

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

---

**SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/120**

**30-31 College Lane, Bury St Edmunds  
BSE 345**

**A Tester**  
© June 2010  
[www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology)

---

**Lucy Robinson, County Director of Economy, skills and Environment**  
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.



## HER Information

---

**Planning Application No:** SE/ 10/0385  
**Date of Fieldwork:** June 2010  
**Grid Reference:** TL 8531 6391  
**Funding Body:** Mr J. Spriggs  
**Curatorial Officer:** Dr. Jess Tipper  
**Project Officer:** Andrew Tester  
**Oasis Reference:** Suffolkc1-78896

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



## Contents

---

<b>Summary</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	1
4. Methodology	1
5. Results	5
6. Finds	8
7. Discussion	8
8. Archive deposition	9
9. Contributors and acknowledgements	9

Disclaimer

## List of Figures

1. Site Location	2
2. Site Location on 1st edition OS map	3
3. Plan of the eastern end of the plot and sections	4

## **List of Plates**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Length of Wall 0006                               | 5 |
| 2. Length of Wall 0004                               | 6 |
| 3. Overhead view of the projecting early north wall. | 7 |

## **List of Appendices**

1. Context list
2. Brief and Specification

## Summary

---

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during demolition and rebuilding at 30-31 College Lane, Bury St Edmunds. The excavation of footing trenches exposed the base of a flint wall fronting onto College Lane. This wall was built in two stages with the earliest at least 0.5m wide but narrowing to c. 0.4m to the west. There were no bricks included in the wall but several peg tiles that were part of the original construction are likely to be either late medieval or early post-medieval in date. The standing building was exposed as a 19th century infill construction built between a house and garden wall. There were two wells on the plot, one of which was open beneath a concrete cap, which predated the demolished building.





## **1. Introduction**

---

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at 30-31 College Lane, Bury St Edmunds in June 2010 during the excavation of the foundations for a refurbishment of this property. The work was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). This document is included as Appendix 1. Funding was provided by the developer Mr J. Spriggs.

## **2. Geology and topography**

---

The site lies at TL 8531 6391 and is on a narrow lane that connects Guildhall Street with Whiting Street (Fig. 1) within the heart of the medieval grid of streets. The site is level although there would naturally be a gentle slope from west to east. Natural subsoil is red brown silt with soft chalk above hard chalk.

## **3. Archaeological and historical background**

---

The site lies in an area of archaeological importance within the heart of the medieval town. The house at 63 Whiting Street is a grade II listed building (467799) which is probably 15<sup>th</sup> century in origin. The remains include a hall range with part of a cross-wing. The building includes a number of Norman architectural features including reversed Norman columns forming a blind arcade that is likely to have been made from reused stone from the Abbey. Thomas Warren's map of Bury dating from 1747 indicates this as the site of a medieval chantry and it appears to show No.63 Whiting Street extending into College Lane (formerly Hogs Lane). It is uncertain whether there was a chantry on the site and how it related to the standing building.

## **4. Methodology**

---

A requirement of the monitoring was a continuous presence during the excavation of the below ground works. A hand drawn plan was made of the site and sections drawn of a part of the western wall and all of the 'foundation' of the north wall at a scale of 1:20. A single sequence context record was made and a copy of the feature descriptions is

