

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2008/071

**82, Nethergate Street, Bungay
BUN 090**

HER Information

Planning Application No: DC/08/0954/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 2nd December 2008

Grid Reference: TM 3338 9016

Funding Body: Waveney Truck Parts Ltd.

Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade

Project Officer: Linzi Everett

OASIS Ref: 64696

Summary

Monitoring of ground works for an extension to 82, Nethergate Street, Bungay, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent in order to record any archaeological evidence revealed by the groundworks. Strip foundations revealed a large feature in the southern end of the footings which ties in with a relatively recent extraction pit marked on early edition Ordnance Survey maps but may be related to defensive ditches on the northern limit of the medieval town.

1. Introduction and methodology

Planning permission for the construction of an extension to 82, Nethergate Street, Bungay, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 3338 9016 (Fig. 1), at a height of approximately 7m OD on the northern limits of the medieval town of Bungay defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). The site has the potential for the survival of medieval activity, with the likely line of the town defensive earthworks crossing the site (Fig. 3). Roman evidence has also been recorded in the vicinity. Evaluation of a site immediately to the south west (BUN 087) identified considerable modern disturbance associated with landscaping and mineral extraction.

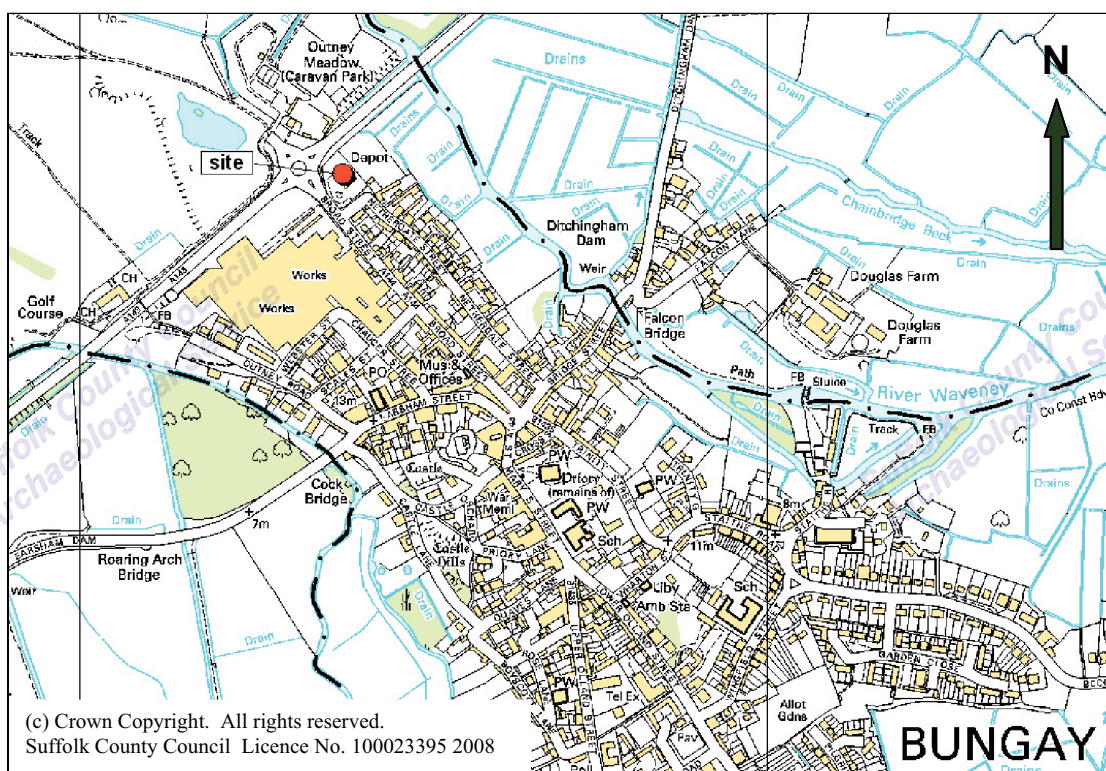


Figure 1. Site location

One visit was made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the excavated ground works. Where features were revealed, they were cleaned manually for definition and each allocated 'observed phenomena' numbers within a unique continuous numbering system under the HER code BUN 090. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix II). The fieldwork was commissioned by Waveney Truck Parts Ltd.

The monitoring archive is held in the County HER in Bury St. Edmunds.

