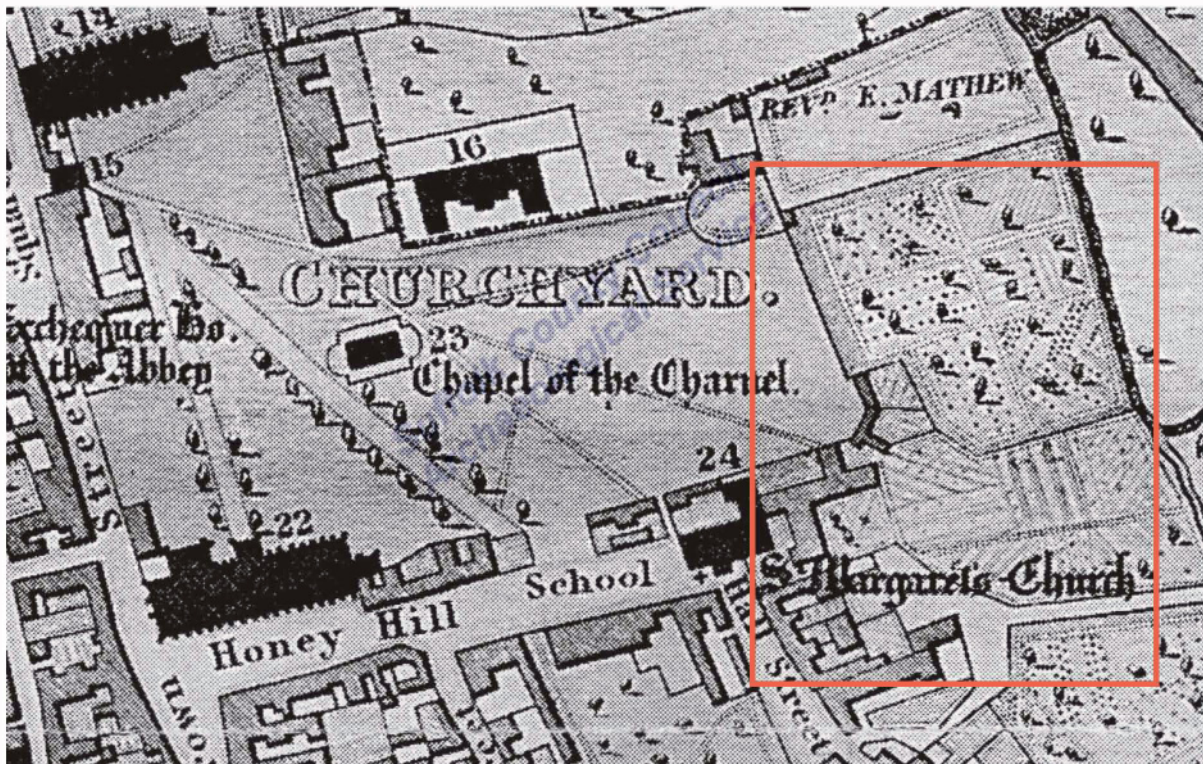


# ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## Shire Hall Complex BSE 291

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, 2007  
(pre-planning)



Extract from Payne's map of Bury St Edmunds 1834 showing the site of the Shire Hall complex

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Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Suffolk County Council Land Agents and was monitored by Bob Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division).

The geophysical survey was completed by GSB Prospection and the documentary search by Anthony Breen.

The excavation of the testholes was carried out by Andy Bevan, Mike Green and Nick Taylor, and the finds processing by Gemma Adams all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

## Summary

An archaeological assessment, comprising a documentary search, geophysical survey and the excavation of trial holes was undertaken as part of the study into the possible future use and development of the Shire hall site, Bury St Edmunds; part of which lies within the precinct of the Abbey.

The investigation identified the site of the Sacrist yard beyond and outside the south precinct wall. The yard would have contained the homes, offices and workshops of the Sacrists' staff, and part of the gatehouse into the yard was identified in the fabric of the standing monument. Evidence of a return wall on the east side of the precinct and a possible ditch alongside the south wall were also found.

Within the precinct human burials part of the monks cemetery were found and finds recovered from the test pits included a considerable quantity medieval pottery and tiles, dating to the middle of the twelfth to the middle of the thirteenth century. Glazed medieval rooftiles, indicative of high-status buildings, were also found and these are thought to be directly associated with the Abbey and Ipswich and Thetford-ware pottery confirms that this part of the town is also within the Middle and Late Saxon settlement area.

## SMR information

Planning application no.	Pre-planning
Date of fieldwork:	Jan/Feb 2007
Grid Reference:	TL 8585 6399
Funding body:	Suffolk County Council Land Agents
OASIS Reference:	Suffolkc1-81903

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## Introduction

An archaeological assessment of the Shire hall complex was undertaken as part of the study into the possible future use and development of the site. The aim was to review and test the existing knowledge of the archaeology and history of the site in order to inform any deliberations on its re-development potential.

The work was commissioned by Suffolk County Council Land Agents and completed in accordance with a brief and specification issued by Senior Archaeological Officer, Bob Carr.

The Shire Hall Complex lies entirely within the Area of Archaeological Importance as defined in the Local Plan. The main Shire Hall building and the Record Office are situated within the medieval urban core and in the area of the Saxon settlement from which the town originated. The car park and the outlying offices to the north of the main building are within the precinct of the medieval Abbey of St Edmund, adjacent to both the ruins of the Abbey Church and its Great Churchyard, and separated from the main building by the early 12th century precinct wall (Figure 1). A full discussion of the historical significance of the site is included as Appendix 1

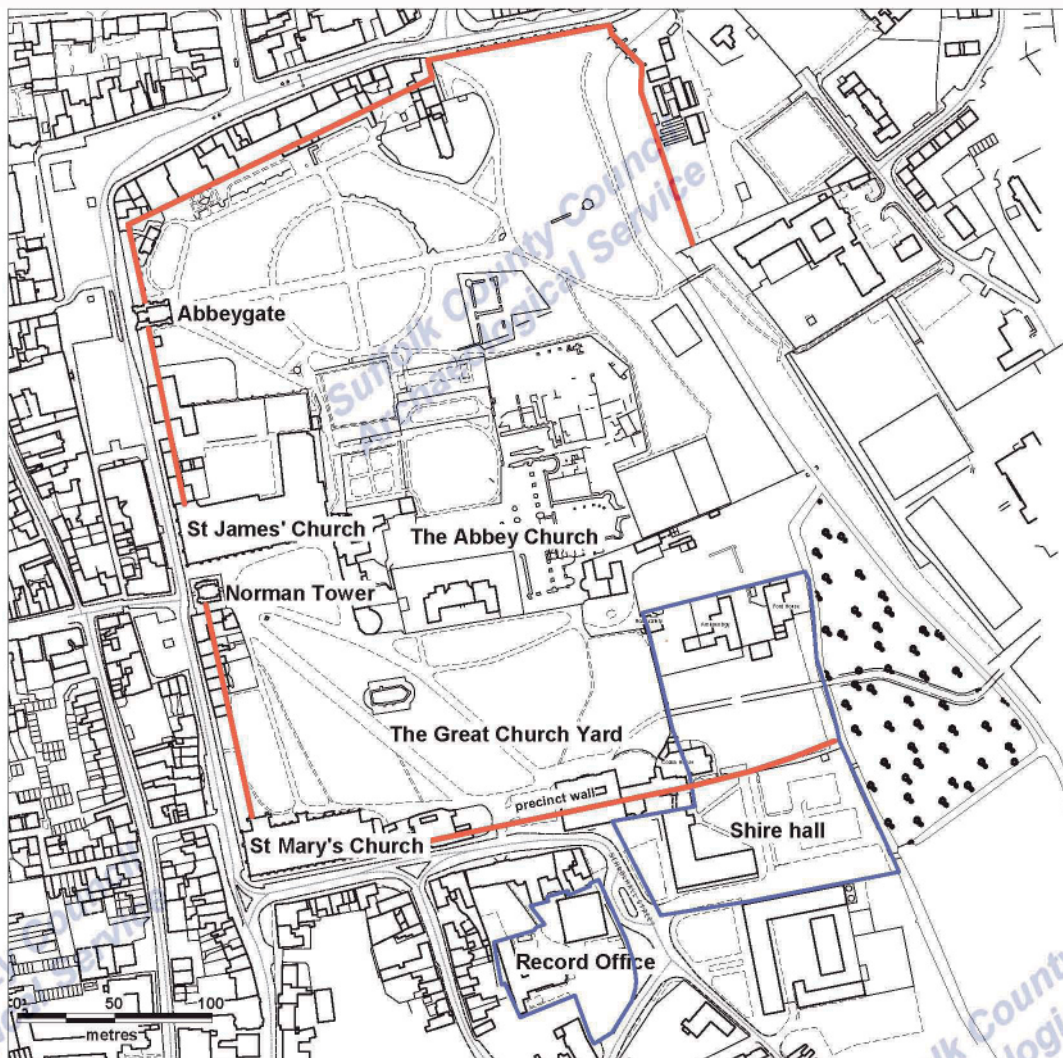


Figure 1. Site location plan

The archaeological investigation was fourfold and comprised a 'walk round' survey of the standing monument, a documentary search, a geophysical survey and the excavation of test holes; the work was carried out sequentially with each stage informing and targeting the next.

## Survey of the Monument.

A lot of the Abbey structure survives as upstanding remains within the Shire Hall complex and is highlighted in Figure 3 and described below.

**A.** The site is divided by the early medieval wall, which formed the south boundary to precinct and is part of the great curtain wall that enclosed the monastery grounds. The wall was completed during the 12th century and is constructed of mortared flint using large rounded flint sorted for size. The flints are laid in courses but these are inclined paralleling the slope in the ground. There is a change in angle in the wall and this coincides with a change in build, beyond the angle the wall is thought to be a later addition and built from uncoursed flint. The wall is 0.9m wide and although truncated survives to a general height of c.2m. There is a greater height of wall behind St Margaret's House but this change may just reflect the stepped change in ground level here. The wall is a scheduled monument SAM No. SF 2



Figure 2. 'B' turret within precinct wall

**B.** On the north side (inside) of the precinct wall is a small turret with an upper storey window looking out from the precinct. The window is an original feature dates to the 12th century. The turret is situated just below the step in ground level and forms the link in the height change of the wall.

**C.** A short fragment of flint wall also a SAM, running N-S stands in the compound between the archaeological offices and Ford House. It is the same width and comparable build to the precinct wall and projecting across the car park it aligns with the angle change and change of build in the main wall. This suggests that the precinct wall formerly ran across the area of the car park completing the circuit of the monastery grounds.



