forms were recovered, including the rims of several neckless greyware jars, which when found on sites in

Colchester are considered to date from c1250-75 onwards (Cotter 2000, 94). Significantly no fully developed rims dating to the 13th-14th century were recorded.

In addition to coarsewares in the form of bowls and jars, a number of glazed wares were also recovered from the evaluation dating to the medieval period. Hedingham Glazed wares, Mill Green ware and other probable Essex redwares were identified. Some glazed wares remain unprovenanced. Amongst this category are fragments of reduced wares with lead glazes which are similar to Grimston wares (L12th-14th C) but are not the same fabric, which are no doubt products of local kilnsites covering a similar date range. The remains of a possible anthropomorphic jug were recorded in pit fill 0024. This consists of a small rod handle made in a hard brick red fabric, which has a mottled lead glaze. It is similar to one of the multiple small handles of a Grimston anthropomorphic facejug (Jennings 1981, 52) which date to the 14th century or later. An abraded fragment of a Scarborough green-glazed jug with North French style decoration was identified in 0070, but no imports were identified in the assemblage.

A single fragment of a Glazed red earthenware bowl was identified in ditch fill 0027 dating to the 16th-18th C.

Summary by trench

Trench 1

Small quantities of medieval pottery were recovered from some of the pits in this trench. Fragments of Bury coarsewares dating to the late 12th-14th century were present in two fills of pit 0039. Larger quantities of pottery were found in pit 0059, including a coarseware rim from 0024 dating to the Mid 13th-14th century.

Trench 2

Another pit 0012 contained no pottery but ceramic building material dating to the post-medieval period. Fragments of late medieval/post-medieval roof tile and a single fragment of residual medieval coarseware were present in 0014, a deposit of horn cores with clay dumps.

Trench 3

No pottery was recovered from this trench.

Trench 4

A single fragment of medieval coarseware was found in the lower fill 0025 of pit 0007. A sherd of Bury Medieval Coarseware and two glazed wares in the upper fill 0008 provide a spotdate of the mid 12th-mid 13th century.

Trench 5

Fragments of pottery recovered from the upper fill of ditch 0004 include a medieval coarseware jar with thickened flat-topped rim dating to the 12th-early 13th century. A single fragment of a medieval coarseware bowl was found in pit fill 0010. A sherd of a Glazed red earthenware bowl was found in ditch fill 0027.

Trench 6

No pottery was recovered from this trench.

Trench 7

Medieval pottery was recovered from several deposits next to the precinct wall of the abbey.

Larger quantities of pottery came from the western-most slot, from three of the deposits. The earliest deposit 0077 contained 10 fragments of medieval pottery with an overall date of the mid 12th-mid 13th century and the rim of a neckless jar was found in 0060 dating from the middle of the 13th to the 14th century.

Pottery was collected from five deposits associated with the second slot near the precinct wall. The dating of the ceramics was similar, with a coarseware neckless jar identified in 0069 and glazed wares of 13th-14th century date present in 0038.

Ceramics were also found in four of the fills of the third slot in Trench 7. In addition to medieval coarsewares, small fragments of Hedingham glazed ware and other glazed sherds provide a date of the mid 12th-mid 13th century in deposits 0046 and 0044. The coarsewares in deposit 0043 include one with an everted flared rim which dates to the 11th-12th century, which is very abraded and is likely to be residual. It is accompanied by a fragment of a local coarseware bowl and a glazed fragment which could be Bury Glazed ware (13th-14th C).

Trench 8

Sherds of medieval pottery and a single fragment of ceramic building material were found in three layers and a single pit fill 0074 which contained pottery dating from the Late 12th-14th century.

Discussion and conclusions

The ceramic assemblage recovered from the evaluation is typical of a medieval site in Bury St. Edmunds, with a representative range of Bury coarsewares and other coarseware mixed with a small number of glazed wares. The ceramics are particularly useful since they provide valuable dating evidence for the date of the precinct wall. Overall, the pottery from many of the deposits in Trench 7 is fairly consistent in its dating, c1250-1400. It is noticeable that there are few sherds which are diagnostic of the early medieval period in this part of the assemblage, but also none of the fully developed medieval coarseware rims that can be dated to the 13th-14th century or slightly later. It should be noted that further work is needed to establish with certainty the provenance of some of the glazed wares, which are a consistent feature of the assemblage, and that this may refine the dating further.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and fired clay

Introduction

A total of 34 fragments of ceramic building material was recovered from the evaluation (1.102kg). The assemblage, which was fully catalogued, consisted almost entirely of medieval and post-medieval rooftile fragments. The catalogue is presented in Appendix 3.

The assemblage

A total of 28 fragments of rooftile was identified (1.048kg). The majority are made in red-fired, fully oxidised fabrics which are likely to date to the late medieval/post-medieval periods. Some medieval tiles were identified however, most notably in 0077 (Trench 7), and also in 0002 (Trench 3) and 0008 (Trench 4). These are made from estuarine clays, often with voids and with calcareous inclusions. Bricks and tiles made in estuarine fabrics were commonly used in ecclesiastical and monastic buildings around the town, so their presence so close to the Abbey itself is not surprising (Anderson, 2005). A small fragment of tile made in a coarse sandy reduced fabric from 0074 is also likely to be medieval in date. In addition, some medium sandy red tiles had darker cores, which is

an indication of a medieval or late medieval date. No fragments of glazed medieval tiles were recorded. Many fragments are small and show evidence of mortar, which is occasionally present on broken edges. It is likely that much of the tile has been re-used. The post-medieval tiles are all pegtiles, one of which has a circular peg hole. They are made in a range of sandy fabrics, the most common being medium sandy with ferrous inclusions. A single sliver of a possible brick made in a white-firing fabric with grog inclusions from pit fill 0013 dates to the post-medieval period.

A small number of fragments are extremely abraded and cannot be assigned to a particular form, although it is likely that they are the remnants of bricks.

A single fragment of fired clay was recovered from the evaluation (0.004kg). It is made in a fine fabric containing frequent chalk and shell inclusions but is abraded with no diagnostic features to provide some indication of its function.

Summary of distribution

Two fragments of medieval rooftile were found in deposits 0002 and 0008, with further pieces recovered from 0074 and 0077, both of which contained medieval pottery.

Ceramic building material was recovered from both the fills of pit 0059 in Trench 1. The lower fill 0040 contained fragments of medieval pottery and a fragment of medieval rooftile with a reduced fabric and some calcareous inclusions. It was accompanied by two fully oxidised fragments of tile, one of which had a circular peghole. One of these tiles has a comparatively coarse sandy fabric but the other tile is harder and finer, and has the appearance of being more post-medieval in date. The upper pit fill 0034 contained more fragments of fully oxidised tile, one of which may be medieval with the remaining fragments being c14th century at the earliest. It is possible that the medieval pottery from the pit may actually be residual, or in view of the fact that some of the glazed wares are not closely dated, that the ceramic assemblage dates to slightly later than suggested.

Rooftiles were also recovered from 0014 and 0017 in Trench 2. These are also fully oxidised and date to the late medieval/post-medieval periods, but were accompanied by small quantities of medieval pottery which are likely to be residual. Fragments of rooftile and ?brick made in a white firing fabric with grog inclusions present in 0013, the latest

fill of pit 0012 are post-medieval although some pieces may be late medieval/post-medieval.

Two joining fragments of fully oxidised roof tile made in a medium sandy fabric with iron oxide were identified in deposit 0043 in Trench 7. These tiles, which were found with medieval pottery dating to the late 12th -14th century (possibly 13th-14th C) do not look medieval as they are fully oxidised, although fully oxidised tiles of a similar appearance were found recently in a tilekiln in Ipswich which have been archaeomagnetically dated to c 1375-1405.

6.4 Mortar and plaster

A total of 24 fragments of mortar and plaster was collected from the evaluation (3.888kg). Twenty-two fragments of mortar were recovered from layer 0057 in Trench 1, which appears to have been laid down when it was still unset, as a single event over 0074. The mortar which is all made from the same fabric has been deposited in varying thicknesses over a layer of soil containing frequent small to large pebbles and flint up to 35mm in length. It is soft and cream in colour with frequent chalk inclusions up to 18mm in length and small flint inclusions up to 15mm. The upper surface of the mortar is rough and uneven. It is possible that it represents discarded mortar which was not required when the precinct wall was built.

