## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

Ney Store, Nuffield Hospital, St Mary's Square, Bury St Edmunds BSE 235

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS, 2005
(Planning app. no. SE/04/2791/P)

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© September 2006

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This project was commissioned by Godfrey \& Hicks Builders on behalf of the developer, Nuffield Hospitals and was monitored by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The excavation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (David Gill, James Haygreen, Jonathan Van Jennians and James Rolfe) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed David Gill, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin? Finds processing and the producing of site plans and sections was carried out Anna West, and the specialist finds and environmental reports by Richenda Goffin, and Julie Curl Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Colin Pendleton.

## Summary

An archaeological evaluation of land at Nuffields Hospital, St Mary's Square, Bury St Edmunds Haverhill, identified a dense spread of archaeological features from a medieval phase of activity that has previously been identified in the broader vicinity. A clay lined oven or grain dryer, together with possible storage or rubbish pits, is further evidence that the area south of St Mary's Square was in use for semi-industrial/agricultural purposes such as food production or brewing, before later becoming domestic gardens in the post-medieval period.

No evidence of the earlier Saxon settlement, believed to have been situated around St Mary's Square, was seen except for a minimal number of residual finds mixed in the later features Thisce suggests that evidence of Saxon occupation may be tightly concentrated around the frontage of St Mary's Square or Southgate Street.

## SMR information

Plânning application no.
SE/04/2791/P


Date of fieldwork: $\quad 17^{\text {th }}-21^{\text {st }}$ January 2005
Grid Reference:
TL 85736371
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## 1. Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out in advance of construction of a new store at the Nuffields Hospital, St Mary's Square, Bury St Edmunds. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification, issued by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team, Appendix 1), to meet an archaeological condition on planning application SE/04/2791/P. The work was funded by the developer, Nuffield Hospitals.

The site was of interest due to its position in the town, lying within the Area of Archaeological Simportance as defined in the Draft Local Plan at TL 85736371. Situated at the north-west corner of the modern hospital it lay, at a height of c. 42 m OD, on the edge of a natural escarpment, which overlooks the valleys of the Rivers Linnet and Lark to the south. The hospital occupies a block of land bounded by Maynewater Lane and Southgate Street, whose courses appear to follow the natural topography, and St Mary's Square, which lies immediately to the north.

The Anglo-Saxon town of Bedericsworth is thought to have been located along the western edge of the River Lark, an area subsequently covered by the abbey precinct, and southwards around St Mary's Square and Southgate Street. Evidence for this can be seen in the disorganised street pattern around St Mary's Square, in comparison to the medieval grid system to the north, and the former name of the square as the 'old market' in the post-conquest period (Carr 1975). The site therefore lies in close proximity to, or within, the Anglo-Saxon settlement.


Figure 1. Site location plan
Previous excavation at the hospital however, BSE 127 (Anderson 1996) 100m to the south-east (Fig. 2), has only identified limited evidence of activity in the early and middle Anglo-Saxon
periods. This suggests that occupation at this time did not extend this far south and may have been concentrated closer to St Mary's square. Evidence was uncovered though of agricultural or industrial activity in the $12^{\text {th }}-13^{\text {th }}$ centuries, with structures and a grain dryer. Other nearby sites (Fig. 2 and Appendix 4) have found medieval features or material, e.g. BSE 043, sometimes with residual Anglo-Saxon material, BSE 117.

The site, in its close position to St Mary's square, therefore had high potential to locate archaeological deposits from the Anglo-Saxon period. Because relatively little is known of the Anglo-Saxon settlement, and opportunities for archaeological fieldwork in theovicinity are rare, a program of archaeological monitoring of the excavation of footing trenches wass initially specified by R.D.Carr as a suitable mitigation strategy to record disturbed depposits.

There was also potential for further medieval settlement or industrial evidence, as seen at BSE 127, and so, when the monitoring immediately identified a substantial archaeological feature, the corn dryer/oven 0002, in the first trench, a new strategy, consisting of the total excavation of the building footprint, was required.


Figure 2. Nearby sites on the Suffolk SMR

## 2. Methodology

The archaeological works were initially to consist of monitoring of footing trenches for the development. The first trench however located a substantial medieval corn dryer/oven in the northern corner of the plot and so the archaeological mitigation strategy was changed to full excavation.

In total, an area of 40 sqm was stripped by a mechanical excavator with a ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist, however an area of 14 sqm , on the south-west side of the site, could not be fully machined due to the presence of a gas main (Fig. 3). As a result 26sqm were stripped to the top of the archaeological levels and
unstratified finds were recorded as 0001 . This revealed a buried soil horizon/occupation layer, 0033 , which was removed by machine. Sealed beneath this layer archaeological features could be seen cutting the natural subsoil, which lay at a depth of $\mathrm{c} .0 .4 \mathrm{~m}-0.5 \mathrm{~m}$. The subsoil consisted of mixed gravels.

