

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/157

**Land adjacent to 19 New Street, Sudbury
SUY 090**

HER Information

Planning Application No: B/08/01608/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 11th & 14th May 2009

Grid Reference: TL 87165 41540

Funding Body: Mr A. Buck, Mrs N. Buck and Mr. R. Buck

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Jez Meredith

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-63053

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land adjacent to 19 New Street, Sudbury. A thick deposit of topsoil of c.1m depth had been dumped behind retaining walls against the New Street and Croft Road frontages. This deposit contained abundant brick, tile, slate and coal fragments and is likely to be contemporary with the existing Victorian dwelling at 19 New Street. Below this dumped layer was a thinner spread of probable *in situ* topsoil but no archaeological features or significant deposits were recognised between this and the underlying sand and gravel natural deposits. Three sherds of medieval pottery were unstratified finds from the spoil and could either have been brought in with the dumped topsoil or might have originated from the site itself. (Jezz Meredith, S.C.C.A.S, for Mr A. Buck, Mrs N. Buck and Mr. R. Buck)

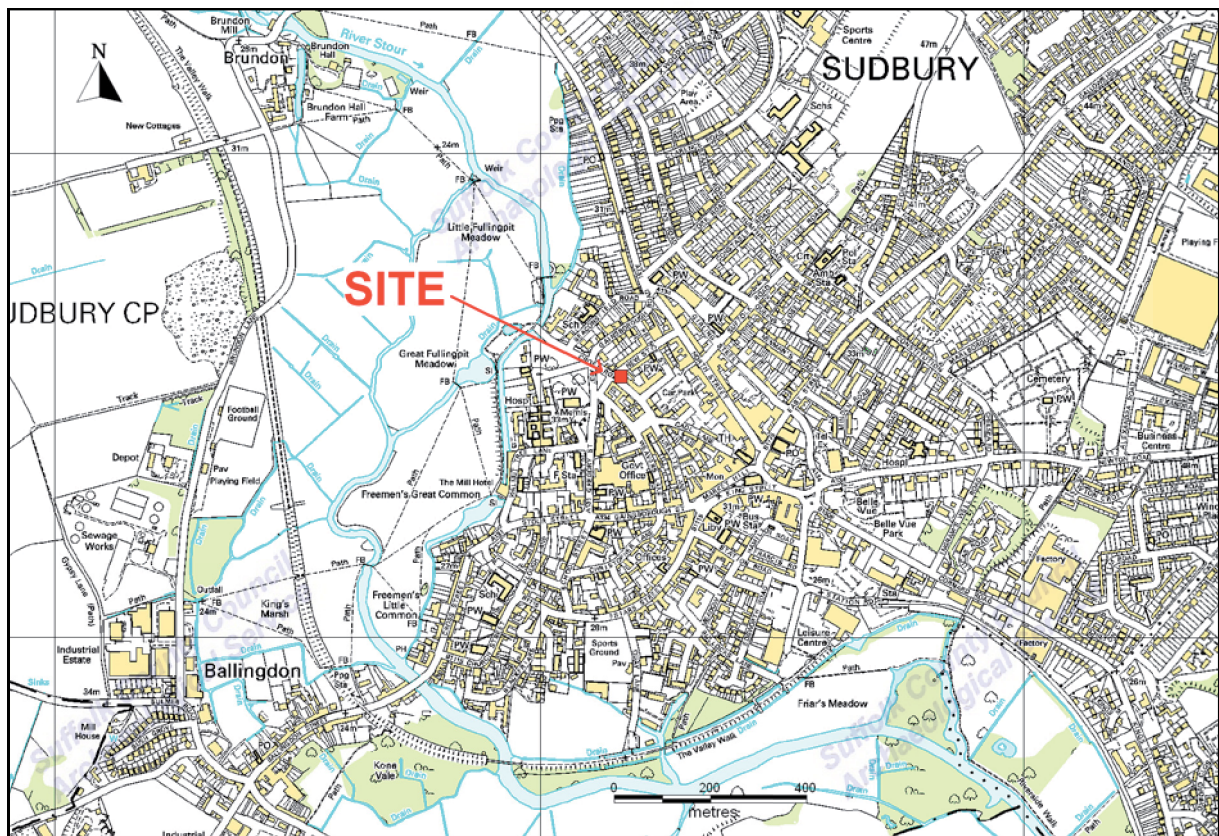


Figure 1. The site in relation to the town of Sudbury; note concentric road layout around centre of original town suggesting circular defences of possible Saxon or earlier date