A fragment of very hard sandy mortar was recovered from pit fill 0040. It is 16mm in thickness and is smooth on both upper and lower surfaces. A hard grey fragment of mortar with a flat surface found in 0038 below the deposit of flint cobbles may be burnt and redeposited.

6.5 Post-medieval bottle glass

A single fragment from the base of a dark green post-medieval wine bottle was identified in pit fill 0013 in Trench 2. The glass fragment is likely to be from the base of a globular bottle dating from the late seventeenth to eighteenth century, as it has a high conical basal kick.

6.6 Slag

A small fragment of slag-like material present in pit fill 0024 is likely to be fuel ash slag.

6.7 Miscellaneous

A single fragment of burnt stone was recovered from 0043 and two pieces of coal were present in 0013.

6.8 Worked flint (Identifications by Colin Pendleton)

The assemblage

A total of 14 fragments of flint was recovered from the evaluation (0.276kg). All the fragments are residual. The flints have been fully catalogued (Appendix 3).

The majority of the flints can only be dated to the Later Prehistoric period. The largest group which was recovered from deposit 0044 in Trench 7 consists of a mixture of relatively thin flakes with somewhat thicker and irregular flakes, which as an overall assemblage suggests a Bronze Age date for the group. It seems likely that this material has been washed down into the valley of the River Lark.

6.9 Small Finds

Three iron small finds were recorded from the evaluation. One of these was found in pit fill 0013 which contained post-medieval ceramic building material (SF1001). Another larger fragment of iron (SF1002) was found with medieval pottery in 0038, a layer above flint cobbles in Trench 7. A fragment of an iron strip or bar was present in 0070 in Slot 2 Trench 7 which also had medieval pottery. None of these objects could be identified further before radiography.

6.10 Animal bone (Michelle Feider)

Introduction

A total of 176 fragments of animal bone was recovered from the evaluation (2.41kg). The assemblage is mainly medieval in date. All major domesticates were recovered as well as dog and horse. A minimum of two canids were identified, with one of these exhibiting osteoarthritis on a femur/ tibia joint.

Methodology

The assemblage was recorded using a modified version of the English Heritage guidelines by Davis (1992). The bone was also examined for evidence of butchery, ageing information and pathology as well as other taphonomic factors. Sides of bones

as well as zones (Dobney & Rielly 1988) were recorded to give an indication of Minimum Numbers of Individuals (MNI). No metrical analysis was undertaken however it was noted when it was possible. No tooth wear data was recorded as there were no Grant (1982) mandibles for ageing. State of fusion however, was noted.

Condition and preservation

Preservation of the remains as a whole was good although the majority of the bones were fragmentary. It was also difficult to assess the preservation for many individual contexts due to the limited number of fragments. Modern damage was noted in several contexts.

The species

Table 6 shows a list by context of the species identified.

Context	Species	NISP	Weathered	Gnawed	Butchered	Charring	MNI*
0011	Cow	1					1
	Dog	16	3			2	2
	Hor	4	3			1	2
	S/G	4	2				2
0013	Dog	1					1
0020	Dog	1					1
0022	Dog	1					1
0024	Cow	1					1
	S/G	10	3	1	4		3
0034	Cow	1	1		1		1
0038	Cow	1					1
0040	S/G	2	1	1			1
0043	Cow	1					1
	Pig	1					1
	S/G	2	1				1
0044	Cow	1	1				1
	Pig	1					1
	S/G	2		1			1
0046	Pig	1					1
0056	Dog	1					1
0068	S/G	1			1		1
0070	Cow	3	2				1
0077	Cow	1					1
	S/G	1					1

Table 6. Species by context

Abbreviations in table

S/G = Sheep/Goat

NISP = Number of Identified Specimens

MNI = Minimum Number of Individuals

*MNI calculated using sides of elements and zones (Dobney & Rielly 1988).

Discussion

Although preservation for this site is good the sample size of this assemblage is small, therefore the potential for analysis is limited.

Eight cases of butchery were recorded including those on unidentifiable fragments. Five of these were horizontal cuts to the proximal aspect of sheep/goat metapodials indicating disarticulation at the joint.

Pathology was noted on a dog femur and tibia as well as two sheep/goat metapodials. The dog pathology consisted of macro and pin prick porosity, loss of joint contour and osteophytic lipping on both the distal femur articulation and the proximal tibia articulation. No eburnation was noted however the pathology would indicate a differential diagnosis of osteoarthritis. The sheep/goat pathology consisted of osteophytic growth away from the joint contour and some possible periostitis. Taphonomic factors that were noted included some evidence of canid gnawing, some patchy charring and longitudinal cracking which indicated weathering. All of these factors indicate that the bones were not buried as soon as they were disposed of but were open to the elements (Reitz & Wing 2005, 135). The uneven patchy charring may have been caused by the remains being discarded with hot ashes from a fire.

Ageing data from this assemblage was limited to epiphyseal fusion data alone. No mandibles were recorded, therefore tooth wear data could not be used (Grant 1982). Fusion data was available on nine elements with the majority of the unfused elements being late fusing. The elements indicated that the age of the unfused cow elements were <42-48 months, sheep/goat < 20-28 months and pig <24-30 months. Fully fused adult bones were present, therefore the ageing information, without additional tooth wear data, is limited.

Metrical analysis was possible on three sheep/goat metapodials making it possible to calculate withers heights.

Summary of potential

The majority of the faunal remains are those of the main domesticates, cow, sheep/goat and pig. Also included are the remains of horse and dog. The high number of

fragments for both of these species in context 0011 can be attributed to just two individuals of each species, biasing the NISP for the context.

Bone survival in this assemblage is generally good therefore any further archaeological work would be expected to increase this faunal assemblage. Due to the small size of the assemblage at present it is recommended that no further work is necessary unless further archaeological excavations increase the number of remains.

6.11 Shell

Forty-two fragments of oyster shell were recovered from 11 contexts.

6.12 Plant Macrofossils (Val Fryer)

Introduction and method statement

Five samples were submitted for assessment from the evaluation. The samples were taken for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages from fills within a ditch and a post-hole and from three discrete deposits, although it was noted that some of the contexts showed evidence of post-depositional disturbance. Most of the features sampled were medieval, apart from Sample 5 which is post-medieval.

The samples were bulk floated by SCCAS and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils, mollusc shells and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 6. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997) for the plant remains and Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macan (1977) for the mollusc shells. All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots and seeds were present throughout.

Results

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds and tree/shrub species were present at a low to moderate density in all five assemblages. Preservation was moderately good, although some grains were puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with wheat occurring most frequently. Possible pea (*Pisum sativum*) seeds and a fragmentary cotyledon of an indeterminate large pulse (Fabaceae) were noted within the assemblages from Samples 1 and 2. Weed seeds were scarce, but specimens of orache (*Atriplex* sp.), small pulses (Fabaceae), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and campion (*Silene* sp.) were noted within all but Sample 5. A single elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seed was recorded from Sample 1. Charcoal fragments were present throughout along with pieces of charred root/stem and indeterminate buds, stem nodes and thorns.

Mollusc shells were present at varying densities within all but Sample 4. Three of Evans (1972) ecological groups of terrestrial taxa were represented and Sample 5 also contained a high density of shells of freshwater obligate species, most notably those commonly found in still water or low to medium velocity flow conditions.

Samples 2, 3 and 5 contained high densities of black porous and tarry residues and small pieces of coal, all probably indicating the presence of hearth waste. Other remains occurred less frequently, but did include pieces of bone and fish bone, ferrous globules and fragments of vitrified material.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The assemblage from Sample 1 (ditch 0004) may possibly contain material derived from domestic hearth waste. Similar material may also be present within Sample 2 (possible post-hole fill), although this feature was disturbed and appears to contain a high density of intrusive coal waste. Samples 3 and 4 contain an insufficient density of material for interpretation, but the mollusc rich assemblage from Sample 5 appears to be derived from a small quantity of hearth waste, which may have been deposited at the edge of a small pool or stream.

Although all five assemblages are relatively small, they clearly illustrate that plant macrofossils and mollusc shells are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Eastgate Nursery. Therefore, if further archaeological interventions are planned within this area, it is suggested that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 30 litres in volume are taken from all well-sealed and dated contexts which are recorded. As later disturbance of the deposits would appear to be an issue within the

immediate area, this should be taken into consideration whilst sampling and, ideally, samples should not be taken from disturbed features.