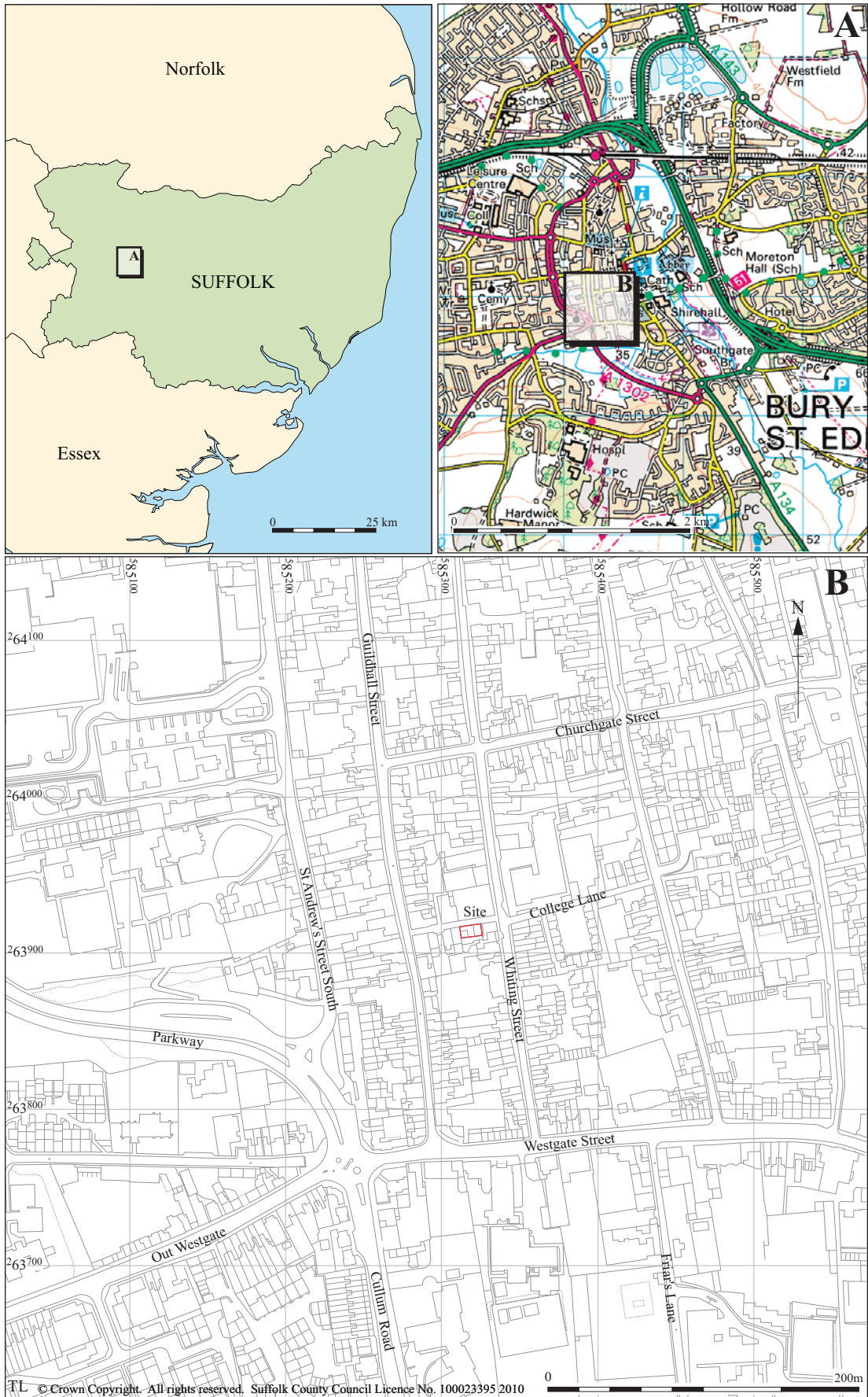


Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. 1880s map, with site outline