2. Results

The footprint of the extension had been stripped to a depth of c.400mm below the existing ground level and made up with hardcore over a permeable membrane. The footings had been excavated 800mm wide and 1m deep. In the northern part of the groundworks, the exposed sections showed c.300mm of tarmac and associated hardcore over a loose, pale orangey brown sandy gravel natural subsoil. A single large, cut feature was observed in the southern part of the groundworks, comprising various layers of dark brown loamy silty sand with frequent brick and tile fragments, oyster and whelk shells (0004). Towards the northern end of this feature, several modern metal cans were noted within a discreet upper tip or deposit (0003). The full depth of this feature was not clear as the fill continued beyond the formation depth of the footings. The location of this feature ties in with that of a pit shown on the 1st-3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 3).

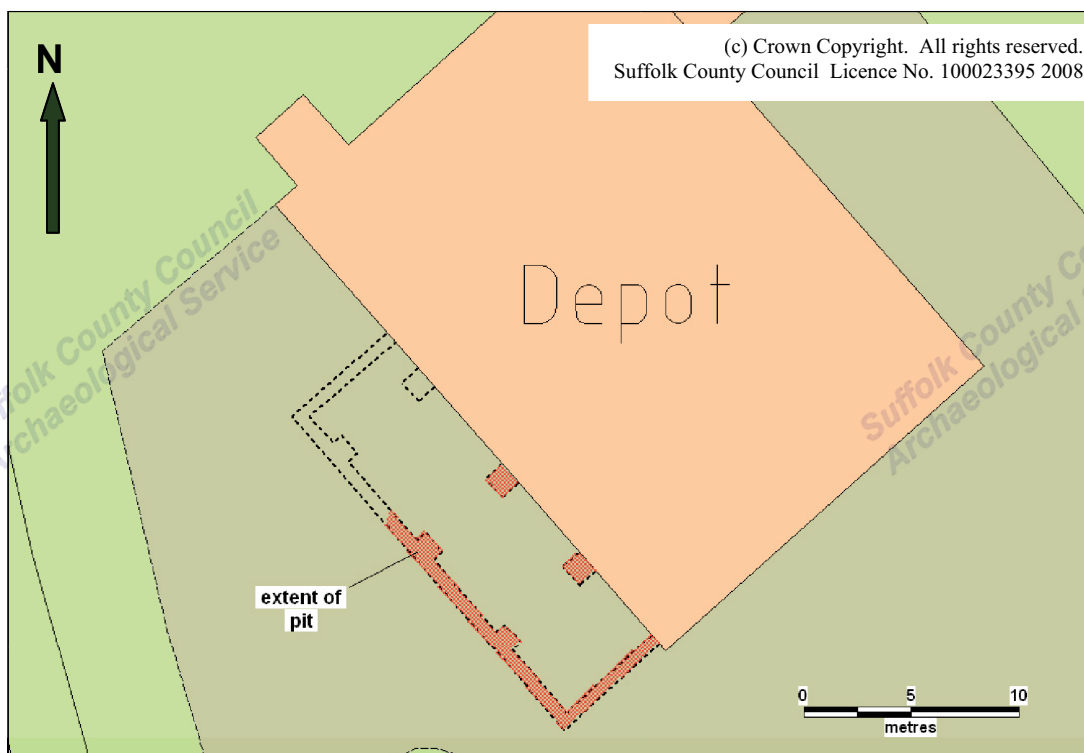


Figure 2. Location of groundworks



Plate 1. View of excavated extension footprint, looking SE

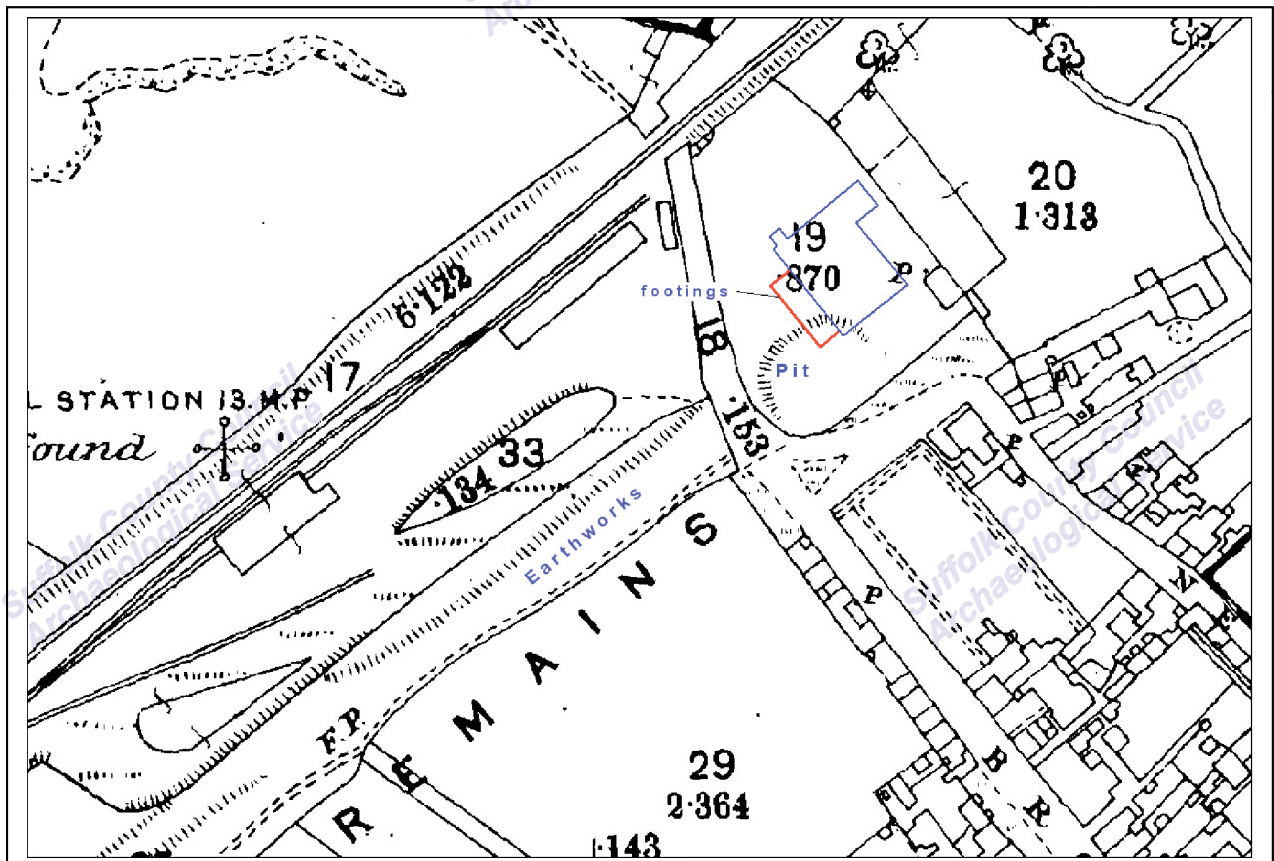


Figure 3. 1st edition Ordnance Survey map showing the study area in relation to features mentioned in the text

3. The finds

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Shell		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0004	1	8	2	153	1	6	1500-1550
Total	1	8	2	153	1	6	

Pottery

A single fragment of a Cologne drinking jug with applied rose decoration was recovered from the feature fill 0004. This small stoneware jug was produced in the Rhineland and dates to the first half of the sixteenth century (Hurst et al, 209).

Ceramic building material

Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from the same deposit. The remains of a fully oxidised brick made in a coarse sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions, with some white mortar still adhering on one of the outer surfaces may be medieval or later. In addition a red-fired pegtile made in a medium sandy fabric is late medieval to post-medieval in date.

Shell

The remains of a whelk shell was present in 0004.

4. Conclusion