6.13 Palaeo-environmental Assessment (Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental)

The following is taken from the report produced by Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental (Krawiec, Hopla and Gearey 2009).

Methodology

As part of a wider assessment of deposits in the Abbey Gardens (BSE 332) and Eastgate Nursery (the subject site), a borehole survey was undertaken by BAE in March 2009. The survey was undertaken using a windowless sampler drilling rig operated by Global Probing and Sampling. Two transects of twelve boreholes were drilled at Site A (Eastgate Nursery) at 5m intervals perpendicular to the River Lark. All boreholes were surveyed using a Trimble differential GPS, which provided OS co-ordinates and Ordnance Datum heights.

Results

The deposits [at Eastgate Nursery] were characterised by a thick layer of made ground containing fragments of brick, coal and gravel within a silty sand clay matrix. This overlay a deposit of light grey brown silt clay, which may be the partially disturbed remnants of the coarse grained alluvium overlying the natural gravels at this location. No organic sediment was identified on this side of the river.

Conclusions

No deposits of palaeo-environmental potential were preserved at Eastgate Nursery, possibly due to the effects of drainage and agriculture. No recommendations are made for any further palaeo-environmental work on the Eastgate Nursery site.

6.14 Discussion of the finds evidence

The earliest finds from the evaluation are represented by a number of flints dating to the Bronze Age which were probably washed downhill to the river valley. The majority of the artefacts are post-Roman in date and consist of ceramics and roof tile fragments. The considerable quantity of pottery recovered from Trench 7, which abutted the precinct wall of the Abbey, provided an opportunity to examine the deposits associated with the construction of this wall. The pottery in some of the deposits which predate its

construction includes Bury medieval coarsewares and a glazed fineware which suggest a date from the Late 12th-Mid 13th century (0077) for deposition, with a fragment of a neckless coarseware jar in 0060 dating from the middle of the 13th century into the fourteenth century.

The presence of late medieval roof tiles in some of the deposits accompanied by medieval sherds in Trench 2 may suggest a 14th-15th century date for these features, rather than the slightly earlier date suggested by the pottery.

7. Discussion

The proposed development area can be separated into two distinct areas containing different densities of archaeological remains. To the north and east of the site (Trench 4, 5 and 6) the remains were sparse and comprised two ditches and two pits, whilst the rest of the site (Trench 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8) contained dense, well-stratified remains comprising pits and layers. These densities coincide with the highest and lowest parts of the site. Preservation of the archaeological remains is very good, especially where the later soil horizon 0055 is present and even at the north end of the site (Trenches 1, 2 and 3) where the features lay directly below the topsoil (0001). In addition, and perhaps surprisingly, survival of the remains has not been compromised by the many glasshouses at the north end of the site, whose foundations did not extend beyond the depth of the topsoil (approximately 0.5m in Trench 1).

The pottery assemblage recovered from features across the site suggests a date range between the 11th and mid 14th centuries (with a single exception), although some of the very earliest fragments are likely to be residual, narrowing the range to between the mid 12th and mid 14th centuries. This however, does not preclude the presence of archaeological activity from this earlier period. The only feature that did not lie within this range was ditch 0026=0090 (Trench 4 and 5), which contained a single fragment of pottery dating to between the 16th and 18th centuries (see below).

It is difficult at this stage to state definitively what the features in Trench 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 were, although it was clear that some must be pits, for example 0073 in Trench 8 and 0059 and 0039 (Trench 1) (Fig. 9). Much of the inability to determine the character of the archaeological remains is due to both the intensity and complexity of the deposits

and the limited and constrained nature of trial trenches. During the fieldwork it was immediately apparent that to fully understand the deposits - such as they are - would require a level of detailed and well-targeted excavation that was beyond the scope of the evaluation. As a result and after on-site discussion with the Project Manager and Dr. Jess Tipper, it was decided that further interventions within the trial trenches would have a detrimental effect on interpretation of the archaeology during any further work.

There are some areas however, in which there is good characterisation of the deposits, such as in Trench 7, where the remains of two floor surfaces were excavated. It was not possible to define the full extent of the deposits within the narrow confines of the trench, but excavation showed that they comprised flint cobbles bedded into a clay silt matrix (0036) overlain by a chalky clay deposit (0035). These floor surfaces may have been associated with a building that abutted the Precinct wall, but no other structural evidence was identified within the trench. It was unclear whether the surfaces were internal or external, although given the sticky, clay composition of 0035, it is more likely that they were internal.

In Trench 2 a deposit of horn cores (0014) was identified amongst an unknown number of intercutting potential pits. On other excavated sites the presence of horn industries has been postulated on the basis of concentrations of waste material in the form of detached horn cores (MacGregor in Blair and Ramsey 1991). However here there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that tanning or even horn-working itself was taking place within the proposed development area. The presence of the cores as excavated at this stage can imply no more than that the horns were removed from the animal carcasses and the sheaths removed before being dumped here. This does not, of course, rule out the possibility that tanning was taking place in the vicinity. Indeed, it is already documented that tanning was the dominant industry in the area north of Eastgate Street from the late 15th century - and possibly before as indicated in the Sacrist's rental of 1433 (Breen in Tester 2008). In addition, 'some bones' were observed and disturbed during the construction of the single-storey structure (*pers comm* Mr Peter Tunnah OBE of Abbey Cottage, former Parks Warden) just north of Trench 2. This may imply that remains relating to animal processing could be more extensive than the horn cores (0014) suggest. Rooftile recovered from 0014 suggests a 14th/15th century date for some of the deposits in Trench 2, which would be broadly comparable

with the possible tanning activity identified behind 15 – 17 Eastgate Street (Tester 2008).

Layer 0055 was a worked soil horizon that underlay the topsoil in Trench 5, 7 and 8. It was not a true subsoil and had the appearance of a worked soil probably derived during the land's use after the Dissolution as a nursery or orchard site. Historical documents indicate that this area of the town was farmland until 1210 (*pers comm* Abby Antrobus), when the land was taken into direct use by the Abbey. This period of acquirement started during the previous century when a major change took place under Abbot Anselm (1120-48): the area of the Abbey was extended and formalised with a precinct wall and gates. This documentary evidence supports previous casual observations [of the surviving precinct wall] which have noted that it retains some areas of flint and mortar walling with horizontal coursing, characteristic of the 12th century (Carr in Rolfe 2008). It should also be noted that both documentary sources and architectural styles indicate that the wall was constructed over a period of about 150 years and that the stretch of wall running north to Eastgate may be latest to have been completed, judging by the style of the arches on the Abbot's Bridge there (13th or 14th century). (This theory does not account for any later repairs to the bridge however.)

After the construction of the Precinct wall, it is highly likely that the land – which includes the proposed development area - belonged to the Abbey right up to the Dissolution, when it was sold off. Very little documentary evidence survives relating to activity on the land between 12th and 14th century, which is the date range suggested by the pottery for the majority of activity on the site and layer 0055, and what does exist comprises references to tenants of properties, rather than use of the land.

Post-Dissolution according to medieval rentals, there were a number of tenements on the south side of Eastgate Street occupied by people involved in industries related to animal processing, eg. cordwainer and glover. During the late 17th century into the 19th century, documents suggest that the land was under tillage and turned into pasture ground and/or orchard with some buildings - barns, etc. From this point, right up to the 20th century, the land was used for a similar activity, gardening, and as a nursery instigated by the Marquis of Bristol in the early 19th century (Breen in Rolfe 2008).

It is most likely therefore, that the agricultural and horticultural activity that took place on the land after the Dissolution (1539) was the source of layer 0055 despite the pottery assemblage, which indicated a date range between the late 12th to 14th centuries. The sherds will have been disturbed from the archaeology below by ploughing.

Tied in with the later activity of the site is ditch 0026 (Trench 4 and 5), an unusually large feature for its setting containing a single sherd of 16th to 18th century pottery. Although only one sherd was recovered, the date of it suggests that the ditch was backfilled in the post-dissolution period, perhaps in part to prepare the ground for its subsequent agricultural use. During any future archaeological works the ditch should be hand-excavated in order to:

- 1) recover additional pottery sherds, with particular regard to the origins of the ditch,
- 2) observe its full profile, and
- 3) determine whether this is the boundary marked on Warren's map of 1747 (Rolfe 2008, p23, Fig. 7).