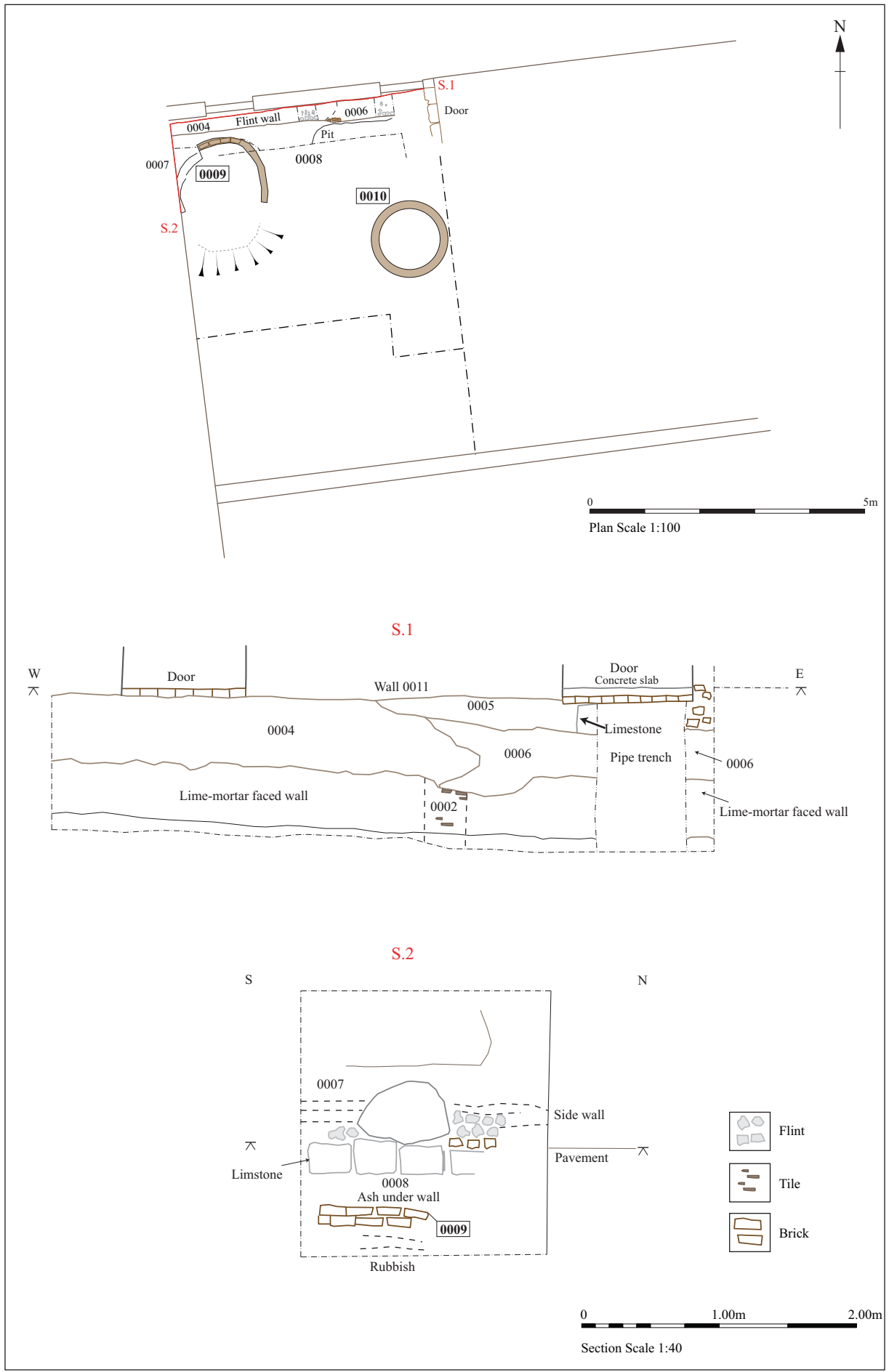


Figure 3. Site plan and sections

included at the back as Appendix 1. A digital photographic archive (72 x 72 dpi) has been maintained of the site. Finds from modern deposits were not retained but a sample of peg tile was recovered from the buried section of the north wall.

## 5. Results

---

### Introduction

(Figs. 2-3, Plates 1-3)

The site was visited following the demolition of the internal features of the building including the roof and all the floors. Only the north wall facing onto College Lane was to be preserved and reinforced. Beneath the floor was a substantial debris deposit that included hearth ash with occasional bricks; and a half circular outline of bricks in the north-west corner of the building, 0009, which was probably a backfilled well and a second well that was capped with concrete close to the retained property, 0010 (Fig. 3). The excavation of the foundation trench to support the north wall of the new building was slightly over-dug by hand to allow a proper examination of the fabric of a flint wall that was exposed below ground. This wall was much wider than the brick wall that was above it, and clearly from an earlier phase of building. The features below will be discussed by phase.

### Late medieval to early post-medieval

The earliest feature on the site is the flint wall that was exposed in the new footings for the north wall, 0003. It is subdivided into phases of construction and repair 0006 with tiles 0002, wall 0004 and then later repair 0005.