The surface was then cleaned and features excavated by hand, generally $50 \%$ of pits and postholes and sections of ditches to define stratigraphic relationships. The site was planned, and sections drawn, by hand at a scale of $1: 20 . \mathrm{A}$ single context continuous numbering system was used. Digital photographs were taken of all stages of the excavation and are included in the digital archive. Spot levels were taken with a dumpy level and recorded on the site plan.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County Sites and Monuments code SBSE235 and inked copies of section drawings and plans have been made. Bulk findswere washed, marked and quantified, and the resultant data was also entered onto a database.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-6220).
The site archive is kept in the small and main stores of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under site code BSE 235.

## 3. Results

(Figs. 3-4)

### 3.1. Introduction

The initial removal of modern deposits, being some 0.2 medeep, exposed a buried soil horizon, 0033. This was a homogenous brown loam, containing patches of burnt clay and two sherds of medieval pottery and oyster shell. This layer sealed the underlying archaeological deposits and was totally removed, being up to 0.3 m thick. This exposed the top of a range of features cut into the subsoil.

### 3.2. Pre-medieval

Several sherds of Early to Late Saxon pottery were recovered from pits 0012, 0029, and 0035, and ditch 0020 . This suggests that there was some activity in the vicinity during this period but, as the material generally consisted of residual sherds in later features, this activity is of an undefined nature.

### 3.3. Phase I: Medieval

The bulk of the features and material found on the site belong to a medieval phase and have been dated primarily viamaterial finds evidence. Occasional stratigraphic relationships have enabled a partial chronologicalsequence of features within this phase.

0002, a possible oven or grain dryer, appeared to be one of the oldest features on the site. Approximately $50 \%$ of the feature was visible, the remainder extended beyond the thorthern corner of the site. It consisted of a large pit, measuring 1.6 m wide and 0.3 m deep, with steep 5 regular sides and a flat base. The sides, but not the base, of the pit were lined with a thick deposit of pale yellow clay, 0003 , which contained two sherds of early medieval pottery. This clay lining was conical in shape, tapering towards the base, and only showed slight evidence of burning or heat upon its inner face.

The pit then contained a series of fills; the basal fill, 0024 was a light pale brown clay with traces of burnt chalk and charcoal. Above this was 0017 , a mid brown silty loam with occasional flints and 0016, a yellow clay with some pea grit, chalk flecks, and burnt clay. This latter deposit,
similar to the pits lining, appeared to be part of a collapsed clay structure. Above 0016 was the final fill, 0004, a mid-dark grey/brown clay/loam which was cut by ditch 0006 .


Figure 3. Site plan
Adjacent to this possible oven was 0039 , an oval or rectilinear pit that was also cut by ditch 0006 and therefore may be broadly contemporary. Its northern and eastern edges were unclear on the
surface, as it was also cut by ditch 0018 , but in section 0052 it was 0.7 m deep with moderate sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, 0040, a mid-dark brown clay loam, contained nine sherds of medieval pottery.

0006 was a north-west to south-east aligned ditch, measuring 0.8 m wide and 0.5 m deep, with c ${ }^{8}$ steep straight sides and a flat base. It cut through the upper fill, 0004 , of feature 0002 and pit 0039 . Seen in the section of 0002 and section 0050 , its basal fill, was a 0.15 m thick mid-dark grey/brown clay loam, 0007 . Above this was 0005 , a 0.35 m thick deposit of mid red brown, friable, clay/loam.

To the south-east 0006 also cut pit 0039 in section 0052 , where its fill was numbered as 0041 and contained six sherds of medieval pottery. It then terminated under ditch 0018 in section 0020 where its fill was numbered as 0023 and contained a further five sherds of medieval pottery.

0021 was another terminating ditch cut by 0018 in section 0051 . This shallow, curving, feature was aligned south-east to north-west before turning westwards. To the west it disappeared under modern disturbance. Its fill, 0022 , in section 0051 was a brown silt.

0018 appeared to be relatively late as it cut these earlier features in the northern part of the site. Aligned E-W it terminated in section 0031 on the eastern side of the site. Its fill in this section, 0032, was a mid brown silt/loam. In section 0020 it cut ditch 0006 and pit 0039. Its fill, 0019, was a dense, fine, dark grey compacted silt which contained two residual Late Saxon pottery sherds. Post-medieval material was pressed into the surface of the feature but was not collected as it consisted of items such as brick and glass iv

The south-west part of the site contained a series of four intercutting pits. The earliest, 0008, was cut by pits 0010 and pit 0035 . Circulár and Shallow, it had a round bowl like profile and measured 0.9 m wide and 0.25 m deep. Its fill, 0009 , was a pale mid brown sandy loam from which six sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. Five sherds of medieval pottery, from the part of this fill where it was excavated from next to pit 0035, may have been mixed with fill 0037 and so were issued a separate context, 0038 . Two sections were recorded, 0053 and 0054 , the former showing the relationship with 0010.