The results of the environmental sampling show that molluscs and plant macrofossils survive well on the site and that there is good potential for the recovery of further similar remains which will assist with understanding the activity that took place within the proposed development area. Note that this stands in sharp contrast to the negative results of the palaeo-environmental assessment undertaken by Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental (Section 6.13). As recommended by Val Fryer (see above), an extensive sampling strategy should be implemented during any further works, targeting all well-sealed and dated contexts. In particular, samples should be taken from any structural or (potentially) industrial deposits and from key features such as the large ditch (0026) and from the medieval soil horizon (0055).

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of unexpectedly extensive, well stratified, numerous and significant archaeological features and deposits, whose date coincides with the founding and lifespan of the Abbey of St Edmundsbury, and has the potential for revealing possible industrial activity dating to the late medieval period. The deposits were so extensive that it has been difficult to determine their type, full extent

and perhaps most importantly, function, particularly in Trench 2, 3, 7 and 8 where the deposits filled almost the entire (machine) excavated area. Despite this, it can be ascertained that the archaeology consists predominantly of pits and/or layers, two surfaces and two ditches.

There is no doubt that all of the archaeology on the site could be adequately preserved by excavation and record, but, as demonstrated by the evaluation, a limited area or selective sampling strategy may not be enough to thoroughly understand the deposits. For this reason it is recommended that targeted excavation below individual house plots is not carried out and that should development be granted, a full excavation should be undertaken at the site. There is now a known quantity of archaeological remains whose excavation and analysis will lead to a greater understanding of the land-use, economy and development of the Eastgate area of the town. It will also assist in understanding the relationship between the Abbey and its use of its land immediately beyond the precinct, but still within the town both pre- and post-enclosure behind the Precinct wall. If possible, consideration should also be given to speculation (based on historic map analysis) in the Desk-based Assessment that the proposed development area may lie within an outer precinct of the Abbey (Roffe 2008, p29).

It is also recommended that further analysis be undertaken with proper consultation of all available and relevant historical documents.

Trench 2 revealed a deposit of horn cores (0014) which suggested that animal processing may have taken place within the development area in the late medieval period – earlier than indicated during an evaluation at 15-17 Eastgate Street (Roffe 2008) - and broadening the limits of the known industry to the south of Eastgate Street. This is a highly significant industry in the economy of post-medieval Dun St Edmunds, which records show occurred extensively along the River Lark downstream from the town. It is imperative during any further interventions that all the horn cores are collected for full analysis and that the surrounding deposits are carefully and fully excavated in order to maximise the data recovered and to understand the sequence of deposits. Determining the date of the activity will be crucial with regard to establishing how long animal processing (and related industries) has been taking place here. A similar approach with regard to the deposits adjacent to the Precinct wall is also crucial, particularly those immediately below it from which no pottery was recovered during the

evaluation. Further excavation could potentially establish a more refined date for the construction of this section of the Precinct wall.

Further investigation of the possible floor surfaces in Trench 7 would prove interesting and could reveal that there were buildings on the site, perhaps related to the activity taking place there towards the latter stages of the Abbey's lifespan.

Additionally, a number of gravestones re-used as a floor surface were recovered from the grasshouse into which Trench 2 was excavated and were dated to the 18th and 19th centuries. They may have come from the now open land in front of the West Front (*pers comm* David Gill) and as part of the history of the Abbey and its grounds, it is recommended that these gravestones be cleaned, recorded and catalogued as soon as possible and stored so as to prevent further deterioration of the inscriptions (some of which are already very worn).

Finally, given the quality, significance and location of the deposits, that is, proximity to a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the medieval core of Bury St Edmunds, and their importance with regard to understanding the history of the town and its relationship with the Abbey, as outlined above, any excavation would require full publication of the results. This (recommended) approach will have significant cost implications regarding future development of the site.

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9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:arc\All_site\BSE\BSE 329 Eastgate Nursery

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Abby Antrobus, John Sims and Nick Taylor) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team and directed by Mo Muldowney. David Gill managed the project.

Finds processing was carried out by Michelle Feider and Rebekah Pressler. Richenda Goffin produced the specialist finds report, managed the post-excavation and edited the report and Michelle Feider produced the animal bone report. Anna West processed the environmental samples.

Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Val Fryer (plant macrofossils) and Colin Pendleton (flint).

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Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately 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 services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Plates



Plate 7 Trench 2 from south-east, showing extent of deposits and pit 0012 excavated (top)



Plate 2. Trench 7: base of Precinct wall 0057, including footing, facing west

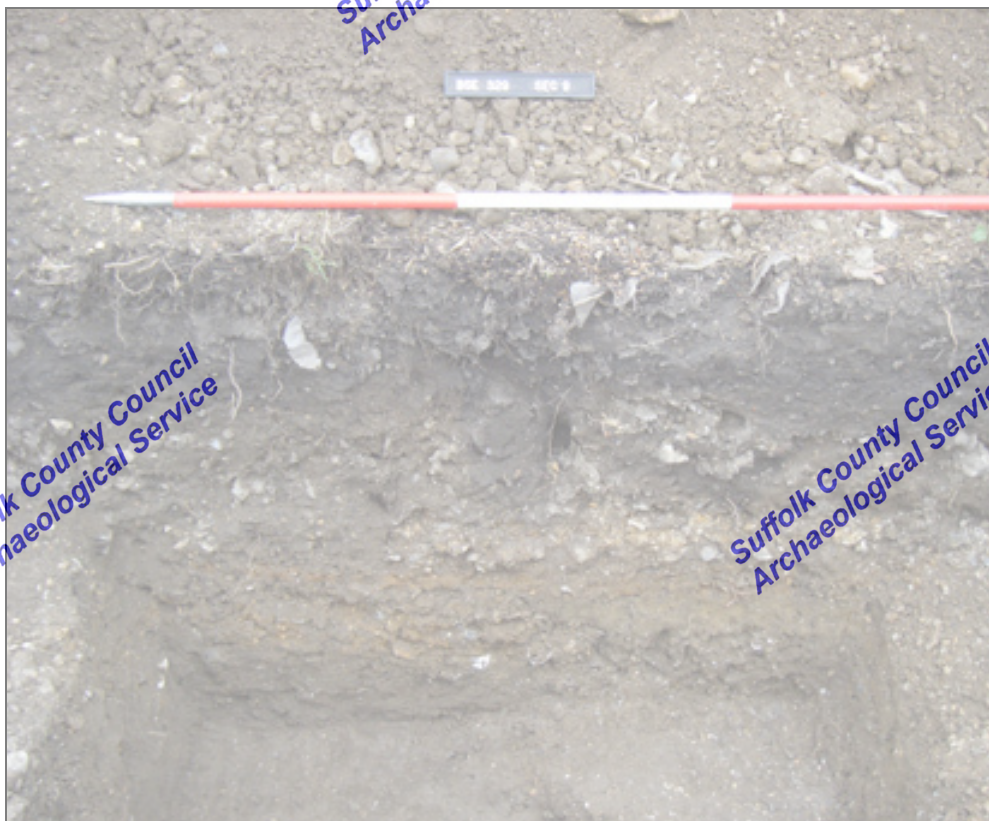


Plate 3. Trench 7: Slot 2, showing possible floor layers 0035 and 0036, facing south

