

# Archaeological Monitoring Report

## Tesco Store Extension, Bury St. Edmunds BSE 240

Report No. 2005/130

Planning Application No: SE/04/2276/P

Oasis reference: suffolkc1-7735

Grid reference: TL 8542 6520

Date of fieldwork: 11/03/05

Funding body: Tesco Stores Ltd.

### Summary

A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the extension work carried out at the Tesco Store, Bury St. Edmunds. The development site was located to the south of the excavated site of St. Saviour's Hospital. The archaeological monitoring produced no evidence of surviving archaeological deposits.

### Introduction

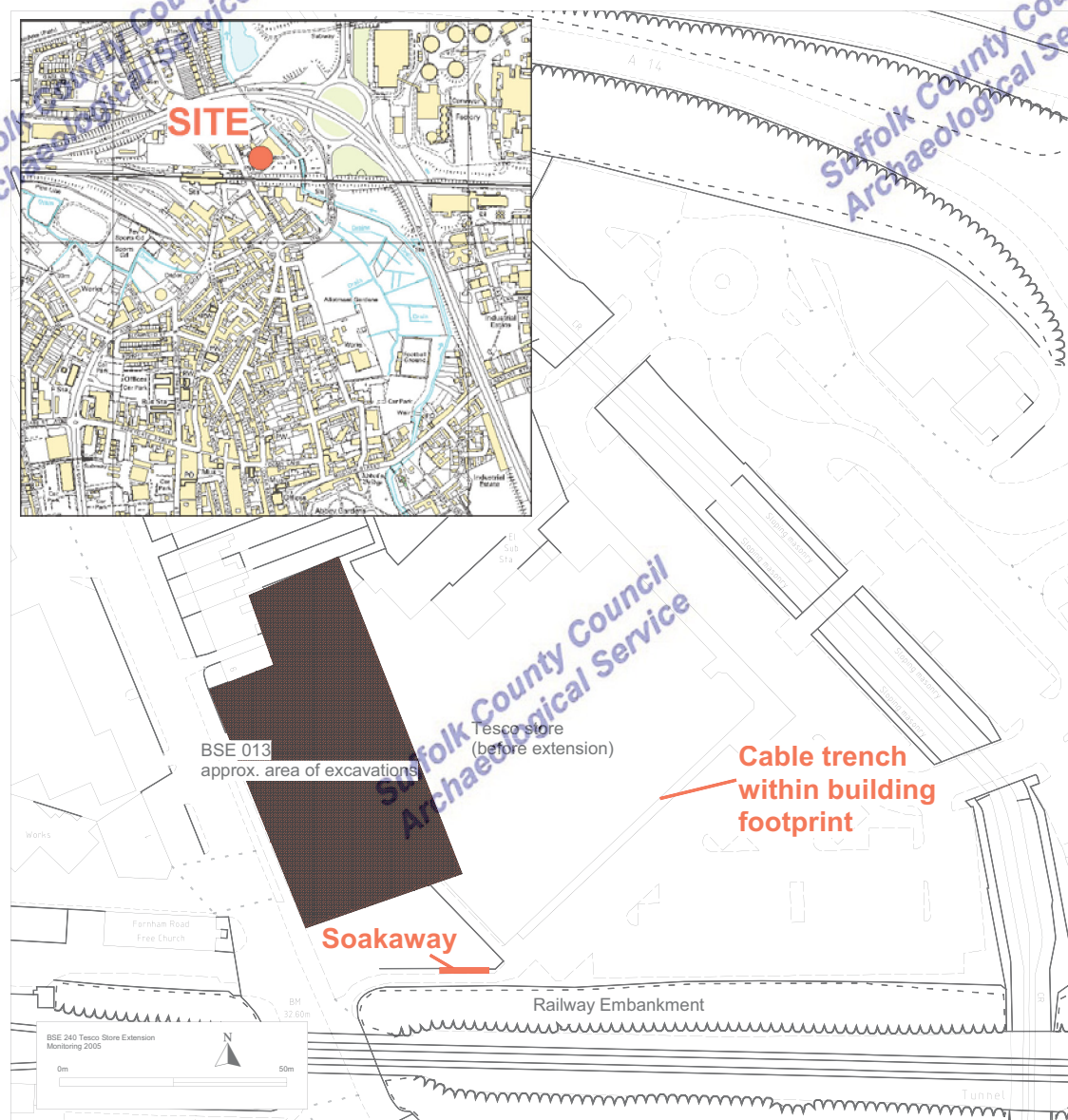
Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on a soakaway trench and a cable trench at the Tesco Store, Bury St. Edmunds as part of a building extension programme. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd. The monitoring followed the brief by R. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) and fulfilled the archaeological condition of the planning consent (Planning Application SE/04/2276/P).

The site is located to the south of the known archaeological site of St. Saviour's Hospital founded in 1184 (Caruth and Anderson 1997) (Figure 1). Structural remains of the hospital chapel are still standing and a series of excavations between 1989 and 1994 allowed further examination of the archaeological remains. The excavations revealed more of the chapel, as well as identifying associated burials and outbuildings. The western edge of a possible fishpond extending towards the River Lark to the east was also identified.