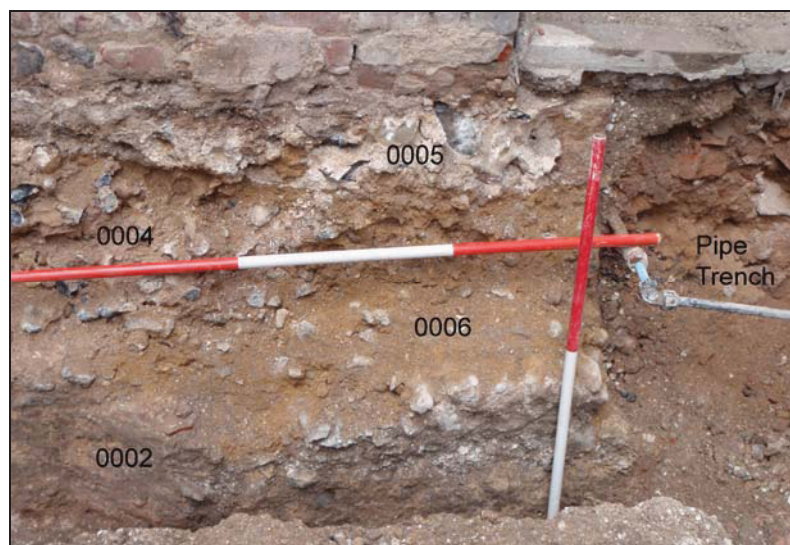


Plate 1. Length of Wall 0006 facing south.



The earliest phase 0006 was constructed of medium flints set in a slightly orange lime mortar and was built up from the top of the natural subsoil, which was soft brown silt with degraded chalk and was c.1m below the level of the pavement. The flint walls were finished with lime mortar (Plates 1-2). The wall was at least 0.5m thick (the north face was not exposed) and it narrowed at the west end where several tiles had been inserted where the wall angled inward, (0002 on Section 2). A sample of this tile was recovered to for dating purposes.



Plate 2 Length of Wall 0004 facing south.

Where the wall narrowed, the mortar became a creamy white (context 0004). This is likely to represent either a separate mix of mortar or a separate phase of building. The two mortar deposits appeared to be interleaved, which tends to suggest that they were contemporary. There was no difference in size or type of flint used between the builds.

Above both 0004 and 0006 was a separate layer of very pale white mortar with larger flints, 0005. At the eastern end of this phase was an ashlar block arranged on the edge of a pipe trench that cut the foundation (Section 1). It is possible that the wall was repaired and the ashlar inserted at the same time. Wall 0006 continued to the east of the pipe trench.