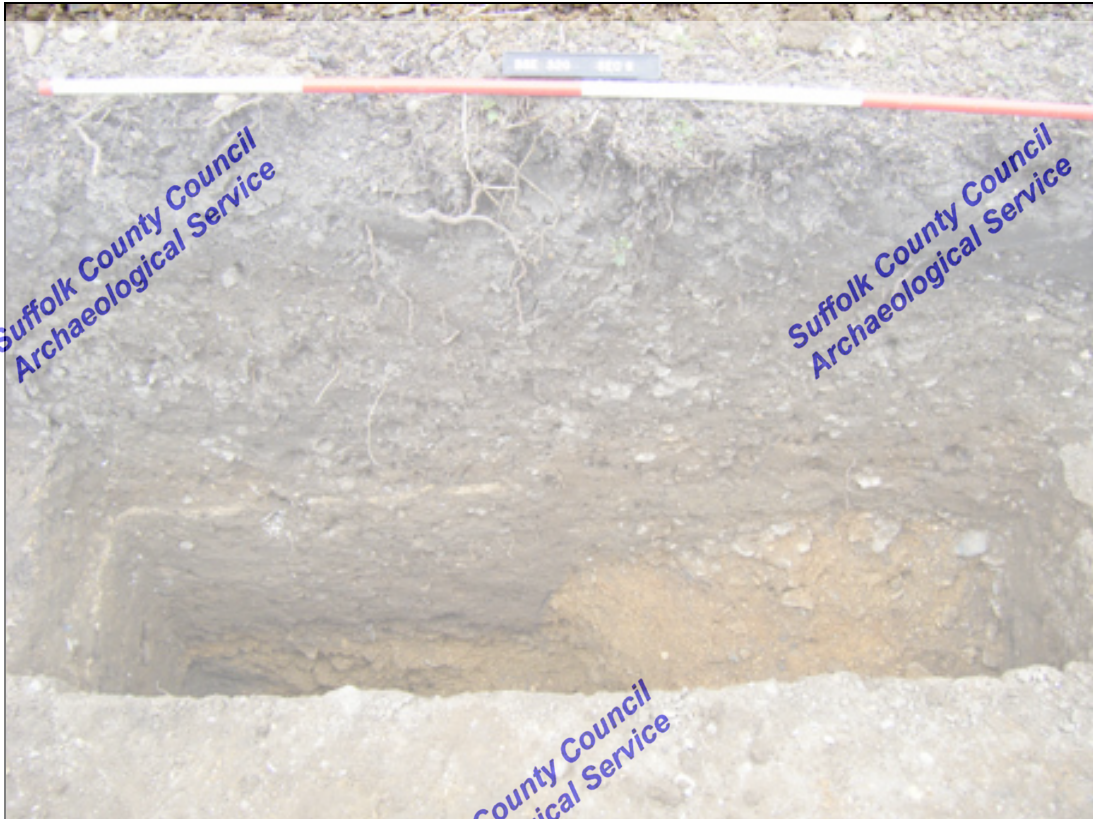


Plate 4. Trench 8: excavated slot through multiple pits, facing west

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Environment and Transport Service Delivery
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Brief and Specification for Evaluation

LAND ADJACENT TO EASTGATE STREET AND MINDEN CLOSE, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 A planning enquiry has been made for development of Land Adjacent to Eastgate Street and Minden Close, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (TL 858 648).
- 1.2 The proposed application area measures c. 0.54 ha., on the eastern side of the River Lark (see accompanying plan); the western half of the site is located within the floodplain of the river. It is situated on river alluvium (calcareous clay soil) at c. 30 - 35.00m AOD.
- 1.3 A desk-based assessment has been undertaken for this site (SCCAS report 2008/274, December 2008), which affects an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The site is within the medieval urban core and adjacent to the Abbey of St Edmund, a site of international significance (Scheduled Ancient Monument SF 2). The precinct wall, part of the scheduled monument, forms the western boundary to this site. However, the DBA has also indicated that the location of the site is within an outer precinct of the Abbey. There is high potential for encountering important archaeological occupation deposits from the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, and possibly earlier occupation, at this location that is also adjacent to a historic river crossing. There is also high potential for encountering palaeo-environmental deposits within the area of the floodplain. However, the area of this major development has not been subject to systematic archaeological survey. Any development with significant ground disturbance has the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 In order to establish the full archaeological implications of the site, an archaeological field evaluation is required prior to consideration of the application, to provide an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed site as suggested in DoE Planning Policy Guidance 16 (November 1990), para 21. This will include trenched evaluation, topographic survey and palaeo-environmental assessment. This brief concerns the trenching phase of the project, and also non-destruction topographic survey. Palaeo-environmental assessment is subject to a further brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).
- 1.5 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.6 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

- 1.7 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.8 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.9 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.10 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Undertake a detailed topographic survey and produce a contour plan of the site. The evaluation results should be related to the contour survey, to establish a model of potential deposit preservation across the site.
- 2.6 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow.

Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification for non-destructive topographic survey

- 3.1 A topographic survey is required across the area marked on the accompanying plan. The contour data should allow a digital terrain model (DTM) to be constructed, which can then be processed and analysed to produce a 3D model of the site.

4. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the new development, which is 270.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 150.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 4.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.20m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 4.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 4.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

- 4.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 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. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. 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 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 4.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 4.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 4.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 4.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

5. General Management

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 5.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

- 5.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 5.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 5.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 6.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 6.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pennington) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 6.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 6.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 6.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).

- 6.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 6.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.17 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 6.18 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.
- 6.19 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 9 February 2009

Reference: / EastgateNursery-BuryStEdmunds2008

This brief and specification remains valid for six 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.

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Appendix 2 Context Summary

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Description	Width	Length	Depth
0001		1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 7; 8			Dark greenish brown silty clay. Flint occasional, sub angular and angular. Small to medium. Tops of uniform across the site			0.22 - 0.50m
0002		3			U/S finds number			
0003		4; 5			U/S finds number			
0004	0004	5	Ditch	Cut	Cut of shallow ditch. Rough NE-SW alignment. Filled by 0006, 0005. Possible recut?	1.60m		0.35m
0005	0004	5	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch [0004]. Mid brown silty sand. Darker of the two fills. Although not clear in plan this fill may be a recut?			0.35m
0006	0004	5	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch [0004]. Light orange brown silty sand			0.25m
0007	0007	4	Pit	Cut	Cut of disturbed pit. Sub -oval in plan. 90% of feature visible in trench. Filled by (0008), (0025)	0.92m		0.50m
0008	0007	4	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [0007]. Mid grey clayey silt. Upper and main fill of pit [0007]			0.44m
0009	0009	5	Pit	Cut	2.4m SW of feature [0007]. Probable sub circular/sub oval pit. Gently sloping sides. Heavily root disturbed. c.1.2m wide at baulk. Filled by (0010). Cut of pit	0.50m	1.20m	0.18m
0010	0009	5	Pit	Fill	Mid grey clayey silt, loose compaction, mixed with yellow silty natural sand (generally 80-20 mix). Fill of pit [0009] fill is similar in character to (0008) the same kind of fill and the same level of root disturbance			0.18m
0011		7	Layer	Deposit	Dark brownish grey silty sand. Friable. Flint - common, med sub angular and sub rounded. Animal bone common, whole broken bones. D = 0.36m average. Same as (0043) tr7 and (0055) tr8. Probably a medieval soil horizon or accumulation deposit			0.36m
0012	0012	2	Pit	Cut	Extent unclear. Appears sub-circular in plan. Depth not recorded. Possible pit cut for a roughly circular deposit (0013). Not entirely clear what relates to what in this trench. Sketch plan on sheet.	2.50m		
0013	0012	2	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [0012]. Light brown silty clay. Probable fill of [0012]. Sequence unclear beyond that. The fill/deposit is part of a wider area of intercutting pits, too large and frequent to understand/excavate in a trial trench.	2.50m		
0014	0014	2		Deposit	Deposit of horn and clay. Mid brown silty clay patches of light yellow brown clay. Abundant horn cores c.1m at widest. Relationships with adjacent deposits unclear. Fill of a pit of unknown dimension and extent. Comprised of abundant cattle horn cores. Indicator of butchery?	c1.0m		
0015	0015	2		Deposit	Mid brown silty clay lots of yellow brown clay. Not excavated. Mixed deposit of the two phases above. Clay not naturally occurring locally. Is this an old pit lining or deposit used in the butchery/tanning process?	1.25m		
0016	016	2		Deposit	Dark brown silty clay. Not excavated. Possible fill at the south eastern end of tr 2. Relationship with 0015 unclear and unexcavated.	3.10m		
0017	0017	2		Deposit	Dark brown silty clay. Contains lots of tile. Not excavated. Possible fill of an unidentified pit. Has straight edge to NW side as 0015/0016	4.50m		
0018	0018	2		Deposit	Light yellow brown clay. Unexcavated. Tr 2. Possibly a slight gravelly element present. Unclear relationship with (0019) and (0017).	2.50m		
0019	0019	2		Deposit	Light yellow brown clay. Unexcavated. Lies at north-west end of trench 2. Yellow clay mixed	2.60m		