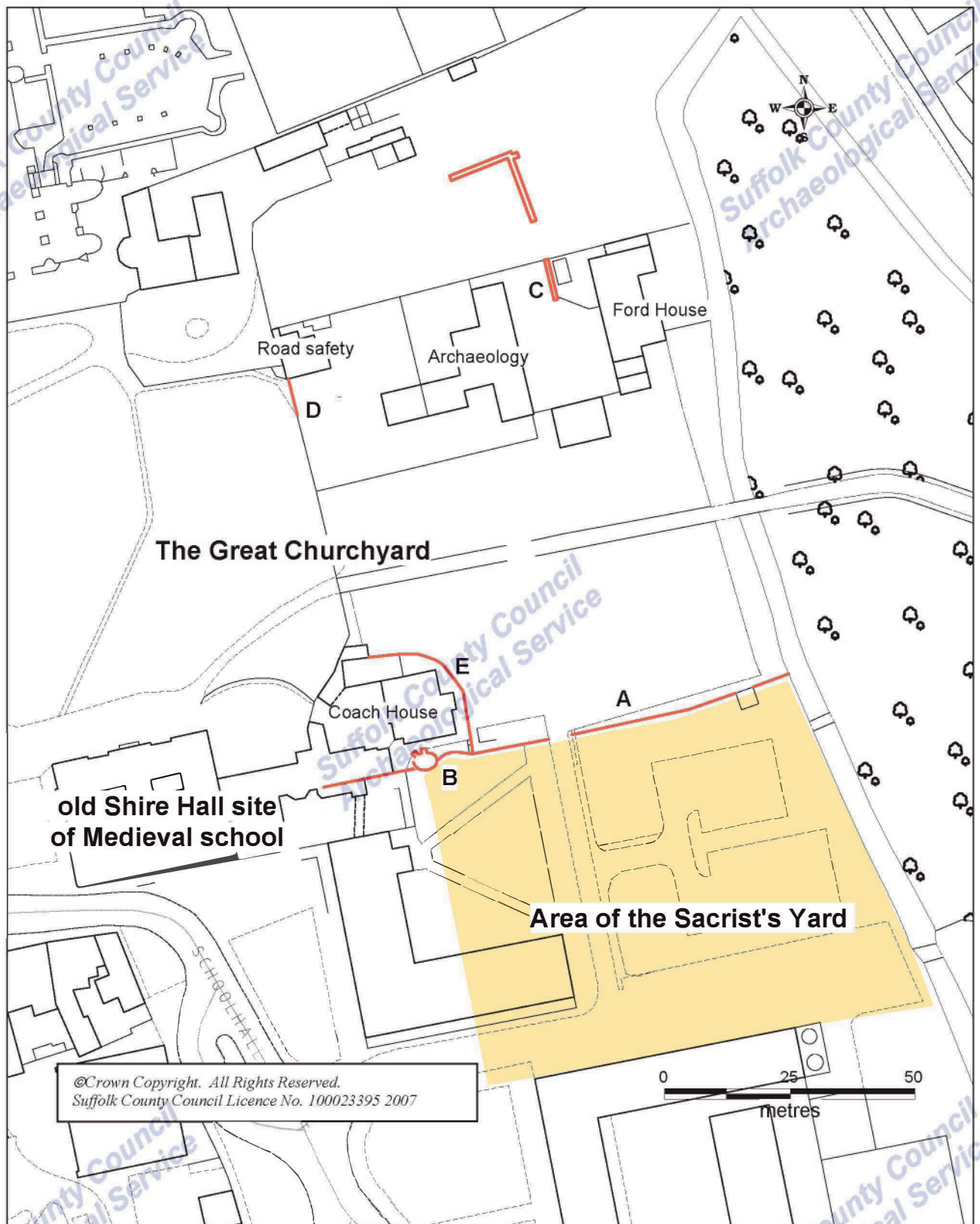


Figure 3. Areas designated as Scheduled Ancient Monument within the site.

**D.** The wall separating the car park from the graveyard is largely a later addition and probably dates to the 18th or early 19th century. At the north end however there is a section of early medieval or Norman wall characterised by coursing in the flintwork. This section of wall is also thicker than the later build and raised off a shallow stepped footing, which is now partly exposed. It is likely that this part of an Abbey building.

E. The curving wall that bounds the change in level between the car park and the offices of Western Area Highways is also a SAM but is completely overgrown and was unseen. A short section of medieval wall however is apparent in the north wall of the Coach House.

## Summary of the Documentary search by A.M. Breen

A search was made through wills and title deeds in order to link the various parts of the site through property records back to the dissolution of the abbey in 1539. Property descriptions, engravings and later plans were examined to determine the nature of the site and understand it uses at the time of the dissolution. The full report is included within the appendix and the principle findings summarised below:

- That the site of the former shire hall was formerly an Abbey school, possibly a song or music school and from which the name Schoolhall Lane is derived.
- That the area behind the shire hall and to the south of the precinct wall was formerly the Sacrist's Yard. The Sacrist was an eminent Abbey official at the head of a large staff who administered the Abbey buildings and construction works and who had extensive property and influence within the town. The '*Sextry-Yard*' is mentioned in 1663, and described as adjoining the yard were '*the mansion for the sacrist's household without the wall, namely the hall, solars, chambers, brewhouse, bakehouse, kitchen, granary, and hay loft with stables; carpenter's shop, the subsacrist's building with the mint, and with other offices there*'.
- The yard was an enclosed space and the only access to the yard was via a driftway, now the area between the shire hall and registrars, from Schoolhall lane and through a gatehouse with '*a chamber over the gate*'.
- A return to the precinct wall paralleling the river is shown on an engraving of the town; Ryland's "East View of the Town" published in 1791 (Figure 4). And at the corner, the junction with the existing wall shown a tower. The same illustration also shows no wall separating the churchyard from what is now the county council car park. Warren's Map of 1741 shows the area divided into gardens with a boundary drawn along the suggested line of the N-S wall.
- The entire area within the precinct to the south of the Abbey church is referred to as the great churchyard in 16th and 17th century documents. The northern half of the car park is described as the monk's cemetery on the Ordnance Survey plan of 1880.
- From 1820 the area of the car park was the site of a Botanical garden, the forerunner of the Abbey Gardens. It so impressed the Marquis of Bristol that it was moved under his patronage to its present site in 1831.

## Summary of the Geophysical Survey Results

GSB Prospection of Bradford surveyed the area of the main car park north of the Precinct wall, the lawned area behind the main shire hall and a single transect in the car park adjacent to the police station (See pdf plan). Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) was used as the only instrument able to survey through the tarmac and it was completed over the course of a weekend when the car park was out of use. The original intention was concentrate on the main car park but in the light of the documentary results the area of the supposed Sacrist's Yard was included in the survey.

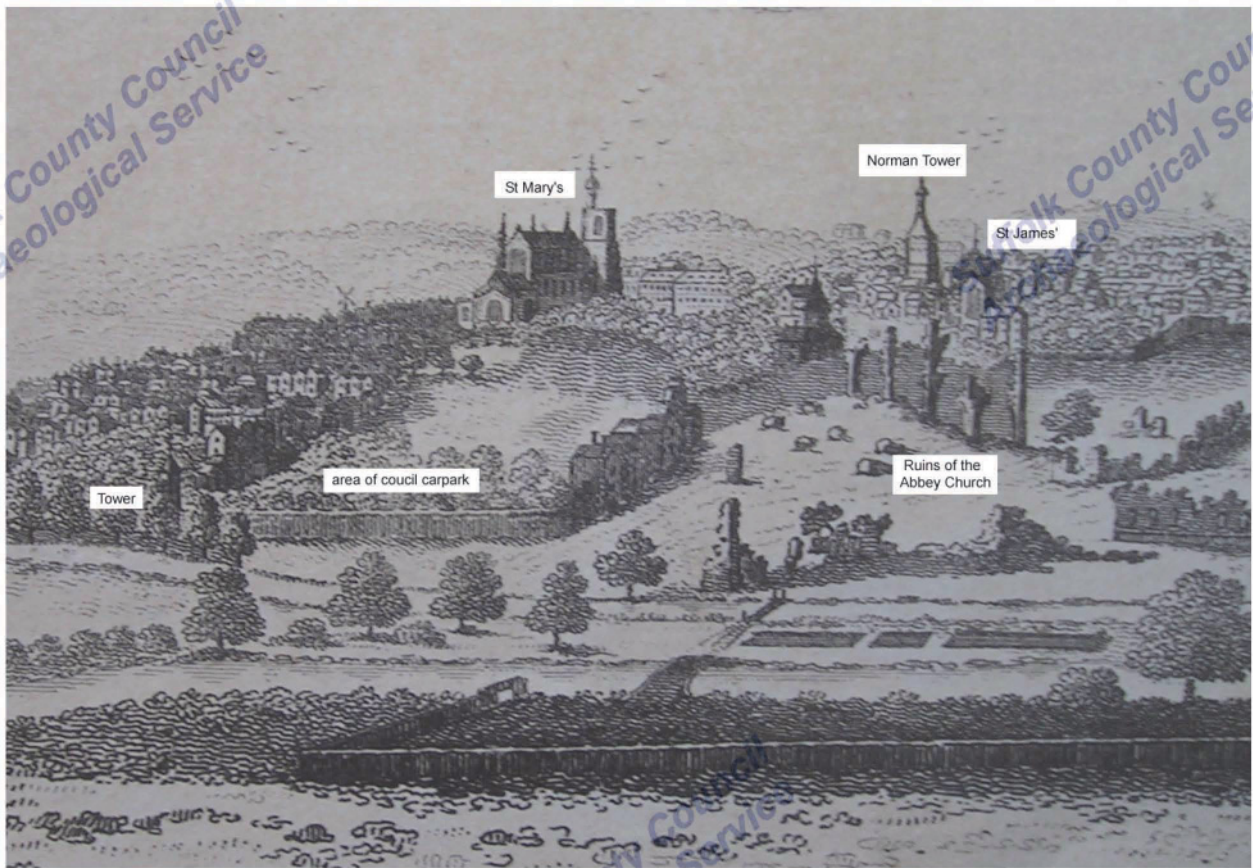


Figure 4. Ryland's "East View of the Town" published in 1791

The radar identified disturbances and their depths and these were plotted creating a plan of the anomalies at three different depths. The most informative was the plan from 0.75-1.50m and this is included as Figure 4. The high amplitude readings, which are interpreted as potential archaeological features, are shaded blue and purple.

There are number of potential archaeological features within the area of the precinct. The two linear reponses running N-S and numbers 4 and 5 are thought to be wall lines and the rectilinear shape, 8 and 9, a building. The orientation of these align with the that of the precinct wall and their positions coincide with features on the standing monument sufficiently to suggest that these are remains of the medieval abbey complex surviving below ground.