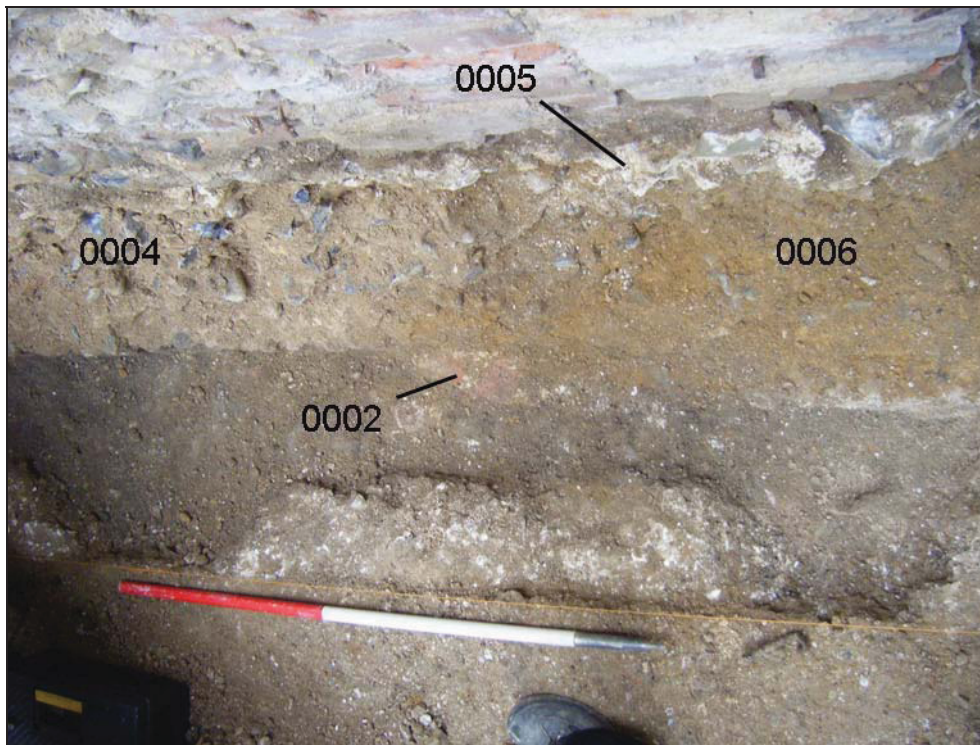


Plate 3. Overhead view of the projecting early north wall (facing north).

### **Post medieval to 19<sup>th</sup> century.**

The edge of a pit was exposed in the footing trench alongside the north wall (Fig.3). It was not excavated but the upper fill was continuous with the overlying ash and debris, 0008, which suggests it was post-medieval. This overlying layer contained occasional domestic animal bones and a mixture of modern brick fragments that were not retained.

Feature 0009 was not fully exposed but from the general shape it is suggested to have been a well. The internal diameter was c.1.3m although the south edge was not exposed. The relationship with layer 0008 was uncertain but both the layer and the well were beneath wall 0007.

The western boundary of the site, wall 0007, had been free standing and the impressions of the roof line from where the infill building had been attached were clearly visible. Figure 3, Section 2 shows the arrangement of the footings for the wall, where a course of rectangular limestone blocks, that were probably robbed from the Abbey, were laid as a foundation into layer 0008; wall 0007 was built over the top from a mixture of brick and flint that was still partially covered by plaster. Wall 0007 abutted wall 0004 and was therefore later.

Well 0010 was built close to the east wall of the property. It was 1.2m wide and, beneath a cap of reinforced concrete, was open to a depth of 10m with rubble visible at the bottom. The sides were made from stretcher bricks to a depth of 3.4m measured from the top brick and these were of 19th or 20th century date. Below this the sides were rough and black but are likely to have been of discoloured but solid chalk.

## **6. Finds**

---

A sample of tile was recovered from wall 0006. It is a red-fired roofing tile with circular peghole (185g), fully oxidised and made from a medium sandy fabric with ferrous and flint inclusions. It is probably late/post-medieval, it is not dissimilar to tile from a recent excavation in Grimwade Street Ipswich, where two kilns were archaeomagnetically dated to c1375-1405 and 1400-1420, but it could be later. The tile has clearly been re-used in the wall.

## **7. Discussion**

---

The lack of bricks and robbed limestone in the north flint wall tend to suggest that it was built before bricks were widely available or the building material of choice and that it might have been late medieval to early post-medieval in origin. It is possible that these walls were well built free standing walls, although the eastern length is extremely thick (at least 0.5m). A second possibility is that they were related to the chantry that was indicated on both the Warren Map of Bury from 1747 and the First edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1880 at 63 Whiting Street. The sites of at least a dozen chantries are shown on the Warren map but it is not known if any were still standing by that date following the dissolution of the monasteries. Although funded by rich individuals or guilds within the town chantries were run by the Abbot of Bury Abbey who appointed priests to pray for the souls of the dead. They are likely to have been a particular target: first during the Reformation for the wealth in land they had accrued and later during the 17th century for their association with the cult of the dead; this might help to explain the lack of surviving evidence. The site of a possible chantry was excavated at 50 Churchgate Street/61-63 College Street (BSE 197, Tester 2002) where although the superstructure had gone it was possible to suggest a building of stone had existed measuring 6m x 9.5m with walls c.0.6m wide. Beneath the walls foundations were made of rammed flint and sand and were c.0.9m deep. No foundations were exposed in



the recent excavations but the scale of the walling is similar to BSE 197. There was, however, a late medieval timber framed building at No. 63 Whiting Street that is the suggested site of the chantry.