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Description	Width	Length	Depth
0020	0021	7	Post-hole	Fill	into grey matrix. See also (0015). Relationship to (0018) unclear. Mid-dark brown sandy clayey silt	0.30m	0.46m	0.12m
0021	0021	7	Post-hole	Cut	Sub rectangular U shape. Flat base although the feature was overcut into fill (0038) below and the fills are not clearly distinguishable in section. Not truncated unless by machining. SE-NW to east of mortary chalky clay 0035 in tr7. Damaged by animal or root activity. Not convincing enough to be a definite posthole. Sketch plan on sheet.	0.30m	0.46m	0.12m
0022	0023	7	Pit	Fill	Mid-dark brown sandy clayey silt	0.54m	1.10m	0.14m
0023	0023	7	Pit	Cut	Gently sloping interface between 0022 and orange gravel. Could be a cut - although the gravel maybe redeposited. Not fully excavated. Located against s edge of trench. Likely cut feature - relationship to 0035? etc. possible edge of pit	0.28m	1m	0.14m
0024	0039	1	Pit	Fill	Mid grey clayey silt. Upper fill of pit [0059]. Loose compaction. Upper fill of large pit. Sketch section on sheet			0.43m
0025	0007	4	Pit	Fill	Mixed (0008) and mid orange-yellow silty sand. Flint- rare small rounded. Loose. Dumped deposit - unusual shape. Lower fill of pit [0007]. Mixed disturbed natural and fill above			
0026	0026	5	Ditch	Cut	Large ditch, occupying the last 8msq of WSW end of Tr 5. Digger went down 1.8m in the last 2m of the trench, so exposing part of the cut on the ditches west side. Cut is roughly a 45 degree curve, though it is hard to tell. The ditch looks to be orientated N-S. Dimensions unclear. Same as [0090]. Width approx 5m. Sketch section on sheet			
0027	0026	5	Ditch	Fill	Mid/dark grey clayey silt. Loose compaction. Fill of large N-S running ditch. Post-med. Truncates 2 layers (0045) and (0054). No disturbance			1.03m
0028	0028	1	Pit	Cut	Cut of probable pit. Extent unknown. Large, probably sub-circular. Filled by (0029). Shallow pit or shallow edge of larger pit. Whole feature not visible within confines of trench			0.30m
0029	0028	1	Pit	Fill	Mid grey/brown. Friable. Fill of [0028], some gravelly lenses within a silty clay matrix			0.30m
0030	7	7	Layer	Deposit	Pale whiteish yellow. Friable. Not fully seen in trench. Extends to NW beyond edge of trench. Same as 2 smaller deposits 0031 and 0032. Small dump of mortar. Building construction debris? Lying at base of abbey wall. Same as 0031:0032. Sketch plan on sheet	0.40m	0.45m	0.05m
0031	7	7	Layer	Deposit	Same as 0030 and 0032. Mortar dup. same as 0030	0.15m	0.40m	0.06m
0032	7	7	Layer	Deposit	Same as 0030 and 0031. mortar dump see 0030	0.05m		0.02m
0033	7	7	Layer	Deposit	Mid orange gravel. Compact. Clay silt matrix. Same colour as gravel. Spreads 0.54m from the main face of the wall. Deposit of gravel overlying the stepped-out foundation of the precinct wall			0.18m
0034	7	7	Layer	Deposit	Orange sandy clay gravel with stones			0.08m
0035	7	7	Layer	Deposit	Chalky clay/mortar layer. Layer slumps into the top of 0022, filler [0023]. Cut by posthole [0021] on possible surface or perhaps floor? Bone on the surface			0.09m
0036	7	7	Layer	Deposit	Flints. Sub angular and broken nodules. Med-large. Placed or in a matrix of mid brown clay silt, which is very similar to (0038). Underlies clay surface. Either a deposit or structural evidence - may continue under 0035. Metalled or cobbled surface			0.10m
0037	7	7	Layer	Deposit	Pale brown silty clay. Not excavated. Another layer in sequence identified near Slot 2. Does not appear in Slot 2 as far as can be seen			
0038	7	7	Layer	Deposit	Mid brown clayey silt. Friable. Layer below flint cobbles (0036), maybe what they were bedded into. Similar to fill to west of 0035			0.12m
0039	0039	1	Pit	Cut	Cut of large pit immediately adjacent to pit [0028], to the NE. Relationship between the two is uncertain, though it seems they do not cut each other. Dimensions of the feature are			1.07m

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Description	Width	Length	Depth
					uncertain but the feature accounts for half the area trench 1 has exposed, so one can assume it is large. Western edge does show cut (on section 5). Filled by (0041):(0049):(0042). For gravel extraction.			
0040	0059	7	Pit	Fill	Light grey clayey silt, loose compaction. Lower and main fill of pit [0059]			0.75m
0041	0039	7	Pit	Fill	Mid orange sand and gravel. Loose. Upper fill of pit [0039]. Truncated by pit [0059]			0.25m
0042	0039	7	Pit	Fill	Mid orange sands and gravels. Loose. Rides away from edge of pit. Dumped fill of redeposited gravels. Fill of [0039]. Lower fill			0.42m
0043		7	Pit	Fill	Mid grey silty sandy clay, loose compaction. Equivalent to (0011), (0071) and (0055). Medieval soil layer			0.37m
0044		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid grey/orange silty sand. Friable. Latest in a sequence of at least 5 layers. Unclear whether within a pit or just a sequence of built up deposits.			
0045		5	Layer	Deposit	Mixed mid grey and mid orange silty clay and gravels. Friable. Mixed gravel in soil layer truncated by ditch 0026 (post-med). Overlies layer 0054. Assumed gravels below are natural			0.30m
0046		7	Layer?	Deposit	Dark grey sandy silt. Friable. Middle fill in a sequence. See (0044)			0.16m
0047		7	Layer?	Deposit	Mid orange gravelly sand. Friable. One of 5 layers. See (0044)			
0048		7	Layer?	Deposit	Light greyish green silty clay. Compact. Sticky. Looks like a possible waterbourne deposit, similar to that seen in pit [0039] within (0040)			
0049	0039	1	Pit	Fill	Mid grey silty gravel. Loose. Mid fill of pit [0039]. Truncated by [0059]			0.40m
0051		7	Structure		Flint and mortar construction. Flush pointing. Broken and whole flint nodules. Small sizes. No real coursing. Small area of collapse, partially patched with concrete. Step at base, protrudes 0.2m from main body of wall. 0.18m high slightly sloping top of footing (allows water to drain away from wall?) three courses of flint densely packed just below present ground level - indicates previous ground level? Unless an old repair using less mortar? North east facing outer (?) face of the Abbeys precinct wall			
0052		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid greyish green gravels in a silty clay matrix of the same colour. Lies over orange gravels (0033), slopes up over them. Extent to east unknown. Latest layer below potential medieval soil layer (0011). Machined off so no finds			0.14m
0053		7	Layer	Deposit	Light yellowish orange gravelly silt. Friable. Thin lens of chalk at base of deposit (0.02m). Less than 5% mortar content. Mixed flint gravel and mortar deposit. Another construction debris deposit.			0.05m
0054		5	Layer	Deposit	Mid orange brown silty clay. Friable. Layer between 0030 and chalk layer 0058			0.04m
0055		8	Layer	Deposit	Dark greyish brown clayey silt. Friable. Or medieval soil layer.			0.82m
0056		8	Layer	Deposit	Mid brownish orange silty sand. Loose. Gravelly orange layer below 0055. Redeposited gravels			0.34m
0057		8	Layer	Deposit	Pale whiteish yellow with mortar and concreted. Thick dump of mortar on top of pit 0073 but not necessarily a fill of. Possible waste mortar from construction of precinct wall? Repairs?			0.04m
0058		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Also small lumps of grey chalky clay mixed in occasionally. This is the first deposit to underlie the precinct wall. Layer of chalky material with lots of flint. Unclear derivation and function. Part of construction sequence?			
0060		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid yellowish brown clay silt. Layer of gravel on edge of possible recut			
0061		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid grey silty clay. Compact. Damp / moist. Possible water derived deposit. Unsure whether at the base of the sequence as interweaved with layer of redeposited gravels			0.18m
0062		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Friable. Another gravelly layer in sequence adjacent to the wall			0.09m