Outside the precinct wall the large response, 15, is alongside the ruin of a medieval chamber and in the area of the putative gatehouse.

It was not possible to identify a clear difference between overburden and subsoil in order to map the original topography within the linear transect alongside the police station. However a two dipping reflectors towards the eastern limits of the transect could indicate two phases of riverbank about 10m apart.

### **Excavation of the testholes**

Eight testholes were hand excavated in the soft area on the edges of the car park in an effort to determine the depth of any archaeological horizon and test the results of the geophysics survey. All of the excavated testholes had deep soil deposits suggesting that ground levels had been built up with redeposited soil and all archaeological levels were buried and well preserved. The locations of the testhole are shown on figure 5.

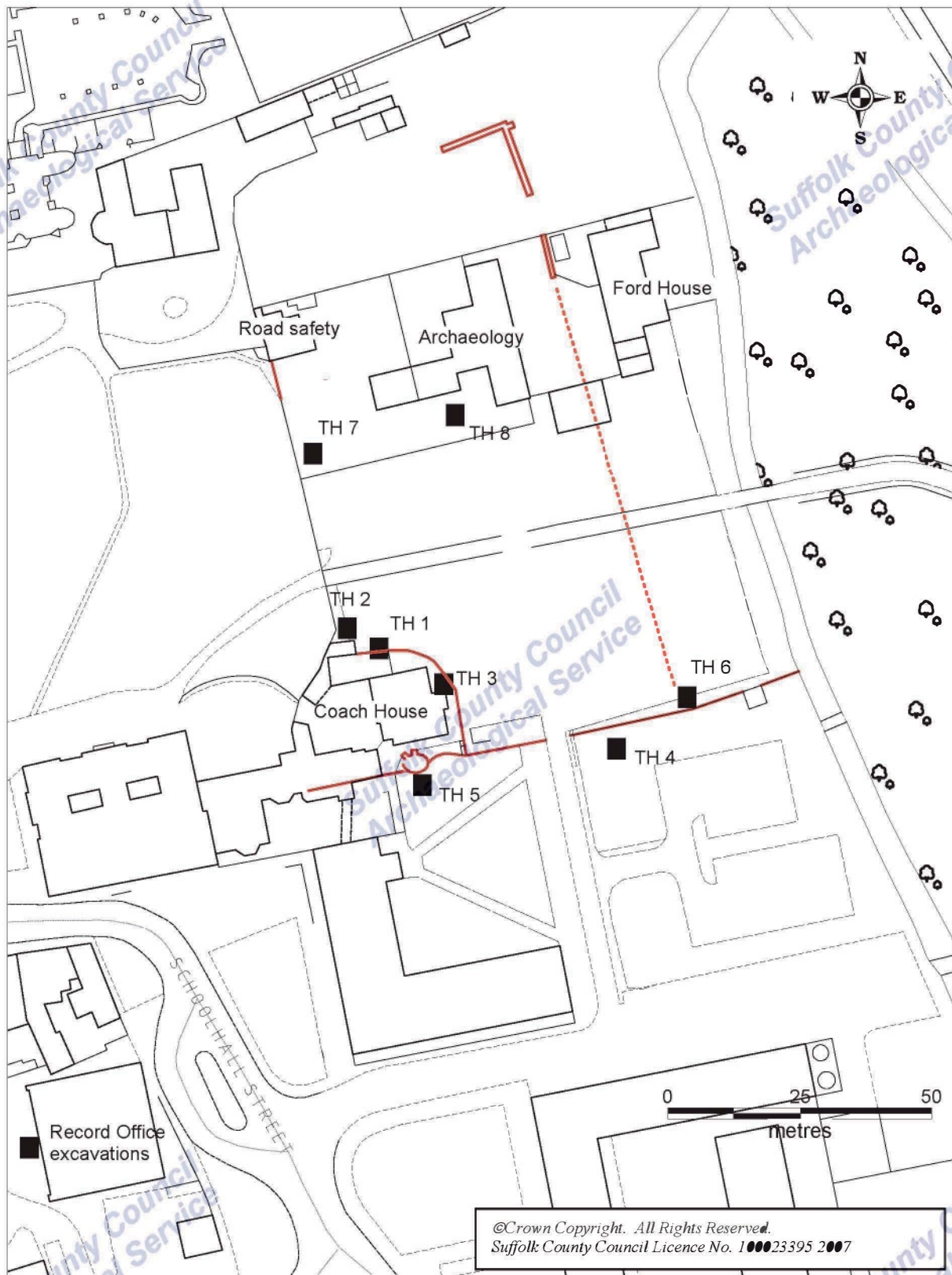


Figure 5. Plan of the site showing location of testholes

### *Testhole 1*

The soil profile in Testhole 1 (TH1) shows a strata of two buried previous ground surfaces sealing a worked garden soil, with the archaeological horizon starting at c 0.8m below the current round surface. The upper soil levels, 0009 and 0010 were relatively recent deposits and had built up over the previous ground surface, 0011, since the late C19<sup>th</sup>/early C20<sup>th</sup>. 0011 coincided with the top of the Coach House footings, which could be identified as a projecting step in the face of the wall, and was probably the ground surface when the Coach House was

constructed. The Coach House footings were cut into a worked buried topsoil, 0015 which produced 18th century pottery and which had been overlay a previous surface 0016. At the base of the section was a further level of worked garden soil, 0017, this was a sealed layer that produced C16th century imported pottery and nothing later. The natural gravel sand subsoil occurred at 32.54m OD, 1.2m below the ground surface.

### Testhole 2

The ground surface identified in TH 1 (as 0011) continued into TH2 as a chalk layer and cobbling (where it was numbered 0002 and 0004). The surface was bounded on the south side of the TH by a substantial 19th century brick wall, 0024, which was truncated at just below grounds and extended to the full depth of the excavation. A deep post-medieval pit 0012 was cut from just below surface 0004 but produced no finds. Sealed beneath the post-medieval layers was posthole 0021, in which a fragment of a glazed medieval roof tile was found, and the remains of a flint rubble wall, 0023. These two feature were broadly contemporary and cut into an undated buried soil layer 0014. The mortar bonding the wall was consistent with that seen in fabric of surrounding medieval walls and lay on the projected alignment of anomaly 4 shown in the geophysics (GPR) results. The natural gravel was encountered at 33.01m OD, 1.20m below ground level.

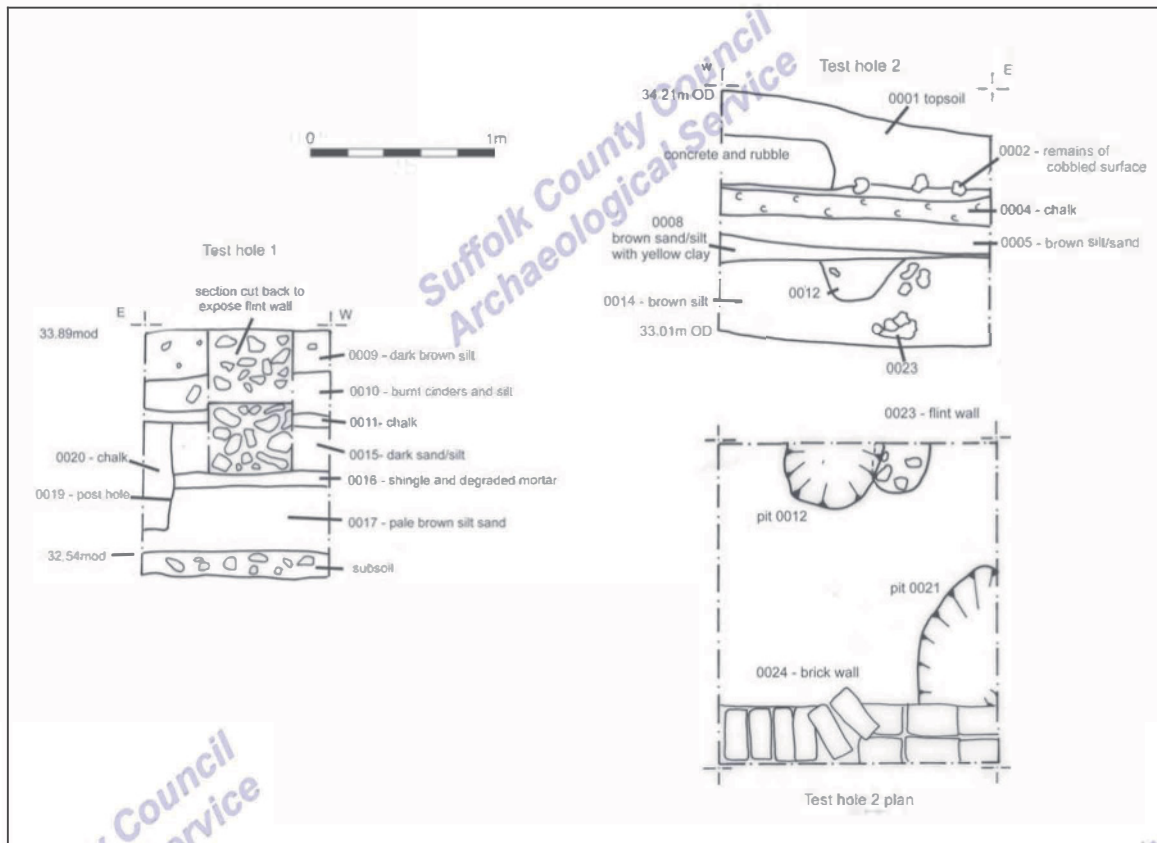


Figure 6. Test holes 1 and 2, plan and sections

### Testhole 3

This was excavated to test anomaly 8 from the GPR survey but it was not possible to target the hole directly over the line of the signal and what ever had given the reading did not extend into the testpit. A build up of soil horizon was recorded in this area including redeposited loams and dumps of building material. The soil profile suggested that the area had been completely re-worked and the finds recovered from these layers indicated that this had occurred within the last 250years. A pit, 0035 was identified at the base of the section and finds from this included the

worn base of a colander, and a sherd of a Westerwald stoneware tankard dating to the first half of the seventeenth century. Subsoil was at 31.69m OD, 1.6m below ground level.