1. Introduction and methodology

As a condition of planning consent, an archaeological monitoring of groundworks was undertaken for a new dwelling adjacent to 19 New Street, Sudbury (TL 87165 41540). This was in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade (Appendix 1), specifying the nature of the archaeological monitoring. This monitoring was commissioned by Nick Peasland Architectural Services and funded by Mr A. Buck, Mrs N. Buck and Mr. R. Buck.

The site is located off Croft Road, which is the likely boundary of the Saxon and medieval core of the town (SUY 040). The concentric rings of Croft Street / Burkitt's Lane and Weaver's Lane probably describe the arc of a defensive ditch (Fig. 1). Where this ditch has been investigated c.220m to the south-east (SUY 058, between Burkitt's Lane and Weavers Lane) the primary fill contained pottery of either Early Saxon or Iron Age date (Sommers 2003).

The site is 100m north-east of the medieval church of St Gregory's (SUY 032) of probable Saxon origin. A collection of seven late Roman coins were recovered c.60m to the east (SUY 049). Areas of nearby archaeological interest are shown in Figure 2.

Monitoring visits were made on the 11th and 14th of May 2009. During the visits footing trenches were examined for potential archaeological deposits, finds and features. Records were made of depths of deposit, with each separate deposit given individual context numbers (e.g. O.P. nos. – 'Observable Phenomena numbers', Table 1).

It was noted during the visits that walls of over 1m height bounded the site on the north-west and south-west sides. These were either to retain dumped soil or to allow the street levels to be lowered.