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Description	Width	Length	Depth
0063		7	Layer	Deposit	0051 Mid greyish brown silty clay. Firm. Small pockets of light greyish white clay throughout.. Another chalky layer, small dump layer. Not extensive. Little to denote function.			0.06m
0064		7	Post-hole	Fill	Not seen in section 3. Light yellowish white clay. Possible packing fill or posthole? Seems to cut into layer 0065. .			0.52m
0065		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Friable. Across entire slot. Truncated by possible posthole [0067] Layer? Starting to show signs of sagging into the pit/trench below. Not yet convinced it's a fill. .			0.13m
0066		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid orange sands and gravels. Friable. Layer of redeposited gravel. Continued W and appeared on edge of slot by wall (not recorded there)			0.08m
0067		7	Post-hole	Cut	Irregular circular - not fully visible though. U shape. Not seen base cuts 0065. Cut for possible posthole within layers. Not fully seen or excavated. Clay fill - possible packing?			0.20m
0068		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid grey silty clay. Friable. Layer in sequence of unknown function			0.13m
0069		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid yellowish green silty clay. Compact. Clay layer must be imported from elsewhere - not naturally occurring here. Construction related deposit?			0.13m
0070		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid brownish grey clay silt. Friable. Not fully excavated. Layer of unknown function/origin			0.20m
0071		7	Layer	Deposit	Same as 0011; 0043; 0058. Directly beneath topsoil. Possible Medieval soil accumulation at SE end of site. In same position as subsoil, presumably all lost during activity in Medieval period			0.38m
0072		8	Layer	Deposit	Mid orange green silty clay. Firm compaction. Layer of unknown function/origin			0.16m
0073	0073	8	Pit	Cut	Unknown shape in plan. Steep sided, flat-based, U-shape. Sharp break from surface, with steep near vertical sides. Sharp break to base. Possible tank?			0.76m
0074	0073	8	Pit	Fill	Mid orange brown gravelly silt. Loose compaction. Increased siltiness towards base of cut. Single fill of pit - possible tank?	1.24m		0.76m
0075	0085	8	Pit	Fill	Mid brownish orange gravelly sand. Friable. Fill of pit - extraction? Fish ponds / tanks?			0.38m
0076	4; 5	4; 5	Layer	Deposit	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Friable. Thick deposit underlying topsoil in Tr 5 moving a little into Tr 4. Not subsoil. Possibly some form of agricultural soil build-up?			0.47m
0077		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid brownish grey sandy clay. Friable. Not fully excavated. Lowest but earliest layer in sequence adjacent to precinct wall			0.20m
0078		7	Layer	Deposit	Same as 0066. Another redeposited gravel layer			0.24m
0079		7	Layer	Deposit	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Friable. Not fully excavated. Lowest encountered fill in this slot. One observed below but not excavated			0.28m
0080	0082	8	Layer	Fill/ Deposit	Bright mid orange yellow gravel. Loose. Unclear whether this is a layer or a fill given depth encountered and truncation by pit 0073, likely to be fill?			0.16m
0081	0082	8	Fill/ Deposit	Fill/ Deposit	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Friable. Funny rounded shape - bit odd. Fill? All goes a bit weird down here.			0.36m
0082	0082	8	Pit	Cut	No shape in plan visible. No sides visible. Base is slightly curving and sloping down to SSE. Truncated by 0073. No alignment. Potential pit - the base of one, anyway. Filled by 0088; 0081; 0083; 0084			0.47m
0083	0082	8	Pit	Fill	As 0080. Small fine gravels. Redeposited?			0.18m
0084	0082	8	Pit	Fill	As 0080 but less bright. Horizon clarity poor. Redeposited gravel - pit fill?			0.16m
0085	0085	8	Pit	Cut	Shape in plan not visible. Merges with 0072 which overlies it. Very indistinct in plan. Gradual slope to sides. Sharp break from under 0072. Gradual break to very top of west part of side. Base not seen, truncated by 0073. Pit probably quite big. May also be more than one?			0.36m

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Description	Width	Length	Depth
0086	0087	4	Pit	Fill	Function unknown. Very little excavated because of trench. Filled by 0075 Mixed mid yellowish orange and dark greyish brown sandy silt. Friable. Truncated by 0007. Single fill of small pit - not very convincing fill. Mixed natural with some subsoil(?) on top.			0.23m
0087	0087	4	Pit	Cut	Oval / circular, unclear due to truncation by pit [0007]. Wide flat-based u. Break from top not seen (beyond trench edge) Gently sloping lower side with gradual break to base. Base pretty much flat. Possible cut for pit, but maybe just disturbed natural			0.23m
0088	0087	3	Layer	Deposit	Mid grey clay silt. Friable. Either a pit fill or a make-up deposit. Possibly subjected to water logging			0.48m
0089		8	Layer	Deposit	Mid grey brown silty clay. Friable. Similar to 0088. See 0088			0.61m
0090		4	Ditch	Cut	Cut for post-medieval ditch. Same as 0026. Unexcavated here. Continuation of ditch [0026] as excavated by machine at SW end of Tr 5.	6.5m		

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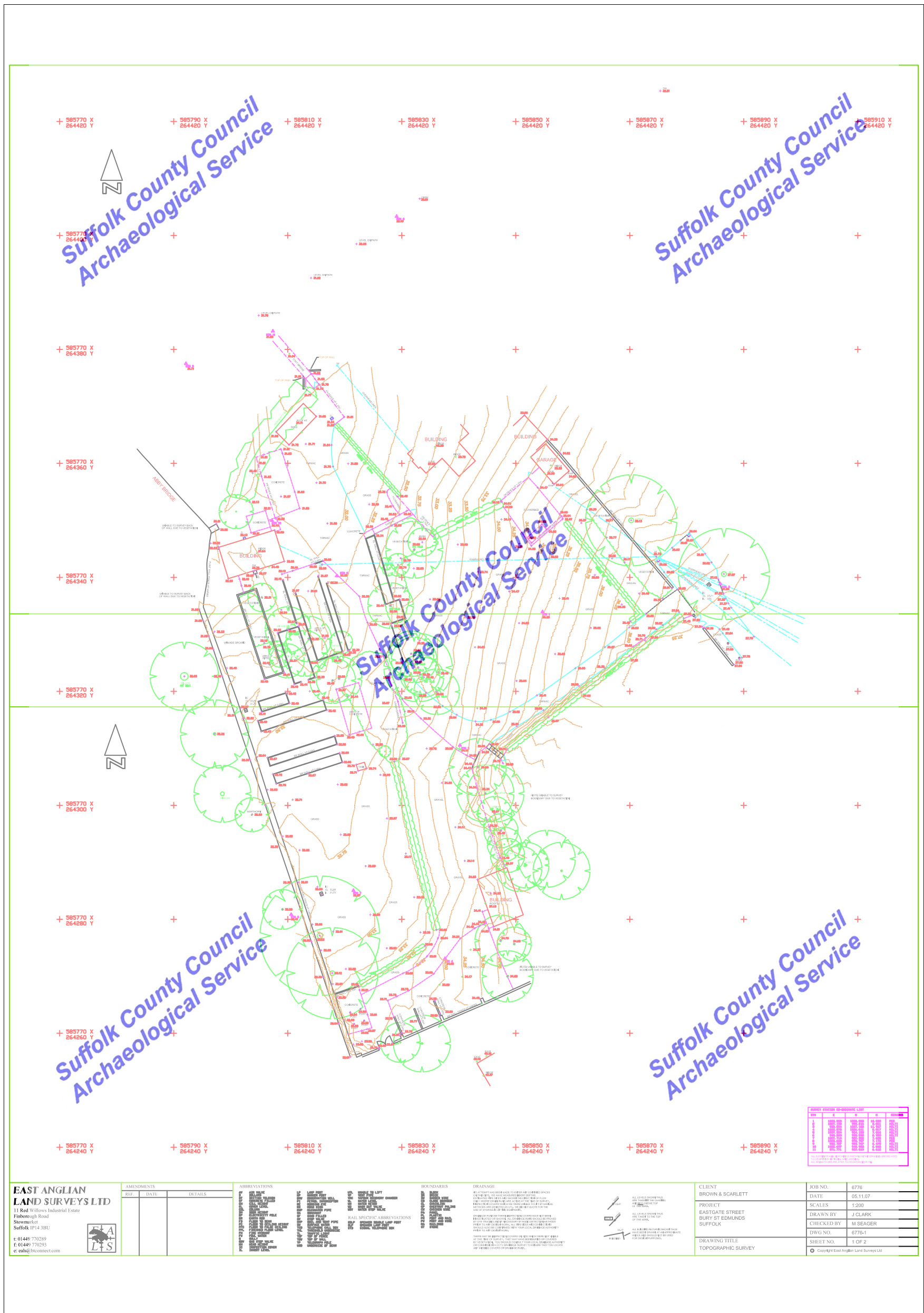
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Context	W flint No	W flint Wt	Burnt flint No	Burnt flint Wt	Animal bone No	Animal bone Wt	Shell No	Shell Wt	Miscellaneous
0002									
0003									
0005	3	71			7	4			
0008									
0010									
0011					10	1038			
0013					1	1			2x coal @ 9g
0014									
0017									
0020					1	7			
0022					2	2			
0024					22	218	7	18	
0027									
0034					1	57			
0035					1	39			
0038					16	69			
0040					6	55	5	32	
0041									
0043			1	1	25	137	1	4	
0044	10	135			13	281	2	5	
0046					1	5			
0048					11	21			
0049							3	22	
0055							2	9	
0056					1	2	2	10	
0057									
0060					1	25			
0065	1	2			9	44			
0068					2	10	12	84	
0069	1	1			1	19	4	27	Worked flint discarded as its natural (CP)
0070					1	166			
0072					1	1	1	6	
0074	1	8			3	43	3	35	
0077					4	59			