0010 was a deep, vertical sided pit or posthole that cut 0008 . Only partially visible it measured $0.7 \mathrm{~m}+$ wide and $0.6 \mathrm{~m}+$ deep. Its fill, 0011 , a dark grey/brown, soft, friable, silty sand, contained two sherds of medieval pottery. Its relationship with pits 0035 and 0045 was unclear.

0035 was a large, probably square pit, measuring 1.6 m wide and $0.9 \mathrm{~m}+$ deep, which cut pit 0008 and may have cut pit 0010. It was only partially excavated, with its top fill, 0036, a mid brown soft, friable, silty sañ, being sampled. Fifty-five sherds of medieval pottery, together with CBM, fired clay, oystershell and animal bone were recovered from this context but, after excavation of section 0055 , it was realised that the pit was cut on its south-west side by feature 0045 and as a result the finds from the two features were mixed. Another context, 0037 , was given to the upper fill in the section excavated to establish its relationships with pit 0008 and a further seventeen 5 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered.

Lying under fills $0036 / 0037$ was fill 0046 . A small sondage was excavated partially through this dark grey, fine, silty sand, which contained two sherds of medieval pottery, but the base of the feature was not exposed.

The final pit in this sequence was 0045, a large, square, straight sided pit, west of and cutting 0035. Identified in section 0055 as a separate feature from 0035 it extended beyond the south-
east site edge. Its fill, 0049, consisted of a series of dark grey/brown sands, the finds from which were probably mixed with those from 0036.

On the south-east edge of the site, there were two large intercutting pits. 0012 lay adjacent to and was partially cut by 0014 . Sub-circular in plan, it had regular, moderate sloping sides and measured 1.2 m wide and 0.55 m deep. Its lower fill, 0042 , was a 0.4 m thick deposit of mid brown, friable, sandy loam with patches of pale yellow sand patches. Above this was 0013, a dark-mid brown, soft, friable, silty loam which contained eight sherds of medieval pottery. This upperfifl, when initially excavated, was not separated from the upper fill of pit 0014 and so is also numbered as 0034.

0014 was a rectilinear pit with steep, regular sides and a flat base measuring 1 m wide, $1.3 \mathrm{~m}+$ long and 0.6 m deep. Its basal fill, 0043 , had slumped in from the south-west edge and was a 0.3 m thick deposit of mid red clay, possibly thought to be redeposited natural. Above this, slumping in from the north-eastern edge was 0044 , a 0.2 m thick deposit of mid grey, loose, friable, sandy loam. Overlying these two fills was 0015 , a mid brown clay/loam, which contained seven sherds of medieval pottery, fragments of CBM, oyster shell and animal bone. When initially excavated this fill was not separated from fill 0013 in pit 0012 and was numbered as 0034 .

0047 was a small circular posthole, probably just cut by the eastern corner of pit 0035 and merging with pit 0014 . Similar to 0025 and 0027 it measured 0.4 m wide and 0.2 m deep with a fill, 0048 , of pale silty sand.

The remaining three features on the site were located near the eastern corner and had no relationships with other features. Of these only 0029 contained any finds material but it seem likely that 0025 and 0027 are also medieval features.

0025 was a circular posthole, being one of a pair with 0027 . Measuring 0.45 m wide and 0.3 m deep its sloping base suggested a possible timber may have been placed on the eastern edge. Its fill, 0026 , was a pale brown silty sand.

0027 , adjacent to 0025 , was of similar dimensions, with a fill, 0028 , of pale brown silty sand.
0029 was a large pit, partially visible in the eastern corner of the site. Sub-rectangular in plan, with a flat base, it measured 1.4 m long and 0.4 m deep. Its fill, 0030 , was a loose dark grey silt with occasional large flints from which seven sherds of medieval pottery and fragments of lava quern were recovered.


Figure 4. Sections

## 4. Finds and environmental evidence

by Richenda Goffin, with contributions by Colin Pendleton, and Julie Curl

### 4.1. Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected during the excavation. A full quantification by context is included as Appendix 3.1.

| Find type | No. | Wt/g |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Pottery | 135 | 1699 |
| CBM | 22 | 1007 |
| Fired clay | 4 | 2 |
| Lava quern | 4 | 42 |
| Worked flint | 2 | 10 |
| Slag | 1 | 54 |
| Animal bone | 119 | 1258 |
| Shell | 36 | 420 |
| Stone | 1 | 11 |

Table 1: Finds quantities.

### 4.2. Pottery

### 4.2.1 Introduction

A total of 135 sherds of pottery weighing 1.699 kg was recovered from the excavation. The assemblage contains pottery dating from the Middle Saxon to the medieval period, with most pottery dating to the 12 th -14 th centuries.