The site is also located to the north of the 19<sup>th</sup> century railway embankment, close to Bury St. Edmunds Railway Station, which is located 80m to the west. The construction of the railway embankment may have caused heavy disturbance within the area of the store extension, especially in the area of the soakaway trench, which is located against the northern edge of the embankment.

The archaeological impact of the proposed groundworks for the extension seems minimal. The soakaway trench appears to be beyond the southern extent of the medieval hospital site and may be heavily disturbed by the railway embankment. However, there is the possibility of further outlying structures and burials surviving.

The cable trench appears to pass through the pond to the east of the chapel and may allow further investigation of this feature, which was not possible during the 1989 to 1994 excavations.



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Figure 1 Site location

## Methodology

The soakaway trench was excavated using a 360 degree machine fitted with a 0.5m wide toothed bucket. The trench was excavated to the depth required for the construction of the soakaway and all identifiable archaeological remains were recorded. The trench was recorded in plan at a scale of 1:50 and digital photographs were taken of the trench.

The cable trench was not monitored due to its redirection. A site visit was made by Andrew Tester (Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, Field Team) and the new route was identified as cutting through an area already disturbed by the present building.

The site archive is kept at the County Council Archaeological Store, Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds under code BSE 240.

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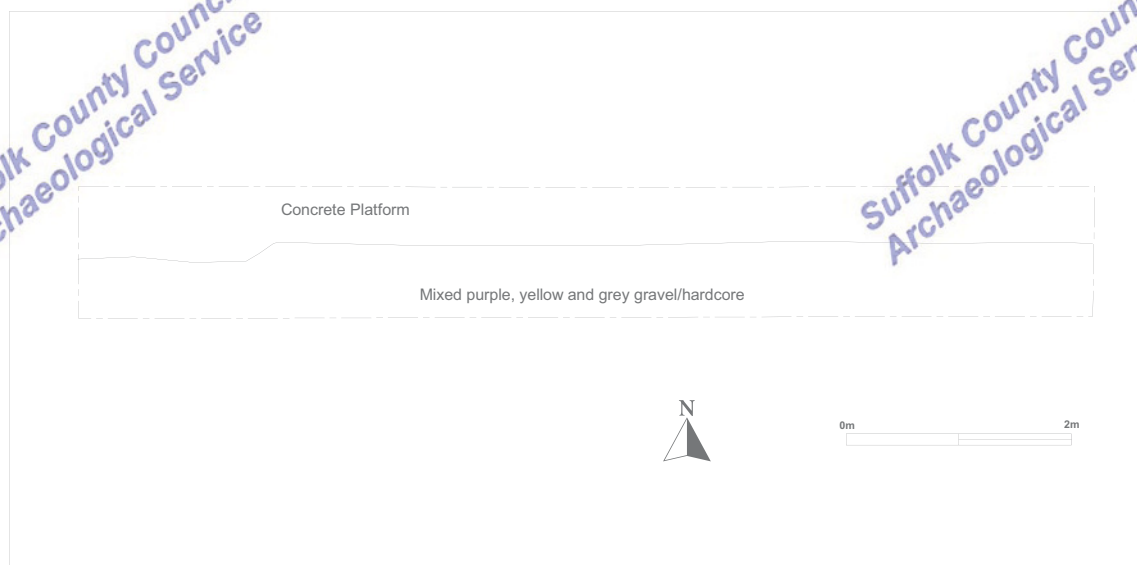


Figure 2 Soakaway trench plan

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Figure 3 Soakaway trench looking west



## Results

The soakaway trench was excavated in an east to west direction along the southern boundary of the development site (Figure 1). The trench was excavated to a length of 9m and a width of 1.1m. The northern half of the trench was excavated down on to the edge of a large concrete platform approximately 0.15m below the surface (Figures 2 and 3). The southern half of the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.3m. The trench was filled by a modern mixed purple, grey and yellow gravel/hardcore. No archaeological features were identified.

The route of the cable trench was altered by the developer during the project. The new route ran along the wall line of the original Tesco Store building through heavily disturbed ground. After a site visit by Andrew Tester (Senior Project Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team) a decision was made that no monitoring was necessary along this new route due to the lack of surviving archaeology in this area.

## Conclusion

Few conclusions can be drawn from the archaeological work conducted during the extension works to the Tesco Store, Bury St. Edmunds. No surviving archaeological remains were identified but this could be due to the limited extent of excavation conducted, both in terms of area and depth.

The soakaway trench was excavated to a fairly shallow depth and although heavily disturbed there is the possibility of preserved archaeology below this level. However, the evidence uncovered during the 1989 to 1994 excavations of St. Saviour's Hospital (BSE 013) suggests no archaeological remains, associated with the medieval hospital, are present in this area.

As the route of the cable trench was altered and the new route went through previously disturbed ground then the opportunity to look at the pond on the eastern side of the hospital site was lost. However, the potential of this area to provide information of the landscape and activities around the hospital site still exist.

## References

Caruth, J. and Anderson, S. 1997. St. Saviour's Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds (BSE 013). A Report on the Archaeological Excavations 1989-1994. SCCAS Report No. 97/20.

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