### Testhole 4

Testhole 4 was excavated outside the precinct and close to the flood margins of the river. The section showed that the ground level here had been raised within the last 100 years with the deposition of imported topsoil, with the earlier ground surface identified at a 0.7m depth (31.71m OD). Below was a brown loam soil layer, 0039, which produced Middle and Late Saxon pottery, and early medieval pottery including glazed wares. This was a sealed context with no material post dating the early medieval period present. Below this the soil became increasingly stony but was still a backfill or redeposited soil. The testhole was abandoned at a depth of 1.8m without exposing the subsoil and it is possible that the testhole was centred on a deep cut feature. Previous excavations on Eastgate Street, on the opposite side the precinct, have shown that a large ditch flanked the outside of the precinct wall, directing storm water from the town into the Lark, and it is possible that the same thing occurs here.

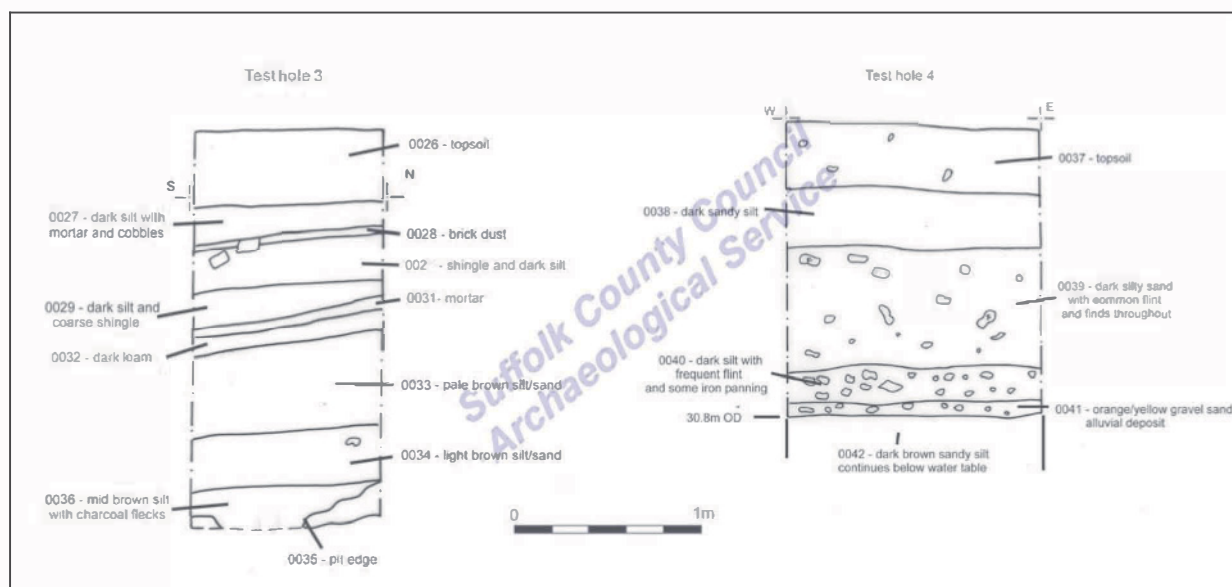


Figure 7. Sections of Testholes 3 and 4

### Testhole 5

Testhole 5 was excavated alongside the turret built into the precinct wall, over an anomaly recorded in the GPR survey and on the putative site of the gate into the Sacrist's yard. The testhole was excavated entirely within the backfill of a deep hole packed with a dense fill of medieval building flint and mortar rubble. This backfill material had later been re-excavated creating a series of loam filled holes, possibly 'planting holes' when the area became part of a formal private garden in the 18th century; although the excavation of these, layers 0049 and 0051, produced exclusively medieval coarseware pottery.

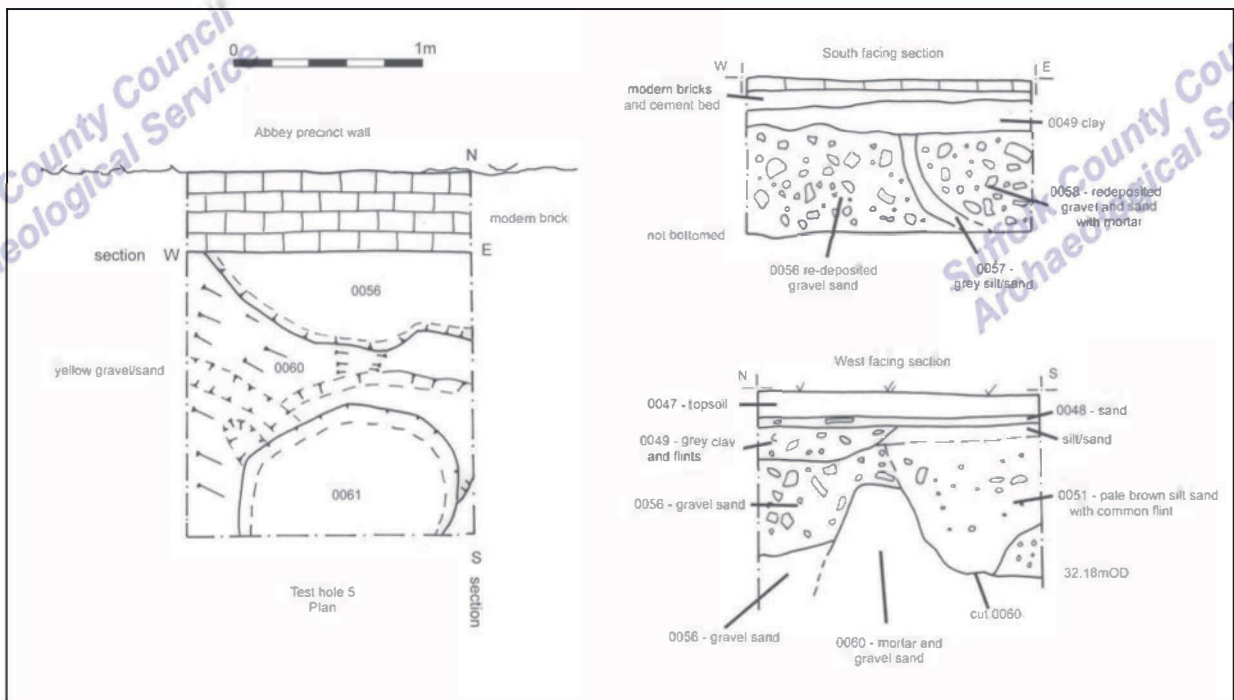


Figure 8. Plan and sections, testhole 5

### Testhole 6

Testhole 6 was excavated alongside the inner face of the precinct wall at a point where the angle of the wall and its style of construction changes. The excavation exposed the base of the wall at the depth of 1m (31.57mOD) and identified the original ground surface at 0.7m. The old ground surface showed as both a soil difference in the section and a change in the mortar pointing on the face of the wall. The wall was stood on the surface of the natural gravel but there was no deep footing beyond being cut through the medieval topsoil. A cut deeper than 1.30m, ran N-S along the line of what should have been the return of the precinct wall destroying any possible evidence of it at this point. The cut was backfill in a single event in the relative recent past (early C20th) and may be part of town's main drain.

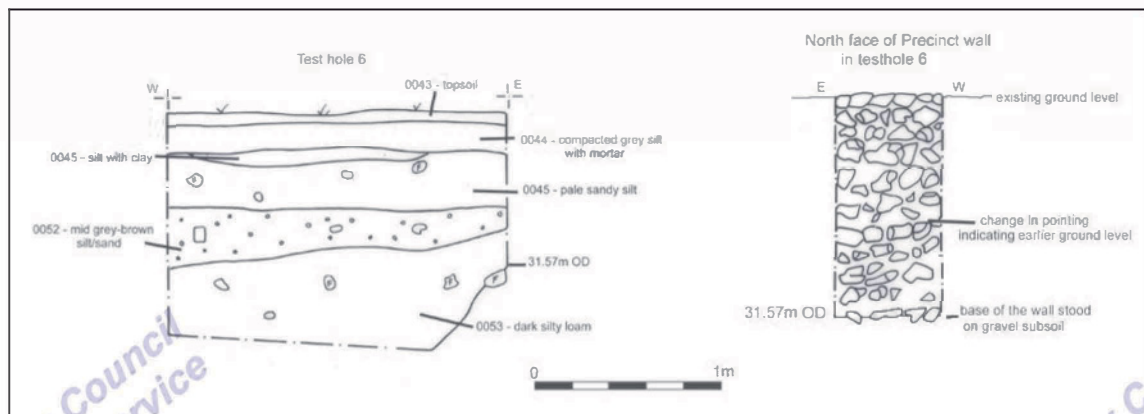


Figure 9. Sections testhole 6

### Testhole 7

Two graves were found in Testhole 7 within the area marked as the monk's cemetery on the early edition of the Ordnance Survey map (Fig 24 Appendix 2). The graves were aligned E-W and their relative proximity suggested that they were likely to be part of a closely spaced row. The graves were shallow and the skull and neck vertebrae of one of the individuals were exposed at a depth of 0.52m. The skull had been supported by large stones placed in the grave at the time of burial, which suggests that it was not confined. The graves were excavated only to the extent necessary to confirm that these were articulated skeletons and they were otherwise left

undisturbed. A late service trench cut through one of the graves but otherwise there was no disturbance suggesting that this area had been respected as a known burial ground until the 19th century. Two sherd of pottery dated C13th-14th were found in the grave backfill. Subsoil was at 0.5m

### Testhole 8

Testhole 8 was excavated to explore the extent of the spread of the graves. The soil had however been disturbed since the medieval period to a depth three times greater than the burials in testhole 7; the truncated subsoil surface was found at 1.6m.