Table 2 shows the quantities of pottery by period. A quantified catalogue by context is presented in Appendix 3.2.

| Ceramic Period | No. | \%No | Wt/g | \%Wt |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Early-Middle Saxon | 1 | 0.74 | 9 | 0.52 |
| Middle Saxon | 4 | 2.9 | 86 | 5.06 |
| Late Saxon | 6 | 4.44 | 130 | 7.65 |
| Medieval | 124 | 91.85 | 1474 | 86.8 |
| TOTAL | $\mathbf{1 3 5}$ |  | $\mathbf{1 6 9 9}$ |  |

Table 2. Pottery quantification by period.

### 4.2.2. Hand-made? Saxon ware

A single thick-walled hand-made sherd was present as a residual element in upper pitfill 0037. The fabric is fine and contains very fine inclusions, probably mica. The pottery is difficult to date, but is likely to be Early to Middle Saxon.

### 4.2.3. Middle Saxon ware

Two fragments of Ipswich ware and two other probable fragments were recovered from the site overall.An encrusted jar rim of the Sandy variant (West Type 1D), was present in pitfill 0013, with two body sherds, accompanied by pottery of a later date. A further possible sherd of Ipswich ware was found in the single pitfill 0030, also with later pottery.

### 4.2.4. Late Saxon ware

A small quantity of mostly residual Thetford-type ware, and Grimston Thetford-type ware was recovered from the excavation. The Thetford-type ware includes a sherd with diamond rouletting and one with an applied strip, which were both present in pitfill 0036. A large abraded fragment
of a probable Grimston Thetford-type ware storage vessel was identified in pitfill 0037. A wheelthrown greyware with a laminated internal surface present in the fill 0019 of ditch 0020 is probably Thetford-type ware, although it is similar in appearance to a Bury medieval coarseware. A second abraded greyware in the same fill may be a fine Thetford ware variant, but cannot be identified with certainty.

### 4.2.5 Medieval wares

The majority of the pottery recovered from the site dates to the medieval period, in particular the 12th-14th centuries.

Few early medieval wares were present. A fragment of early medieval ware and a sherd of shelldusted ware similar to Bury Medieval Shelly ware were recovered from the ovenfill 0003, dating to the L11th-13th century.

The medieval coarsewares from the site include a range of fabrics which have been previously identified in the town, many of which are Bury medieval coarseware variants. Bury Medieval Coarseware, Bury Sandy ware, and Bury Sandy Fine Wares were identified, which all date to the late 12th-14th century. In addition, a variety of mainly sandy, wheelthrown wares were given the general attribution of 'medieval coarsewares' rather than being assigned to a particular production centre. Two fragments of Local medieval unglazed ware of Norfolk-type were present, and were recorded separately, but some sandy unglazed wares which may be Grimston coarseware were included in the general medieval coarseware category. Eight coarseware jar rims were recovered from the site overall, and two possible bowl fragments. Rim types varied, with one squared, developed jar present in pitfill 0013 and two examples which have flat-topped beaded rims probably dating to the 12th-1 3th century.

A small number of medieval glazed wares were present. (19 fragments, @ $0.167 \mathrm{~kg}, 9.8 \%$ by weight of the total assemblage). The largest group is made up of Grimston-type ware, which includes a jug sherd with applied decoration of 13th-14th century date. Five fragments from a single Hedingham glazed ware jug in ditchfill 0023 have a Rouen-style decoration dating to the 13th century. Two unprovenanced glazed wares were also present, with a single fragment of possible 'Bury glazed ware'.

No post-medieval wares were identified.

### 4.2.6. Discussion

The small quantity of residual Middle Saxon and Late Saxon ware suggests that the site may be on the periphery of the area of Saxon occupation. Some pottery dating to the Late 11th-13thil century was recovered from the lining of the oven feature, but most of the pitfills and other features from elsewhere on the site date to the L12th-14th century.

### 4.3. Ceramic Building Material

guA total of 22 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 1.007 kg wascollected from the site. A full quantification is included as Appendix 3.3.

The assemblage consists of roof tile fragments, which are mainly medieval in date (13th-15th century). The tiles are made from several fabrics, most of which contain estuarine clays or sand with calcareous inclusions. Many tiles have patches of lead glaze, and some have evidence of mortar still adhering. The largest quantity was recovered from the top fill 0037 of pit 0036 . Two tile fragments from this fill are slightly later in date. They are made from a medium sandy red fabric containing occasional coarse ferrous inclusions and coarse rounded quartz fragments and
mica, a fabric type dating to the late medieval and post-medieval period (Anderson Fabric Group $3)$.

Further medieval roof tille fragments were found in pitfill 0040 and ditchfill 0041.

### 4.4. Fired clay

4 fragments of fired clay were recovered from 0036, the upper fill of pit 0035. All fragments had the same fabric, a hard fine matrix with moderate inclusions of chalk with some flint and iron oxiden There were no structural impressions or other features to indicate the function of this material, which is likely to be medieval in date.