Appendix 4 Topographic Survey (Amended)

Produced by East Anglian Land Surveys Ltd
Not to scale



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AMENDMENTS		DETAILS
REV	DATE	

ABBREVIATIONS	

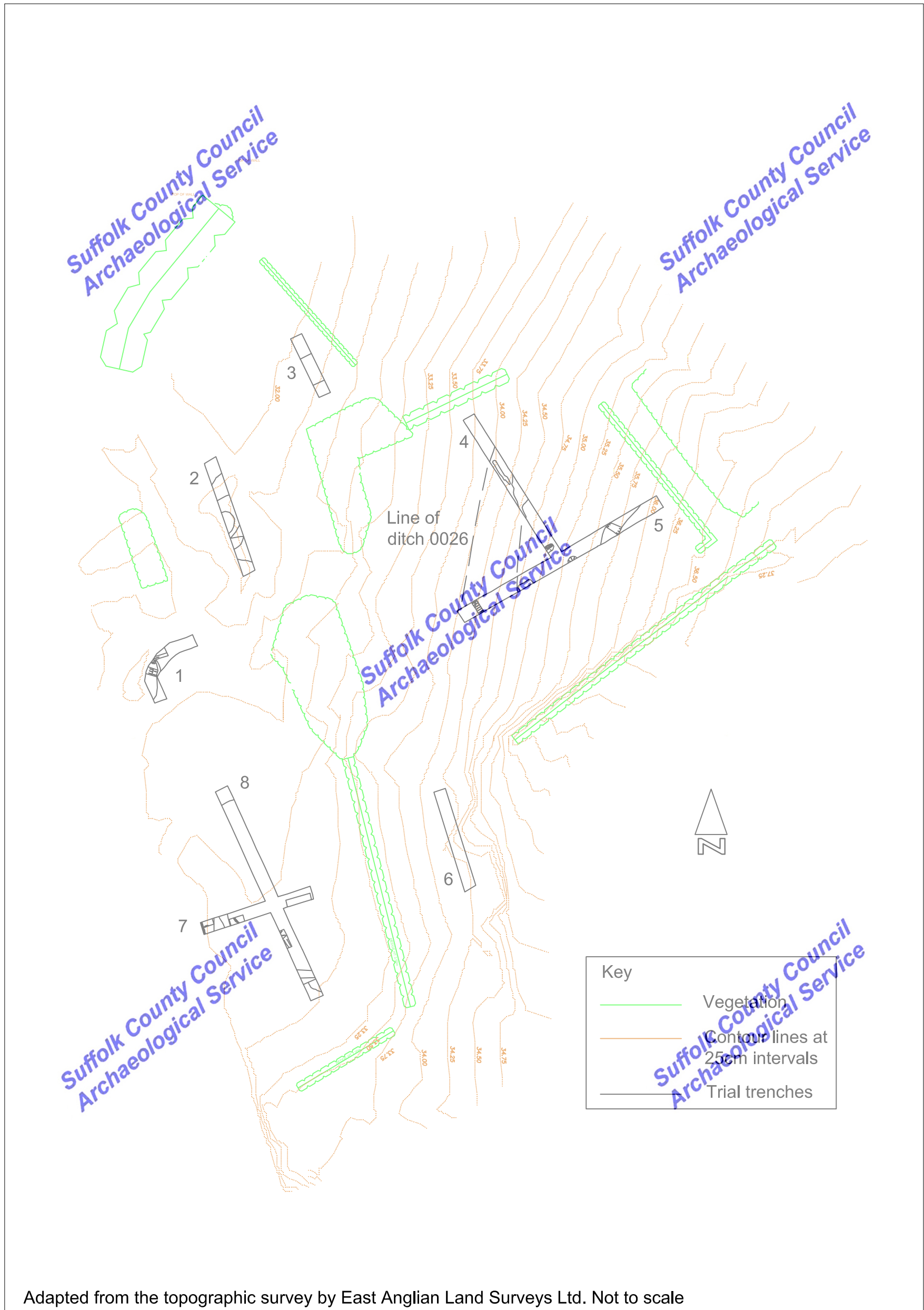
BOUNDARIES	

DRAINAGE	

CLIENT	

JOB NO.	6776
DATE	05.11.07
SCALE	1:200
DRAWN BY	J CLARK
CHECKED BY	M SEAGER
DWG NO.	6776-1
SHEET NO.	1 OF 2

Appendix 5 Topographic Survey with Trench Plans



Appendix 6 Table of Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5
Context No.	0005	0020	0022	0070	0013
Feature No.	0004				
Feature type	Ditch	PH	Layer	Layer	Deposit
Cereals and other food plants					
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)	xcf				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x				
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grains)	xcf				
Trachis nodes	xcf			xcf	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x	x		x	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx		x	x	
Large Fabaceae indet.		xcotyfg			
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	xcf	xcf			
Herbs					
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	x				
Fabaceae indet.			x	x	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	x		x		
<i>Silene</i> sp.		xcf			
Tree/shrub macrofossils					
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	x				
Other plant macrofossils					
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxx	xxx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	x	x	xxxx	xx
Charred root/stem	xx		x	x	x
Indet.bud					x
Indet.culm node	x				
Indet.thorn (<i>Rosa</i> type)			x		
Molluscs					
Woodland/shade loving species					
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.					xcf
<i>Carychium</i> sp.					xx
<i>Clausilia</i> sp.		x			
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	x	x			x
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.					x
Zonitidae indet.					x
Open country species					
<i>Helicella itala</i>	x		x		x
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>					x
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.		x	x		xx
<i>V. costata</i>	x				x
<i>V. excentrica</i>					x
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>					x
Catholic species					
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.					x
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>					x
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group					x
Freshwater obligate species					
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>					xx
<i>Bathymorphalus contortus</i>					xx
<i>Githynia</i> sp.					xxx
<i>B. tentaculata</i>					x
<i>Gyraulus albus</i>					xx
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.					xx
<i>Pisidium</i> sp.					x
<i>Planorbis planorbis</i>					xx
<i>Succinea</i> sp.					x
<i>Valvata cristata</i>					x
<i>V. piscinalis</i>					xx
Other remains					
Black porous 'cokey' material	xx	xx	xx		xx
Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5

Context No.	0005	0020	0022	0070	0013
Feature No.	0004				
Feature type	Ditch	PH	Layer	Layer	Deposit
Black tarry material		xxx	xxx		xx
Bone	x		x		x
Ferrous globules		x	x		
Fish bone	x			x	
Small coal frags.	x	xx	xxx		xxx
Small mammal/amphibian bone	x				
Vitrified material	x		x	x	
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	10	10	10
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.2
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
 cf = compare coty = cotyledon fg = fragment PH = post-hole

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