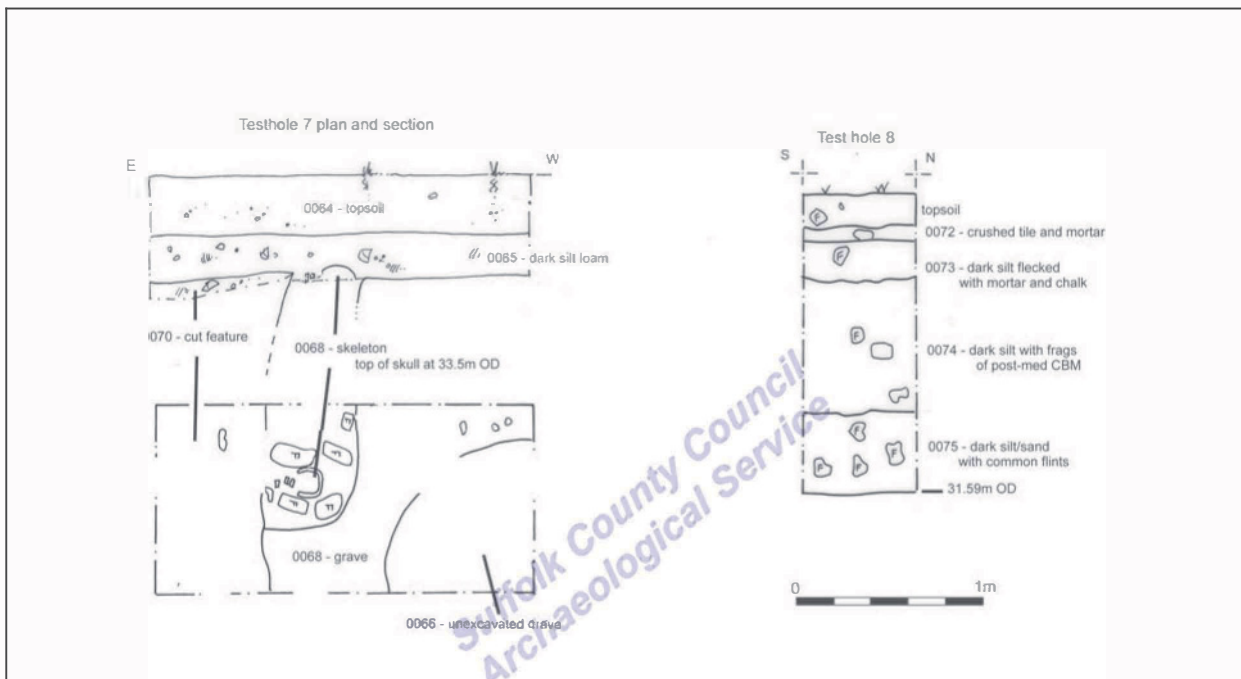


Figure 10. Plans and sections testholes 7 and 8

### Record office site

A test hole was excavated in 1990 at the rear of the record office, as part of a previous assessment (BSE 084). This revealed a complex stratigraphy of five inter-cutting features including pits, part of an early building and a possible oven or hearth feature. All produced large assemblages of finds and occupation debris dating from the 10th through to 15th century. This occurred all within a 2x2m excavation and suggested an intense and continuous level of occupation from the late Saxon and Medieval periods through to today. The medieval deposits were sealed beneath a later build up of soil and began at a depth 0.8m below the surface.

## Finds Evidence by Richenda Goffin

### Introduction

Finds were collected from 19 pre-modern contexts, as shown in the table below. A number of earlier contexts contained 19th and 20th century artefacts and these have not been included in the summary below.



<b>Find type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Wt/g</b>
Pottery	54	1320
CBM	130	1064
Fired clay	2	31
Stone	1	34
Glass	1	10
Clay pipe	8	55
Slag	1	114
Iron	4	62
Animal bone	74	1434
Shell	14	144

Table 1. Finds quantities.

## **Pottery**

A total of 54 fragments of pottery was recovered from 12 contexts (1.320kg). The assemblage is mainly medieval and post-medieval in date, with a few fragments of residual earlier pottery. The pottery has been quantified and catalogued, with detailed information presented in Table 1 Pottery Spotdates.

### *Post-Roman pottery*

#### **Middle Saxon**

Two fragments of pottery dating to the Middle Saxon period were found in 0039 in Testpit 4. The sherds were both Sandy Ipswich ware, and consisted of a jar with a West Type 2 rim, and a more abraded body sherd from another vessel. Both fragments are residual and were found with Late Saxon wares and medieval wares dating from the mid 12th-mid 13th century.

#### **Late Saxon**

A small quantity of residual Thetford ware was recovered from deposit 0039 (4 fragments @ 0.065kg). Three cooking vessels or jars are represented, dating to the 10th-11th century.

#### **Medieval**

A total of 24 fragments of medieval pottery was collected (0.375kg). Most was recovered from Testpits 4 and 6, with a small number of sherds from Testpit 7. A fragment of Yarmouth-Type ware, an early medieval sand and shell tempered ware dating to the 10th-11th century was present in deposit 00039, but the remainder of the medieval wares are later in date. Fifteen fragments of medieval coarsewares were present, including some probable sherds of Bury Coarse Sandy Ware, which is likely to be a local product.

In addition, a number of medieval glazed wares were identified. Four fragments of Hedingham ware were present, all jug sherds, which were decorated either with applied vertical strips or iron oxide stripe. Such vessels date to the mid 12th – mid 13th century. In addition a single fragment of Stamford ware (Fabric type B) was present in deposit 0039, dating to the Mid 11th-Mid 13th century. The rod handle of an abraded redware jug covered with a white slip is made from a similar fabric to London-type ware but is finer. A single fragment of Mill Green ware was present as a residual element in topsoil deposit in Trench (Mid 13th- mid 14th C).

#### **Post-medieval**

The remainder of the pottery dates to the post-medieval period (24 sherds @ 0.829kg). Many of the wares were made in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but a number of earlier post-medieval wares were identified. Three fragments dating to the fifteenth to sixteenth century were present in layer 0017 in Testpit 3. In addition to local redwares, a fragment of a Raeren stoneware drinking vessel was present dating from the late fifteenth to the first half of the

sixteenth century. The pitfill 0036 in Testpit 3 contained a small number of redwares including the worn base of a colander, and a sherd of a Westerwald stoneware tankard base dating to the first half of the seventeenth century (Gaimster 257).

### **Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and fired clay**

A total of 130 fragments of ceramic building material was recovered, weighing 10.64kg. The assemblage was fully quantified and recorded as a table in an Access database. Fabrics were catalogued on their visual appearance and the main types of inclusions present. The group is mainly medieval and post-medieval in date, but two fragments of probable Roman building material were also identified. Two pieces of fired clay were also present. Given the relatively high proportion of medieval tiles, all the ceramic building material was retained for future reference.

A large and abraded fragment of a probable Roman brick (RBT) was found in deposit 0039 in Testpit 4. It is made of a hard dense fine fabric, and has one surviving vertical edge 35mm in height. A second much smaller and very abraded piece from the same context is also likely to be Roman.

Plain rooftiles were by far the largest group of building material present, and many of these are medieval in date. Such tiles were collected from deposits 0013, 0017, 0039, 0049, 0050, 0051, and 0069. The tiles were made from two main fabrics groups, estuarine clays and fine - medium sandy fabrics, dating to the 13th-15th century. Many of the tiles had reduced cores and several were patchily glazed in green or brown. Several had round peg holes. Mortar was present on many of the tiles indicating that they had been re-used.

Thirty-eight pieces of rooftile were recovered from deposit 0048. Eleven fragments are medieval, but twenty-seven pieces are made from soft, fully oxidised pale red fabrics which are later in date, probably late medieval or early post-medieval. Six have round peg holes, with one having a square hole. Finger print impressions were recorded on one fragment.

A small number of post-medieval pantiles were found in layer 0015 (which also contained a medieval rooftile). Another glazed pantile was recovered from topsoil deposit 0009, with a brick fragment dating to the 17th-19th century.

Two pieces of fired clay were recovered from 0071 with fragments of medieval and post-medieval rooftile. Two different fabrics are present, both containing frequent linear voids from organic material, and moderate chalk inclusions. The fired clay may be from structural daub, or perhaps from hearth features or ovens.

### **Clay Pipe**

Ten fragments of clay tobacco pipe were collected from pre-modern contexts (0.057g). Two bowls were present in fill 0036 in Test Pit 3, which date to the second half of the seventeenth century. Five stem fragments were recovered from 0065 in Test Pit 7, and two heavily concreted stems from 0011 were found with pottery dating to the eighteenth and nineteenth century.

### **Stone**

A single fragment of a stone rooftile was recovered from the evaluation. A small piece of limestone perforated with a round nail hole c10mm in diameter was found in 0049, with a small quantity of medieval pottery and ceramic rooftile.

## Small Finds

A single fragment of vessel glass 0072 was the only artefact given an individual small find number. The fragment of colourless glass comes from the base of a wineglass, which has the remnants of a delicate stem. The vessel is post-medieval and was found with ceramics and clay tobacco pipes dating to the seventeenth century.

Four fragments of corroded iron which are likely to be nails were found in 0017, 0036 and 0069. A much thinner piece of iron, probably originally square in section, was recovered from 0047.

## Biological evidence

### *Animal bone*

A total of 74 fragments of animal bone were collected from pre-nineteenth century contexts, weighing 1.434kg in total.

The largest group was recovered from deposit 0039 in Test Pit 4, which contained the group of Middle and Late Saxon and medieval wares. Some of the bone from this deposit was very stained and moderately concreted. The majority was fragmentary and consisted of pieces from the shafts of limbs and ribs of cattle and smaller animals. The most complete bone was a metatarsus of a probable sheep. The distal ends of two sheep humerus were present in pitfill 0036, along with rib fragments and other small bone remains. The humerus of a pig was identified in 0065.

### *Shell*

Fourteen fragments of oyster shell were collected from the pre-modern deposits. These were counted, weighed and discarded.

## Discussion of the finds evidence

The finds recovered from the test pits included a considerable quantity of medieval artefacts, mainly in the form of pottery and ceramic building material. Both locally made coarsewares and glazed wares from Essex are present in the ceramic assemblage, dating to the middle of the twelfth century to the middle of the thirteenth. This material may be directly associated with the nearby Abbey complex. Glazed medieval rooftiles are believed to be indicative of the presence of buildings of high-status (Sue Anderson, pers. comm.), and, given the relatively large quantities it is possible that these too originate from Abbey buildings, or significant buildings nearby. A proportion of these tiles have obviously been re-used. Few groups of finds were found to date to the late medieval period, although a small number of sherds of pottery found in 0017 may just predate the dissolution, with the presence of a Rhenish stoneware drinking vessel dating to the first half of the sixteenth century. The group of rooftiles in 0048 may also date to this period. A small but coherent group of finds of seventeenth century date was recovered from pitfill 0036, and includes pottery, clay pipes and vessel glass. Later post-medieval finds were found in many of the topsoil deposits, and the pottery, bottle glass and other finds dating to the nineteenth century or later was not recorded.

Perhaps the most significant finds were two sherds of Middle Saxon pottery found with Late Saxon and medieval pottery in deposit 0039. Small numbers of Ipswich ware have also been found in excavations nearby, at Honey Hill (BSE 262, Craven, forthcoming), Nuffield Hospital (BSE 127, Anderson 1996) and the Record Office (BSE 084 Caruth 1990). The pottery is significant as it adds to the growing number of find spots in the area around St Mary's Square which in Medieval Records is known as the Old Market and has traditionally been thought to be where the Middle Saxon settlement in Bury was centred.

## General Discussion

The results of the investigation suggest that there are extensive buried archaeological deposits within the area of the site. This together with discoveries in the documentary search and structural details within the fabric of the monument is all important to the understanding of the Abbey. The archaeological deposits occur both within the precinct and beyond the Abbey wall.