### 4.5. Querns

4 very small abraded fragments of coarse Rhenish lavastone with large mineral inclusions were recovered from the single fill 0030 of pit 0029 . Two pieces show some evidence of the original dressed surface, but there are no other diagnostic features.

### 4.6. Iron slag

A single fragment of slag was recovered from ditchfill 0023. It is light and glassy in composition but has not been fully identified.

### 4.7. Flint <br> by Colin Pendleton

Two fragments of worked flint were collected from the excavation. One snapped blade or long flake from the upper fill of pit 0014 has slight edge retouch or use wear on one edge. It is unpatinated and is likely to date to the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. A second blade in deposit 0033 is of a similar date. It is an unpatinated blade with simple edge retouch or use wear down one edge, and has parallel flake scars on the dorsal face.

### 4.8. Small finds

A whetstone recovered from pitfill 0036 was the only small find (SF No 1000). It is a small rectilinear fragment of fine-grained schist, which is perforated at one corner for suspension.

### 4.9. Biological evidence

### 4.9.1. Animal bone

by Julie Curl

## Summary

A total of 1.258 kg of bone, consisting of one hundred and nineteen pieces, was recovered from the excavation.

## Methodology

All of the bone was scanned for basic information primarily to determine species, ages and elements present following recording guidelines supplied by English Heritage (Davis 1992). Bones were also examined for butchering or other modifications, gnawing and pathologies. Ages of animals were estimated from the wear on the teeth and from fusion of the bones. Bones were quantified; total counts were noted for each context and the total for each species in the individual contexts was also recorded, along with the total weight for each context. No measurements were recorded for this assemblage as there are too few bones for any meaningful analysis. All information was recorded on the faunal remains recording sheets and a summary of the information was recorded as a catalogue (Appendix 3.4).

## Results and discussion

Faunal remains were produced from fourteen contexts. The majority of the remains were retrieved from pit fills ( $60 \%$ ), a further $34.5 \%$ was found in ditch fills, and the remaining $7.5 \%$ came from a layer and an oven fill. All of the bone is in good condition, although fragmentary due to butchering andewear. Canid gnawing was observed in 0013, a medieval pit fill which allso contained some Middle Saxon sherds; this gnawing is likely to be from butchering wastegiven to a domestic dog, but could be the result of scavenger activity.

Sheep/goat were the most frequently identified species in this assemblage, outnumbering cattle Sby almost 3:1. Most of the sheep/goat remains were from adult animals, with juveniles present in 0015 . The adult ages would suggest that the ovicaprines had been kept for wool production, breeding and possibly milk before being culled for meat, fat, hides and other by-products. Both primary and secondary elements of sheep/goat were noted, indicating that they were processed and consumed in the same area.

Elements of cattle were recorded, all from adult animals and with both primary and secondary waste present. The remains of cattle included a horncore of the short-horn variety, which may have been intended for hornworking. The sparse remains of pigs were noted from two medieval pit fills, these adult and juvenile remains had been butchered. Two medieval pit fills and an undated ditch fill produced bones from a larger goose (?domestic or Greylag-sized). All of the goose remains were butchered, including a knife cut on a wing bone; geese were commonly kept in the medieval period for a supply of feathers, eggs and meat.

Three cat bones were found in pitfill 0040 which contained fragments of medieval pottery. Two amphibian bones, identified as Rana tempoparia(Common Frog), were recovered from another medieval pitfill 0015. The frog could have come from nearby dykes or wet areas, as it is a creature which will burrow to hibernate but can live some distance from water.

The assemblage from the Nuffield Hospital site is very similar in composition to other faunal assemblages from Bury St Edmunds, such as those at The Angel Hotel (Curl 2005) and High Baxter Street (Curl 2003), with sheep/goat as the most frequent species.

## Conclusions

This assemblage is largely derived from both primary and secondary butchering waste from the main domestic mammals and birds. The assemblage suggests that the animals, particularly in the medieval period, were being processed and consumed at the same site. The cat would have either been a domestic pet or a means of rodent control. The frog would have been a natural resident in the damper parts of the town.

### 4.9.2. Shell

A total of 36 shells weighing 0.420 kg was collected from the excavation. All were fragments of oyster shell, many of which were recovered from the fills of pits.