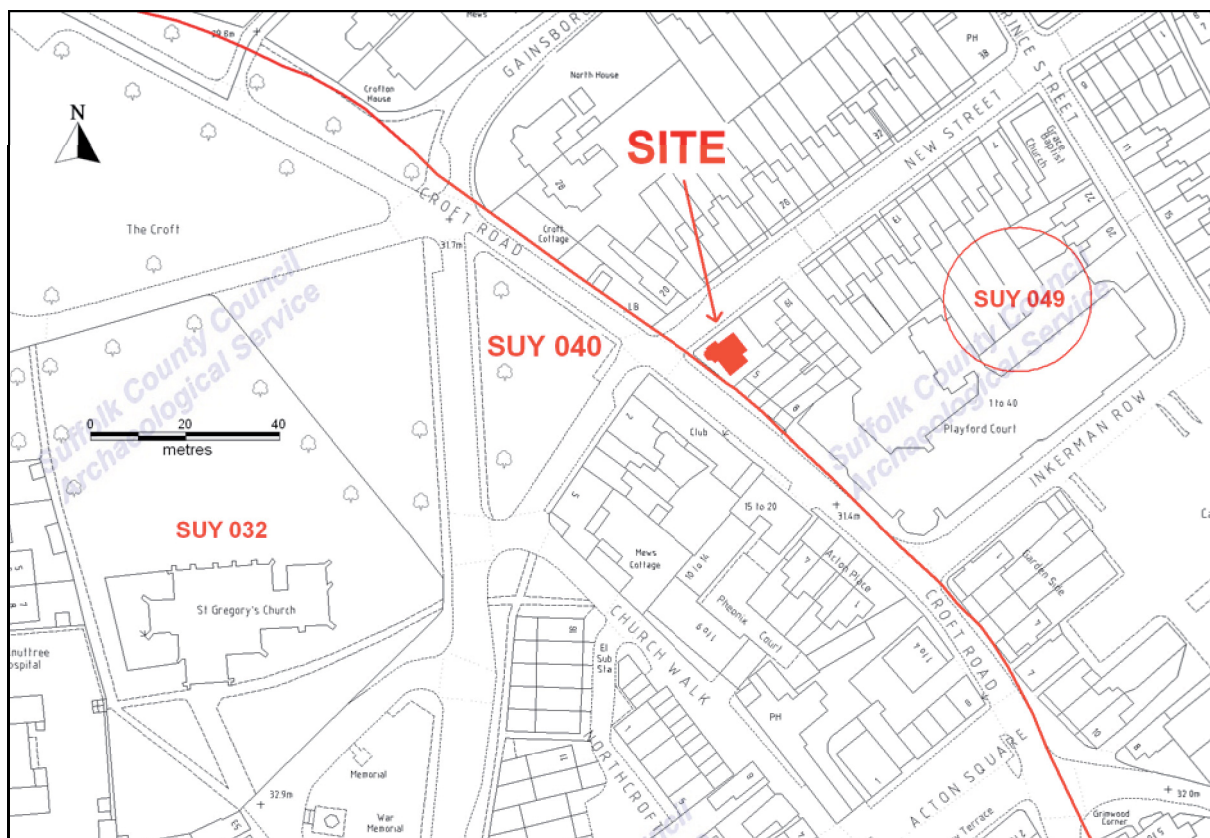


Figure 2. The site in relation to nearby archaeological sites

2. Results

Deep topsoil-like humic loams were encountered of over 1m depth in all of the footing trenches observed. The following context numbers were issued:

| O.P. No | Description |
|---------|--|
| 0001 | Unstratified finds, whole site. Three sherds were recovered from the spoil and were probably derived from 0002 or 0003 |
| 0002 | Homogenous dark brown humic topsoil with brick/tile (CBM), slate and coal fragments to a depth of c.1m |
| 0003 | Very similar to 0002 above but very slightly paler, less CBM and no slate or coal |

Table 1. Context list

Natural sands and gravels were encountered at 1.4m depth at the southern corner of the site and along the Croft Street frontage. Along the New Street frontage natural was at a depth of between 1.2m to 1.4m, but became slightly shallower at 1.1m depth towards the east of the site.

No significant archaeological features or deposits were recognised. The three sherds of medieval pottery were unstratified and could have been derived from either 0002 or 0003.

3. Finds by Richenda Goffin

Three fragments of medieval pottery were recovered (0.022kg). An abraded sherd of an early medieval sandy ware cooking pot or jar with incised wavy line decoration on both internal and external surfaces was identified, which may originally have had an incised decoration on the top of the rim. The vessel has a grey core and oxidised margins and is very similar to the sandy wares of 11th-12th century date found on excavations in Colchester and the surrounding area (Cotter 2000, 39). Two body sherds of medieval coarseware, one of which is sooted were also identified, dating to the L12th-14th C.

4. Conclusion

The retaining walls along the Croft Road and New Street frontages appear to hold back a thick deposit of dumped topsoil of up to 1m thickness (0002). This deposit contained material of predominantly post-medieval or modern origin (brick, tile, slate and coal). It is likely that this material had been dumped during the construction or subsequent landscaping of the existing dwelling at 19 New Street and is therefore probably Victorian.

The lower loam deposit of up to 400mm thickness (0003) did not appear to have the same quantities of recent debris. It is likely that this represents *in situ* buried topsoil before the dumping of 0002. No subsoil or developed soil horizons between 0003 and natural could be detected. As deposit 0003 had a distinct break with the natural below, it was probably of no great antiquity.

Three sherds of medieval pottery were unstratified from the spoil. These sherds could have been imported with deposit 0002 or might have come from the original topsoil 0003. The site is close to the likely edge of medieval settlement so unstratified pottery of this period is not unexpected.

5. References

Cotter, J., 2000, *Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85*, Colchester Archaeological Report 7, English Heritage.

Sommers, M., 2003, *Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring Report: Land between Burkitts Lane and Weavers Lane, Sudbury (SUY 058)*, S.C.C.A.S. report no. 2003/65, Ipswich.

Jezz Meredith

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Field Team)

August 2009

APPENDIX 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

Adjacent 19 New Street, Sudbury

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a building, containing two flats, in part of the side garden to 19 New Street, Sudbury, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/08/01608/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies immediately adjacent to the Area of Archaeological Importance, defined for Sudbury in the Babergh Local Plan, and will involve significant ground disturbance
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 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 would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for Iron Age or suburban medieval occupation.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 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. 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 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. **Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment 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 HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the

archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found 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 HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 23rd March, 2009

Reference: 19 New Street, Sudbury

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.