The assessment has determined that the area between the precinct wall and the police station is the site of the Sacrist yard and has identified the site of its possible gatehouse which may survive as part of the standing monument and as an archaeological deposit. The documentary material suggests that this area has the potential to include the homes, offices and workshops of the Sacrists' staff. Also highlighted was the plan of an as yet unidentified Abbey building, notable because it is fed with piped water. What is known about the building is its proximity to the 'pond yard' (now the county council car park) and its inventory of rooms which is similar to that of the Sacrist's property. It is possible that this building lies within the yard.

Also within this area, deep archaeological deposits were found suggesting that the archaeological horizon is well buried and there is a possibility of a large ditch running down to the river mirroring the one known to have existed on Eastgate Street. The discovery of Ipswich and Thetford-ware pottery confirms that the site is within the Middle and Late Saxon settlement area and supports the finding of the earlier work behind the record office where evidence of buildings and intense occupational activity were found.

The discovery of human burials demonstrates that the monks cemetery continues into the area of the archaeology offices and substantiate the legend on the OS map which indicates that burials have been encountered before and that potentially these could extend over the north end of the site. Because of its proximity to the burials it may also suggest that the adjacent building fragment (D) alongside the Road Safety offices is some form of mortuary structure.

The presence of further Abbey buildings and structures within the area of the Precinct has been shown to be a high probability. The finds recovered from the test pits included a considerable quantity of medieval artefacts, mainly pottery and tiles, dating to the middle of the twelfth century to the middle of the thirteenth and this material may be directly associated with the Abbey. Glazed medieval roof tiles are believed to be indicative of the presence of buildings of high-status and, given the relatively large quantities, it is possible that these too originate from Abbey buildings, or significant buildings nearby.

Evidence from the remains of the standing monument and supported by the geophysical survey results indicates that the precinct wall returned northward, across the car park, to complete the circuit of the boundary wall. Establishing the precise dimension of the precinct presents an opportunity to re-examine the layout of the whole complex and its relationship with its surroundings and give an insight into how the monastery was laid out. The discovery for instance suggests that the Abbey Church sat precisely in the middle of the complex equidistant between the west precinct wall and the newly inferred east one.

The assessment has presented an opportunity to reconfirm the significance of familiar surroundings and has established that the study area is integral to the understanding of, and is equally important as, the rest of the monastery. It is recommended therefore that the provision of a proper-programmed study of the archaeology and the historic environment be highlighted in any development proposal. This would undoubtedly include a requirement for excavation and a detailed record of the standing monument particularly those parts that may pass out of the public domain.

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Anderson, S., 1996, '*ST. Edmunds Hospital & Nursing Home, Bury St Edmunds (BSE 127): A report on the archaeological excavations.* Unpublished SCCAS Report no 96/31

Caruth, J., 1990, '*Excavations at rear of the Record Office, Bury St Edmunds (BSE 084)* Unpublished SCCAS Report

Gaimster, D., 1997, *German stoneware 1200-1900* British Museum Press

For references for the documentary report see appendix 1

## Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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## Appendix 1

### THE ABBEY OF ST EDMUND, BURY ST EDMUNDS, The Archaeological and Historic background

#### Summary

*The Shire Hall complex lies partially within the Precinct of the medieval Abbey, and partly within the associated medieval urban area. The Abbey was one of the pre eminent and largest Benedictine Houses in the country.*

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Abbey of Bury St Edmunds was contained within a formal Precinct defined by a substantial boundary wall. All the major structures were contained within the precinct, together with substantial open areas such as the great Courtyard and the burial ground. The circuit of the Precinct survives as a major element of the visible Historic Landscape of the town.
- 1.2 Large parts of the Abbey are an area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Suffolk Monument 2) and protected by Statute. Included are the site of the Abbey church, the claustral buildings, the gateways, the standing sections of the Precinct wall, the Abbots Palace and some of the open land within the precinct. Within the Shire Hall complex are two detached fragments of precinct wall which are scheduled.
- 1.3 The scheduling dates from the 1950s and early 60s with areas defined on a pragmatic basis – avoiding dwellings and churches (as was standard practice) and the urban burial ground of the Great Churchyard. Thus the Scheduled Ancient Monument represents only 66 % of the area of the Medieval precinct which contained the Abbey. It is, however, clear to me that the archaeological and historic significance of those parts of the precinct which are not scheduled is no less than those which are. The basic presumption should be that the entire Medieval Precinct area and the line of its external wall be considered to be of National Importance.

#### 2. Description

- 2.1 *Summary : The Medieval precinct almost certainly overlies the site of the known Early and Mid-Saxon settlements, large parts of the Late Saxon urban settlement, and areas of the 11<sup>th</sup> century planned town pre-dating the formalisation and extension of the Medieval Precinct in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is the focus of the 11th century planned town. The gridded Medieval streets set the frame into which the historic core of the present town has developed. Post Reformation the abbey was largely demolished, with building stone distributed throughout the town. Large parts of the Precinct became a formal garden in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

2.3 **Settlement History** : The Abbey complex overlies the site of several phases of Saxon settlement which were the predecessor of the present town; late Saxon sources refer to it as Bedericsworth, a pre existing settlement which attracted the attention of one of the Anglian kings: Sigebert, who 'retired' there in 633 founding a small religious community. Documents of the 10th century refer to it as having the status of 'villa regia' from the mid-Saxon period. There is no known evidence for pre-Christian Saxon settlement within the Precinct area, though there is a single burial of this date 150m to the west. Excavated evidence from within the Abbot's Palace (the Queen's Chamber excavation for the DoE) probably confirms a mid-Saxon date, while circumstantial evidence of a road system which seems to predate the Medieval grid and which focuses on the area later to be occupied by the Abbey, contributes to a convincing case for a high proportion of the early and mid-Saxon settlement area to be within the area of the scheduled monument. The status of the early settlement and its ecclesiastical importance are confirmed by the translation there of the remains of the royal martyr, Edmund, in the early 10th century; the relics were housed in a 'very large church of wonderful wooden plankwork'. In the early 11th century the secular church or Minster was refounded by Cnut as a Benedictine monastery and the first stone church built.

We have no knowledge of ancillary buildings associated with the 10th and 11th century church, or the area covered by the pre-Norman ecclesiastical complex. There is some evidence for the Late Saxon lay settlement, this seems to be orientated along the western valley side along the Northgate-Southgate axis to both north and south of the ecclesiastical complex. Urban settlement areas are likely to be represented in the scheduled area; some evidence suggestive of agricultural use west of the Queen's Chamber was recovered by. There are likely to have been significant urban remains within the area of the later walled Medieval Precinct to the south of the abbey church and outside the SAM.

2.4 Abbot Baldwin (1065-97) began the planning and construction fundamental to the Abbey and town as we receive them today. He seems to be the origin of a strategic plan which re-designed the Abbey church, orientating the claustral ranges and urban gridded street pattern upon its east-west axis. The Abbey as a whole ranked amongst the most wealthy and influential in the Medieval kingdom (with Winchester, Westminster and Crowland); the size and grandeur of the church were to be commensurate with its status. The Abbey as a whole was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1539 though there is good evidence that the church itself survived intact until the 1580s. However, after that date it joined the rest of the claustral buildings as an effective stone pit being plundered for building stone and hardcore rubble.

2.5 The development of the claustral range about the Abbey church was largely achieved within the 11th and 12th centuries, certainly the major elements of cloister, refectory, dormitory and chapter house were in place by the early 12th. There was without doubt continued development, refurbishment and replacement throughout the life of the Abbey. The majority of the claustral ranges are within the Guardianship and SAM areas, however areas south and east of the presbytery of the church (i.e. 9-10 The Churchyard and the Shire Hall car park) are likely to have contained buildings (e.g. parts of the Infirmary) but as these within the gardens of dwellings they were not studied or scheduled in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

2.6 The pre 1100 Abbey church and complex may not have been formally enclosed. The main north to south highway (now Northgate and Southgate Streets) through the settlement seems to have formed an effective western boundary; the great West Front butts up to and aligns with it. The River Lark forms a natural eastern boundary, and the road to the crossing at Eastgate, may have formed a northern limit, nothing is known of the southern edge.

A major change took place under Abbot Anselm (1120-48): the area of the Abbey was extended and formalised with a precinct wall and gates. The Norman Tower is the sole surviving 12th century gate. The extensive lengths of surviving precinct wall and buttress have not been systematically studied and described, but casual observation shows some areas of flint and mortar walling with horizontal coursing, characteristic of the 12th century (the truncated wall in the Shire Hall complex being the best example). The main gate into the 'Great Court' was destroyed in the insurrection of 1327. The flamboyant 'Abbey Gate' was built next to the site of the original (which was on the axis of the urban grid opposite the end of Abbeygate Street). The majority of the visible standing sections of the Precinct wall are within the SAM, but two sections, near St Mary's church and the cathedral are not. Areas where the line of the wall is known, within buildings, or as an earthwork are not included in the SAM.



- 2.7 Domesday Book records: “now the town is contained in a greater circle, including land which was then ploughed and sown.... Now altogether [there are] 342 houses in demesne land of St Edmund which was under plough in the time of Edward [the Confessor]”. The urban plan of Baldwin must be what we see today as the gridded plan. Casual examination shows the plan to be less regular, and apparently disrupted, around Angel Hill and the 12th century western precinct wall. It is probable that the new urban area originally extended west as far as the Northgate-Southgate axis. Early Medieval urban deposits may exist within the Scheduled area between the Northgate-Southgate axis and the precinct wall.
- 2.8 The shrine of St Edmund was the focus and origin of the community. The relics of the martyrdom and canonisation of an English king became a centre for large scale Medieval pilgrimage. The Abbey had national and international connections throughout its life. It is probable that this will be reflected in the archaeological content of the site.
- 2.10 The ruins were acquired in the mid 18th century and became a garden area for Abbey House (on Angel Hill); by 1806 the entire complex passed into the hands of the Bristol Estate. A survey of 1823 (Lenny) shows a kitchen garden north of St James’ Church, an orchard in the area of the Rose Garden, an ice-house within the Queen’s Chamber and a greenhouse against the north precinct wall. The Abbey church and associated ruins were probably an established wilderness area (as they remained until the 1950s). In 1831 the botanical garden was laid out by Mr Hodson in the Great Court of the Abbey, though public access was not gained until the end of the century. The gardens have since become publicly owned and are justifiably a major attraction. In the north east corner of the Precinct a public lavatory building was erected in the 1950s and replaced on the same footprint in 1990. Watching briefs at that time showed that a World War 2 air raid shelter had existed on the same site. The balance between formal garden, open space, grassland and playground beside the River Lark, and the historic monument is sensitive and problematic.