### 4.10. Discussion of the finds evidence

The finds recovered from the excavation provide evidence to confirm the patterns of land-use which have been recorded on sites nearby, most notably the site of BSE127 (Anderson 1996). Only limited evidence of Early to Middle Saxon date was recovered on this previous hospital site, with most of the archaeological activity dating to the 12th-13th centuries. Although small quantities of pottery of Early Saxon and Middle Saxon date were identified from BSE 235, they were all residual. Two sherds of possible Thetford ware were present in 0019 , but otherwise the

Late Saxon wares were also residual. The main period of activity is represented by a number of pits containing quantities of medieval coarseware with some glazed wares, features which may be on the periphery of a more densely occupied area. Finds of a similar date were present in ditch fill 0041 . Few artefacts were associated with feature 0002 , the corn dryer or oven, but the pottery from fill 0003 dates to the late 11 th-13th century, which is not dissimilar to the dating evidence $c^{8}$ of L12th-E13th century associated with the large oven-type feature 0017 found on site BSE 127 (Anderson 1996), Documentary evidence suggests that at this time Southgate Ward was flourishing, and that it was not only residential but also semi-industrial and agricultural in character (Anderson 1996).

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Pre-medieval

St Mary's Square, which lies only 70 m to the north-east, is thought to have been a partof the ${ }^{C}$ Anglo-Saxon settlement but, despite this close proximity, little evidence of activity in the period was identified on the site. Pre-medieval material consisted of a small number of Early-Late Saxon pottery sherds believed to be residual deposits in later medieval features.

Previous archaeological fieldwork within the block of land bounded by Maynewater Lane, Southgate Street and St Mary's Square has had mixed results regarding a phase of Saxon occupation. Possible evidence of Early Saxon burials, together with a Middle Saxon ditch and associated pits or postholes have been identified at BSE 127 (Anderson 1996) but the majority of the archaeological deposits were of medieval date. Similarly at BSE 043, a site lying to the rear of buildings fronting onto Southgate Street, Late Saxon features have been identified.

However evaluation and monitoring at BSE 117 (Caruth 1997), another site lying to the rear of the Southgate Street frontage some 70 m to the east, only identified residual Middle-Late Saxon material. Scattered boreholes and trenching, BSE 044, through the general area between BSE 117 and BSE 235 also did not locate any evidence pre-dating the medieval period.

In this context it is unsurprising that some Saxon material has been recovered but these pottery sherds only indicate a low level of activity in the general vicinity during this time. The various sherds are probably residual material that was redeposited on the site during activity in the medieval period.

The relative lack of Saxon archaeologicabdeposits, compared to what might be expected if this area lay within the main area of occupation, perhaps indicates that the main focus of Saxon activity may be limited to the immediate frontages of St Marys Square or Southgate Street, as at BSE 043. Land behind this frontage probably remained largely undeveloped although the ditch and pits at BSE 127 indicate some subdivision.

### 5.2. Phase I: Medieval

All of the features, and the bulk of the finds material, appear to date to the medieval period, indicating a strong increase in activity on the site from the $12^{\text {th }}-14^{\text {th }}$ centuries.

The principal feature of interest on the site was the oven, 0002 , although its position in the north corner of the site meant it could only be partially seen. Another example, of very similar construction, believed to date to the late $12^{\text {th }} /$ early $13^{\text {th }}$ centuries has previously been seen in its entirety atBSE 127 (Anderson 1996). This was constructed in the same manner as 0002 , consisting of a large circular pit with yellow clay lined walls and an unlined base. Full exĉavation also showed it to have an attached sub-rectangular flue or stoke pit.

The date of 0002, which stratigraphically was one of the earliest features on the site, appears to be broadly contemporary with this other example, with pottery of $11^{\text {th }}-13^{\text {th }}$ century date being recovered from the lining. Both ovens had only limited evidence of burning and the interpreted function of the BSE 127 oven as a grain drier seems likely to apply to 0002 as well.

A third oven, although undated and of slightly different construction, was found at BSE 117. This example is also thought to have functioned as a hearth or drying oven as opposed to a kiln (Caruth 1997) and together these three features indicate that the block of land behind the
buildings frontage of St Mary's Square and Southgate Street was in general use for semiindustrial/agricultural purposes such as food production or brewing.

Other features on the site are of a less clear function. The various pits seen on the site may wellel have been contemporary -with oven 0002 and been of a related use. As previously seen at BSE 117 and BSE 127 the various larger pits, such as 0012,0014 or 0035 , may have originally been used for grain storage before later being used as rubbish pits. The material finds evidence though was relatively limited, with only pits 0014 and 0035 containing any real amount of occupation wastesuchas pottery, animal bone, CBM or charcoal. Unlike at BSE 117 the nearby pits did not appear to contain any readily apparent waste such as burnt clay or charcoal from the oven 0002.

Of the three ditches on site, 0006 and 0018 were excavated sometime after the oven had fallen into disuse and been completely backfilled. Their function is unclear but may show a division of land in what may have formerly been a single area for grain processing. Ditch 0021, although earlier than 0018 is broadly undated. Appearing to curve slightly it may be respecting the position of pits 0008 or 0035 .

There is no firm structural evidence on the site although features 0027,0029 and possibly 0047 , may be related structural postholes. The fragments of generally medieval rooftile could indicate the presence of buildings in the vicinity but, as it mainly appeared mixed with other medieval finds in the upper fills of the various pits, are more likely to be part of the general rubbish deposits.