On balance we must conclude then that while the scale and strength of flint walling are different in character to the later use of the site, the evidence falls short of establishing a connection between the wall and the chantry that is postulated close by from the cartographic evidence.

While the open well, 0010, is likely to be relatively recent in date because it was lined with bricks that are no earlier than the 19th century, the probable well that was infilled may have been earlier with 19th century bricks only at the top; certainly it predated wall 0007. The simplest explanation, albeit unproven, is that the wells were sequential with 0009 the earliest because it had been backfilled. With 19th century brick at the top it is unlikely to have been of any great antiquity.

## **8. Archive deposition**

---

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\Arc\ALL\_site\BSE\BSE 345 63 Whiting Street. Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: Parish box M/79/2

## **9. List of contributors and acknowledgements**

---

The monitoring was carried out by Andrew Tester, Rob Brooks and Adam Yates, from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by and managed by Andrew Tester. Crane Begg and Ellie Hillen provided the graphics and the finds identification was by Richenda Goffin who also edited the report.



# Appendix 1 Context List

<b>opno</b>	<b>feature</b>	<b>identifier</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>cuts</b>	<b>cutby</b>	<b>over</b>	<b>under</b>
0001							
0002	0003	Facing tiles	Facing tiles at their join between two phases of wall. Part of 0006. darkish red brown uniform colour pebble, suggest late-med or early post-med?				0011
0003	0003	Wall	Group number for flint wall at front of property. Contains two sub phases 0004 and 0006.				
0004	0003	Length of wall	Western end of flint wall. Built up from the top of natural silt and chalk to a depth of 0.9m below the			0006	0005 001
0005	0003	Length of wall	White mortar repair with slightly larger flints to wall. Includes 'abbey stone' on edge of hole for services which suggests that it was carried out when the pipe trench was dug in the 19th century			0004 0005	0011
0006	0003	Length of wall	Earliest phase of wall with distinct orange mortar. Projects 0.4m from inner face of standing wall.				0011
0007	0007	Wall	West wall of property. Originally property or garden wall re-used in house. Base layer of ashlar limestone blocks from the Abbey. Limestone and bricks above. Includes many repairs. Not built on solid ground			0008	
0008	0008	Layer	layer of ash and waste that runs beneath foundations of wall 0007				
0009	0009	Well	Possible well. 19th century bricks. Exposed in hollow beneath floor. Uncertain how deep the feature was but quite solid c. 1m down.				
0010	0010	Well	Well c. 10m deep to layer of rubbish. No water visible at any stage. capped with reinforced concrete earlier. 1.2m internal width. Bricks laid as stretchers around the well to a depth of 3.4m below the top bricks that were c. 0.8m below the level of the pavement (original floor). Bricks measure 23cm x 11cm x 6.5cm. Some cement on top.				
0011	0011	Wall	Standing wall at front of building.			0004 0005	





9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 2AR

## Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

### 30–31 COLLEGE LANE, BURY ST EDMUNDS, IP33 1QE (SE/10/0385)

*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*

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission (application SE/10/0385) to erect a two storey extension at 31 College Lane, Bury St Edmunds (TL 853 639), has been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out and in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 This application lies within the historic settlement core recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER no. BSE 241), which is an area of high archaeological importance. The property has features dating from the medieval period (HER no. BSE 216) and there is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.3 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological recording during all groundworks. The scheme of archaeological investigation is required in order to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.4 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The 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. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>*).
- 1.5 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis

for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the fieldwork, a post-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

- 1.6 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the excavation 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 by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **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 significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the new extension, which is understood to require the excavation for a raft foundation 550mm deep. Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

## **3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT 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 the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT 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 SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, 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.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental 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 Helen Chappell, 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.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

#### **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 three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event 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.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

- 5.4 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. 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, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.5 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.6 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.7 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 proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.8 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, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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).
- 5.9 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.10 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 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 Historic Environment Record. 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.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. 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

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR  
Tel. : 01284 352197  
E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 1 June 2010

Reference: /31CollegeStreet-BSE2010

**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.**