### 3. Significance

3.2 *Historical Significance.* The Abbey and its precinct have importance both as an ecclesiastical monument and also as a critical element in the foundation and development of a major medieval town. The Abbey is well documented and its significance as a major entity in the monastic and seigniorial life of the nation is apparent. The 11th century Royal Grant to the Abbey of the 8½ hundreds which constituted the area later to become West Suffolk gave it great status and economic power within the region, and the nation; Westminster, Winchester and Crowland were amongst the few abbeys which were rated as wealthier. The Abbey was significant as a national centre of pilgrimage. The political importance of the Abbot was recognised when the Magna Carta was ratified at Bury by the regional magnates. Before the Reformation the Abbey was a focus of regional economic and social life. In national terms the historical significance of the monument is exceptional.

3.3 *Archaeological significance.* Settlement pre-dating the Abbey is demonstrated from the 7th century, and extends in a continuous sequence through to the post medieval period. The potential for village and then urban deposits which pre-date the 11th century Benedictine Abbey development is high. The potential for early-Medieval urban deposits which post date the planned town, but pre date the 12th century Precinct wall is high.

The entire development of the centre of the ecclesiastical complex from the 7th to the 16th century lies within the S.A.M. Evidence for design and layout alteration associated with documented development and expansion of the Abbey is likely. The documented expansion of the precinct and a boundary formalisation with the building of the surviving wall and gates, coupled with the effect of this expansion on pre-existing lay settlement, are likely to be preserved within the archaeological record. In national terms the monument is exceptional.

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## **Appendix 2: Documentary Search** by Anthony M. Breen

### **Introduction**

This report has been commissioned through the Suffolk Archaeological Unit to examine documentary sources relevant to the archaeological assessment of the car parks in and around the Shire Hall and Suffolk County Council Offices in Bury St Edmunds.

Though there are extensive published sources for the history of Bury St Edmunds and its former abbey, a large range of primary sources have been examined for this report in order to link the various parts of the site through property records back to the dissolution of the abbey in 1539. The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Offices in Bury St Edmunds and in Ipswich and permission has been obtained to examine the council's own files held in Records Management at the record office in Ipswich. A number of the files identified as being relevant to the preparation of this report have been temporarily returned to the Legal Services Department. These files relating to the sites of the Record Office in Bury and surrounding buildings and the Suffolk Archaeological Unit's own offices and adjoining buildings have not been examined at this stage and it will be necessary to obtain access to this material to complete the documentary assessment of the site.

The purpose of the various deeds was to show true title to the land conveyed and until the introduction of the modern Land Registry the property descriptions were defined in written text rather than through a plan of the site however in order to leave no doubt as to the property boundaries a large number of deeds from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards included plans. In those instances where plans have been found in connection with a deed they have been copied for this report.

Though the main focus of this research has been on the primary sources some consideration has been given to published works those that offer details of the history of the site, such as Yates (1843), Whittingham (1952) and Statham (1988 & 2000). There is scope for further research on all aspects of the history of this site in particular into those records currently in the care of Legal Services.

The street name Honey Hill came into use in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century before that date all the street from St Mary's Church to the junction of Raingate Street was known Schoolhall Street. The name St Margaret's House or Lodge is again modern and does not appear in earlier documents. For convenience the headings of the various sections of this report identified the various parts of the site as they are used at present and not as they are described in historic documents.

A summary of the main points uncovered through this research is presented in the conclusion at the end of this report.

### **A Brief History of Shire Hall**

Before the Local Government Act of 1888, Justices of the Peace meeting at quarter sessions were responsible for both civil and criminal matters within the county. Their meetings were held in advance of the Assize Court whose judges were sent out on a circuit from London. Though the quarter sessions powers over civil administration passed to elected councillors under the 1888 act the quarter sessions and the assizes continued to sit as criminal courts until the Court Act of 1971. Though the civil work of the quarter sessions had been partly divided into separate east and west divisions of the county before 1888 it was originally proposed under the Local Government Bill that Suffolk should be one county. "West Suffolk campaigned hard for a separate administrative county and succeeded" (Thomas). This led to the establishment of both East Suffolk and West Suffolk County Councils. The two separate county councils were reunited

in 1974. The East Suffolk Police force was established in 1840 under the powers of the County Police Act of 1839, “this was a permissive measure which enabled the Justices of the Peace to set up paid county police forces” (Richardson). The separate West Suffolk Police were established under the terms of the County and Borough Police Act of 1856 that “required the Justices to establish a force for any parts of the county still not covered”. These two separate forces together with some smaller borough forces were combined into a single force in 1872. Until recent legislation creating a separate police authority the administration of police forces were under the jurisdiction of a joint standing committee made up of both councillors and justices.

Neither the sites of the Law Courts nor the Police Station are now part of the council’s offices the properties having been made over to successor authorities under the Police and Magistrates’ Court Act 1994 and Courts Act 2003. It is important to note that they were originally built under the authority of West Suffolk County Council or its predecessors the Quarter Sessions. As the law courts are the earliest part of the site and have been in use for the administration of the county since the 16<sup>th</sup> century this report will continue with a brief history of the Shirehouse or Shirehall building as the site of the building offers a fixed point and the deeds for other adjoining properties describe their position in relation to this building.

### The Shire Hall

On the first three editions of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps the site of the Shire Hall is marked as “St Margaret’s Church”. The link between the former church or chapel and Shire Hall is shown on Payne’s 1834 map of Bury (Fig 11). Modern writers have associated the site with the former a monastic grammar school. In his description of the former abbey precinct Whittingham stated that, “East of the former Norman South gate of the cemetery taken down in 1760 was St Margaret’s church which first became the Grammar School and then the Shire Hall. The medieval school and song-school were south of this church and outside the precinct”. In Margaret Statham’s “The Book of Bury St Edmunds” she states that, “In 1579,

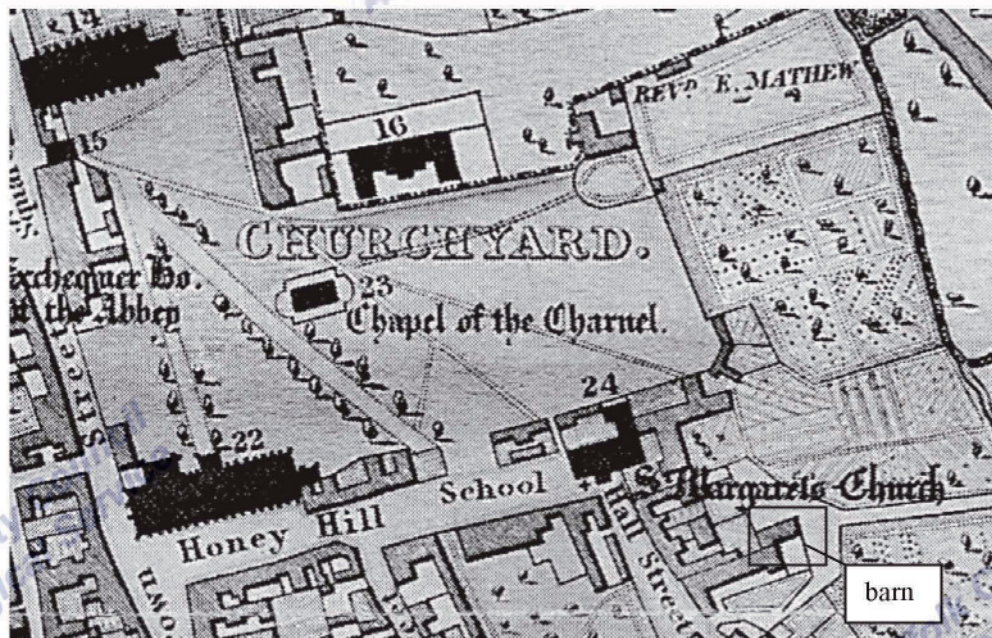


Fig 11. Extract from Payne’s map of Bury 1834

Thomas Badby gave the former monastic grammar school building to the Guildhall Feoffees for a Shire House, and some of the older Shire Hall buildings, including the courts, still stand on the site”. In her recently published work on the Guildhall Feoffment’s accounts she states that, “Before the dissolution, the abbot and convent refused to allow royal courts to meet within the borough boundary. The assizes and quarter sessions had been held in temporary accommodation

just north of the town at Henhove". Following the dissolution of the abbey the site was first leased to Sir Anthony Wingfield and then granted under letters patent to John Eyer in 1560 he conveyed the abbey precinct to his son-in-law Thomas Badby who conveyed part of the site to the Guildhall Feoffment. Margaret Statham continues "When Thomas Badby conveyed the monastic school to the feoffees on 12 July 1578 the people of the town would already have known that the queen was likely to visit Bury that summer, Badby, a prominent puritan justice as well as an active feoffee, knew by then that if the queen did visit Bury that year, he was to entertain her in his house which his father-in-law, John Eyer, had made out of the abbey buildings". She cites the reference to the gift of the site of the later Shire Hall as "Woodward's Register, H1/6/1 p. 198" and adds in a footnote "Badby is usually said to have given the Shire House, but the conveyance states that it was granted out of good will and by fine: there is a payment of £10 for it in the account for 1580, HD1150/1, f.18v. No doubt a medieval school would require considerable modification to fit it for the use as shire house: such work may account for some of the very large, vaguely described payment in 1579, HD1150/1, f16r".

Woodward's Register, a collection and transcription of all the property records of the Guildhall Feoffment, was compiled in around 1659. The Latin text of Thomas Badby gift does not mention the monastic school. Instead it states "All that building now called or known by the name of the Shirehouse with its appurtenances situated, lying and existing next or near to a street there called the Schoolehouse Streete as well as a parcel of land lying and existing at the north side of the said building which parcel of land contains in length from east to west sixty feet by measurement and in breadth at the aforesaid side of the building on the part of the east twelve feet by measurement and in breadth at the said west side towards the north twelve feet by measurement". The building had been "parcel of the dissolved monastery of Bury St Edmunds" and had been granted to Thomas Badby by "John Eyer late of the said Bury St Edmunds and now deceased".