The soil horizon, 0033, which sealed all of these features, probably later represents a later medieval topsoil that formed after the end of the earlier medieval phase of activity. The site then generally appears to have remained as gardens through the post-medieval period, lying within the grounds of St Mary's Square House.

## 6. Conclusions

The excavation, while only being a small-scale area of fieldwork, located a dense spread of archaeological features from a medieval phase of activity that has previously been identified in the broader vicinity. The oven or grain dryer is further evidence that this area south of St Mary's Square was in use for semi-industrial/agricultural purpose before later becoming domestic gardens in the post-medieval period.

No evidence of the earlier Saxon settlement, believed to have been situated around St Mary's Square, was seen except for a minimal number of residual finds mixed in the later features. This indicates that the Saxon activity probably lay nearby and it is suggested that this early occupation may be tightly concentrated around the frontage of St Mary's Square or Southgate Street.

## J.A.Craven

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FieldTeam, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service


September 2006

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## Appendix 1

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM 

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development
NUFFIELD HOSPITAL, BURY ST EDMUNDS
Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs $2.3 \& 4.3$. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health \& Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

## 1. Background

1.1 Planning permission to develop on this site has-been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application no SE/04/2791/P). Assessment of the (available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
1.2 The development area is within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined in the Draft Local Plan. There is high potential for an archaeological deposit to exist.

The proposal for an extension $c .7 \mathrm{~m} \times 5 \mathrm{~m}$ involves three new walls on strip footings, and a slab floor.
1.3 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 Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/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 Archaeologicat Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commeńce until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
1.4 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
1.5 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

## 2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site.
2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building footing.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed whilst they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

## 3. Arrangements for Monitoring

3.1 To carry out the monitering work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of cthe contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Teamof SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

## 4. Specification

4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archáeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering Operations which disturb the ground.
4.2 Opportunity must be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and a half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context.
4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

## 5. Report Requirements

5.1 An archive of all recordscand finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), particularly Appendix 3.This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
5.3 A) report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distingtished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers 3 \& 8, 1997 and 2000).
5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, must be prepared and included in the project report.
5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: R D Carr
Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 12 January 2005
Reference: BSE-Nuffield01

This brief and specification remains valid for $\mathbf{1 2}$ 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,

## Appendix 2: BSE 235 context list

| context | feature | ditch seg | identifier | description | cuts | cutby over |  | under | spot | phase | period |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0001 |  |  | Finds | Unstratified finds |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0002 | 0002 |  | Oven cut | Circular in plan, although only half of the feature is visible. Sides slope $75^{\prime}-80^{\prime}$ straight and regular with a flat base. The sides are lined with clay (0003), but the base is not lined. Filled with 0003, $0004,0016,0017,0024.1 .6 \mathrm{~m}$ wide and 1.3 m deep. |  |  |  | 0003 |  | I |  |
| 0003 | 0002 |  | Oven fill | Pale yellow compact-plastic clay, $2 \%$ chalk flecks. Lining of oven 0002. |  |  | 0004 |  | Med | I | L11th- <br> 13th C? |
| 0004 | 0002 |  | Oven fill | Upper fill of 0002. Mid-dark grey brown friable clay loam, $1 \%$ small gravel. |  | 0006 | 0016 |  |  | I |  |
| 0005 | 0006 |  | Ditch fill | Upper fill of 0006 in section where it cuts 0002 . Mid red brown friable clay loam, $2 \%$ pea grit, $5 \%$ orange sandy patches, $1 \%$ gravel $0.02-0.05 \mathrm{~m}$ dia angular. 0.3 m thick, |  |  | 0007 | Topsoil |  | I |  |
| 0006 | 0006 |  | Ditch cut | Ditch running NW/SE. Sides slope 85 ' straight and regular with a flat base. 0.8 m wide and 0.5 m deep. Cuts across top fill of oven 0002. | 0004 | 0018 |  | 0007 |  | I |  |
| 0007 | 0006 |  | Ditch fill | Lower fill of 0006 seen in 1 m section where it cuts 0002 . Mid dark grey brown clay loam. Less $1 \%$ pea grit. 0.35 m thick. |  |  | 0006 | 0005 |  | 1 |  |
| 0008 | 0008 |  | Pit cut | Circular shallow pit, round bowl like profile. Cut by deep pit 0010 and pit 0035.0 .9 m wide and 0.25 m deep. Relationship with 0010 shown in section 0053 . See also section 0054. |  |  |  | 0009 |  | I |  |
| 0009 | 0008 |  | Pit fill | Fill of pit 0008. Pale mid brown sandy loam. Also numbered as 0038. |  | $\begin{aligned} & 0010 \\ & 0035 \end{aligned}$ | 0008 |  | Med | I | $\begin{aligned} & \text { L12th- } \\ & \text { 14th C } \end{aligned}$ |
| 0010 | 0010 |  | Pit cut | Deep vertical sided pit/ posthole, west of and cuts 0008. ?1/4 section on edge of site. Cut by 0035 \& 0045 ? Relationship with 0008 shown in section 0053. | 0009 |  |  | 0011 |  | I |  |
| 0011 | 0010 |  | Pit fill | Fill of pit 0010 . Dark grey brown soft friable silty sand. |  |  | 0010 |  | Med | I | $\begin{aligned} & \text { L12th- } \\ & \text { 14th C } \end{aligned}$ |
| 0012 | 0012 |  | Pit cut | Large pit on south edge of site. Adjacent to and east of 0014 cappeaŕs to be cut by 0014 . Sub-circular in plan, sides slope $45^{\prime}-50^{\prime}$ straight and regular. 1.2 m wide and 0.55 m deep. |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 0042 \\ & 5 e^{1} \end{aligned}$ |  | I |  |