As the footings only represent a small 'keyhole' into the site, it was not possible to ascertain the full form and extent of the feature present. Whilst it ties in with what appears to be a pit shown on late 19th /early 20th century maps, this feature is on the line of the linear earthworks to the west of Bridge Street. As such, it is still possible that this feature related to the towns defensive ditches, with only recent upper fills exposed by these groundworks. The finds recovered from the footings of the extension date to the early post-medieval period, although it is possible that the ceramic building material may post-date the pottery.

Evidence of medieval or earlier activity could still survive below the excavated formation level and thus remains preserved *in situ*.

Linzi Everett
September 2009

References

Hurst, J., Neal, D. and van Beuningen, H., 1986, *Pottery Produced and Traded in North-West Europe 1350-1650*. Rotterdam Papers VI.

Appendix I : context list

OP	Context	Identifier	Description	Over	Under
0001	0001	Unstratified			
0002	0002	Pit cut	Large feature, full extent of which not clear from footings. Possibly associated with town ditches, possible recent extraction pit.		
0003	0002	Pit fill	Dark blackish brown sandy loam with metal-discreet tip or deposit in NE of feature, modern sheet metal objects (paint tins, pans)	0004	
0004	0002	Pit fill	Upper fill of pit, dark brown loamy sand with CBM, animal bone and shell		0003

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

82 NETHERGATE STREET, BUNGAY

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend 82 Nethergate Street, Bungay, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (DC/08/0954/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 within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined for medieval Bungay in the Waveney Local Plan and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 The site is also on the line of the probable town defences on the north side of the town (BUN007) and medieval finds were made in a watching brief to the immediate south-east in 1996 (BUN031).
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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 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 the medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of drainage and 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: 27 November 2008

Reference:/82 Nethergate Street

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.