Appendix 3:1 Bulk finds

| OP No | Pottery No | Pottery W | CBM No | CBM W | Fired clay No | Fired clay W | Oyster | yster | l bone No Animal bone Wt Misc |  |  | Spotdate <br> Medieval |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0003 | 2 | 0.018 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 0.066 |  |  |
| 0005 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 0.025 | 4 | 0.154 |  |  |
| 0009 | 6 | 0.031 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Medieval |
| 0011 | 2 | 0.012 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 0.020 |  | Medieval |
| 0013 | 8 | 0.135 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 17 | 0.088 |  | Medieval |
| 0015 | 7 | 0.094 | 5 | 0.183 |  |  |  | 0.125 | 48 | 0.311 | Flint 1@0.005 | Medieval |
| 0019 | 2 | 0.040 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Medieval |
| 0022 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 0.192 |  |  |
| 0023 | 5 | 0.041 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Slag 1@0.054 | Medieval |
| 0030 | 7 | 0.118 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 6 | 0.068 | Lava Quern 4 | Medieval |
| 0032 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 | 0.072 |  |  |
| 0033 | 2 | 0.037 |  |  |  |  | 12 | 0.196 | 1 | 0.022 | Flint 1@0.005 | Medieval |
| 0034 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 0.021 | 11 | 0.111 |  |  |
| 0036 | 55 | 0.633 | 10 | 0.254 | 4 | 0.019 | 9 | 0.053 | 14 | 0.141 |  | Medieval |
| 0037 | 17 | 0.207 | 3 | 0.162 |  |  |  |  | 3 | 0.034 |  | Medieval |
| 0038 | 5 | 0.064 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Medieval |
| 0040 | 9 | 0.145 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 3 | 0.00 |  | Medieval |
| 0041 | 6 | 0.072 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | Medieval |
| 0046 | 2 | 0.052 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Medieval |




Appendix 3.3 Ceramic Building Material

Appendix 3.4: Animal bone

| Context | Type | Total Qty | Wt (g) | Species | Age | Butchering | Comments |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0003 | oven fill | 1 | 70 | cattle | adult | chopped | pelvis |  |
| 0005 | ditch | 4 | 159 | cattle | adult | chopped | short horncore |  |
| 0005 | ditch |  |  | sheep/goat | adult | chopped | mandible with |  |
| 0005 | ditch |  |  | goose | adult | chopped | coracoid |  |
| 0011 | pit | 2 | 22 | sheep/goat | adult | chopped | metatarsal |  |
| 0011 | pit |  |  | mammal |  | butchered |  |  |
| 0013 | pit |  |  | sheep/goat | adult | chopped | jaw, molars, m |  |
| 0013 | pit |  |  | mammal |  | utchére |  |  |
| 0015 | pit |  | 308 | cattle | adult | chopped | tibia, upper jaw |  |
| 0015 | pit |  |  | sheep/goat | range | cut/chopped | humerus, tibia |  |
| 0015 | pit |  |  | goose | adult | chopped | tibiotarsus |  |
| 0015 | pit |  |  | Frog - Common | adult |  | tibiofibula |  |
| 0015 | pit |  |  | mammal |  |  |  |  |
| 0022 | ditch | 1 | 190 | cattle | adult | chopped/cut | mandible with |  |
| 0030 | pit | 6 | 71 | cattle |  | chopped/cut | ribs |  |
| 0030 | pit |  |  | sheep/goat | adult | chopped/cut | pelvis, metaca |  |
| 0030 | pit |  |  | mammal |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 0032 \\ & 0032 \end{aligned}$ | ditch ditch | 2 | 74 | cattle <br> mammal | adult | chopped/cut | scapula |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Page 1 of 2 |



## Appendix 4: Nearby sites on the Suffolk SMR

| Site code | Pite name | Period |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | | Summary description |
| :--- |