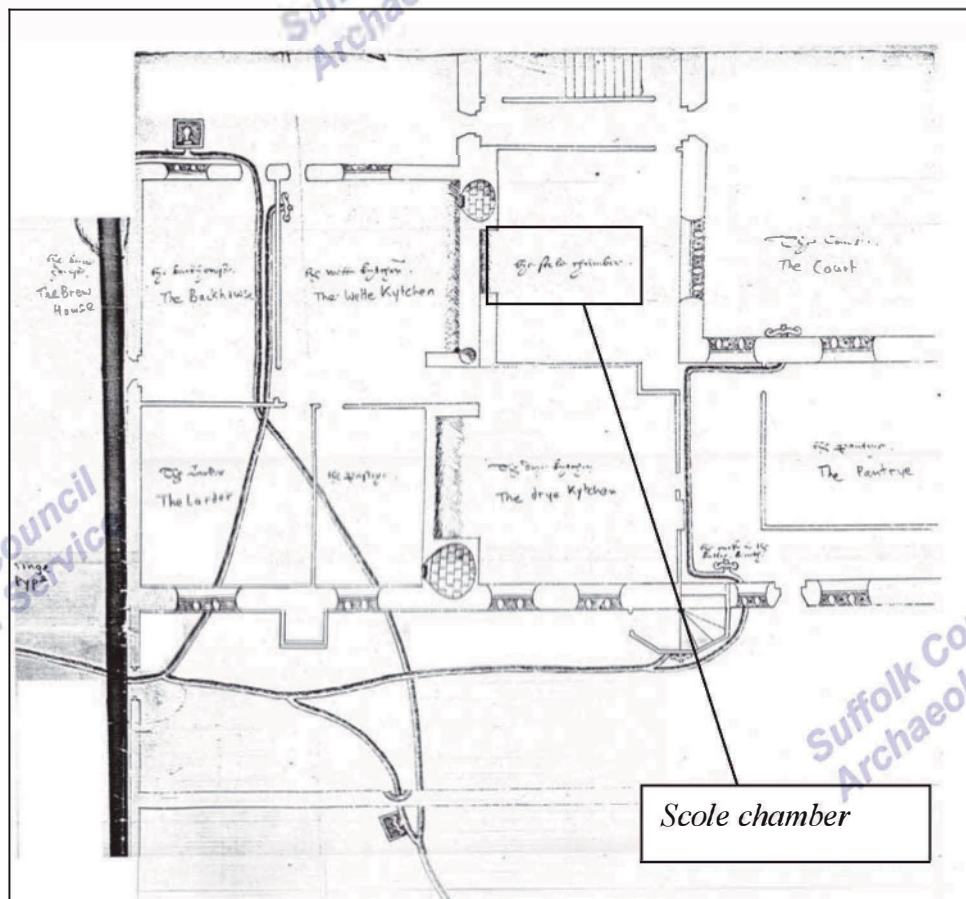


Figure 12. C16th plan of unknown Abbey building with School chamber

On a 16<sup>th</sup> century plan of the abbey's water system within as yet un-located building there is a room marked as "*The scole chamber*" (Fig. 12) (SMR record copy of BL Add 14850 176v 178 r). The water running out of this building entered the abbey's pond yard. In the antiquarian papers of Sir James Burrough he mentions some Latin verse painted in the walls of the school below the library. Margaret Statham has identified the site of the song school and described its associated medieval guild. The location of song school is described the section of this report dealing with the medieval geography.

The position of St Margaret's Church is mentioned in Sir James Burrough's "*Collectanea Buriensia*" compiled before his death in 1764 (ref. FL541/13/4). On page 53 of the manuscript under the section describing Anselm's period as abbot of Bury (1121-1146) the Latin text first mentions "the chapel of St Andrew in the brother's cemetery and the Chapel of St Margaret Virgin and St Mary at the south gate of the great cemetery". Burrough collected his material from numerous original manuscript sources and cited the contemporary references to these in the margin of his text. Later authors have made extensive use of his work.

Whatever the original pre dissolution uses of the Shire Hall buildings by 1578 they had become the meeting place for both the quarter sessions and assizes. The site of the buildings was leased from the Guildhall Feoffment to the quarter sessions. From 1740 there are a number of illustrations and detailed plans of the building. These include a small illustration of the east end of the building and roofline on Alexander Downing's 1740 map of Bury. In the following year Thomas Warren produced detailed plans of all the feoffment properties (Fig 13)(ref. H2/3/4/33). The 1741 plans are contained in a large volume of receivers' accounts and show three properties in Schoolhall Street. The names the owners of the adjoining properties are given on all the plans. The plan numbered XVI is entitled "*The Shire-Hall in the School-hall Street*". He marks the property to the west as "*Mr Reeve's Yard*" and that to the east and in part of the south as "*Mr Bryant's House & Yard*". The southwestern corner jotted out into Schoolhall Street and the north entrance rested on the churchyard. The northern elevation of this building is shown in the margins of Warren's 1776 map of Bury (Fig 14.).

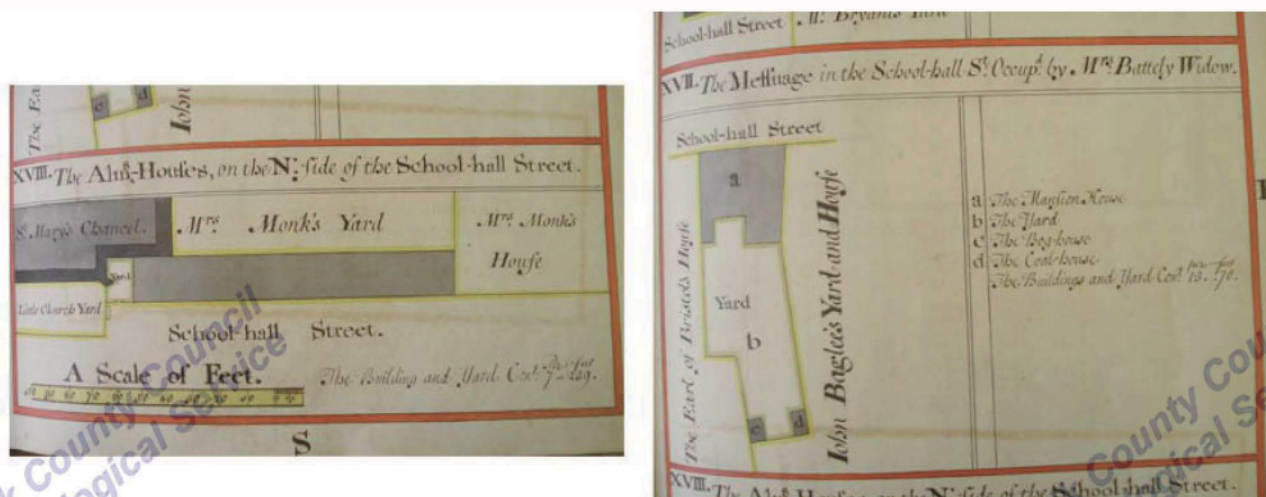


Fig 13. Extract from Thomas Warren detailed plans of all the feoffment properties 1741



Fig 14. Extract from Thomas Warren's Map 1776 showing the location and elevation of the Shire Hall

Apart from a new entrance to the south of the building and a second internal staircase at the western end, the structure seems to have undergone very little alteration before the next series of detailed plans of the Feoffment properties (Fig 15). These are the work of the surveyor J.G. Lenny and are contained in a single volume dated June 1822. The plans are prefaced with an outline map of the central area of the town showing the positions of the Feoffment properties (Fig 16).



Figure 15. Plan of Shire hall 1822

Unlike Warren's plans at that time the only remaining property in Schoolhall Street then under the ownership of the Guildhall was the Shire Hall. The plan of the Shire Hall is on page 5 of the volume and again the owners of the adjoining properties are named as to the west "Mrs Lock" and to the south and east "Revd J. T. Lawton".

Middleditch is described in the deed as an Inn Keeper. The recital clause mentions an earlier deed of 24<sup>th</sup> July 1823 in which Samuel Middleditch purchased the property from Thomas Gosling Reeve. The description of the property is as it appears in the deed of 1841. The recitals in the 1823 deed mentions previous transfers beginning with the will of William Reeve a musician of Bury St Edmunds dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 1740 in which he left the property his son Richard Reeve. In separate deed dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 1695 the property was leased from William





Figure 16. J.G. Lenny's plan of Bury showing the Ffeoffment properties 1823

Chinery to Edward Reeve for a year. In a separate document of articles of agreement dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1695 the property is described as "*being the churchyard ... abutting upon the Shirehouse and now in the occupation of Joseph Page*". William Chinery was a mercer and Edward Reeve, a musician. The names of Mr Reeve and Mrs Lock mentioned in these deeds appear on the Guildhall Feoffment plans.

The building was remodelled in 1842 according to the designs of the architect William McIntosh Brookes, though his plans for the buildings do not appear to have survived the northern elevation of the building is shown on a printed dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 1851 with a row of buildings including an inn named the Magpie to the west (Fig 17) and in an early photograph (ref. SRO Bury HD 1390). This same elevation is again shown in a photograph dated circa 1905 (Fig.17). Before the construction

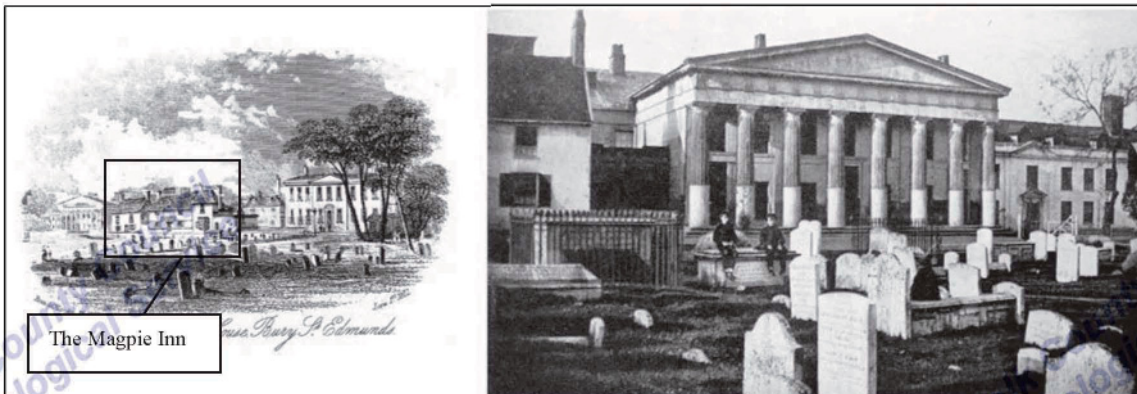


Figure 17. Views of the Shire Hall 1851 and 1905

of the present building in 1906 according to the designs of the architect A. A. Hunt permission was obtained from the Charity Commissioners for the Guildhall Feoffment to sell their interest in the property. In a deed of conveyance dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 1904 there is a plan of the building. The property is described "*All that Capital Building situate ... in or near a certain place there called the Church Yard, commonly called or known by the name of the Shirehouse or Shirehall with all*

and every the outhouses yards, ways ...”. On the plan the Feoffment property is shaded in pink and the boundaries match the earlier plans of 1741 and 1822 (Fig. 18).

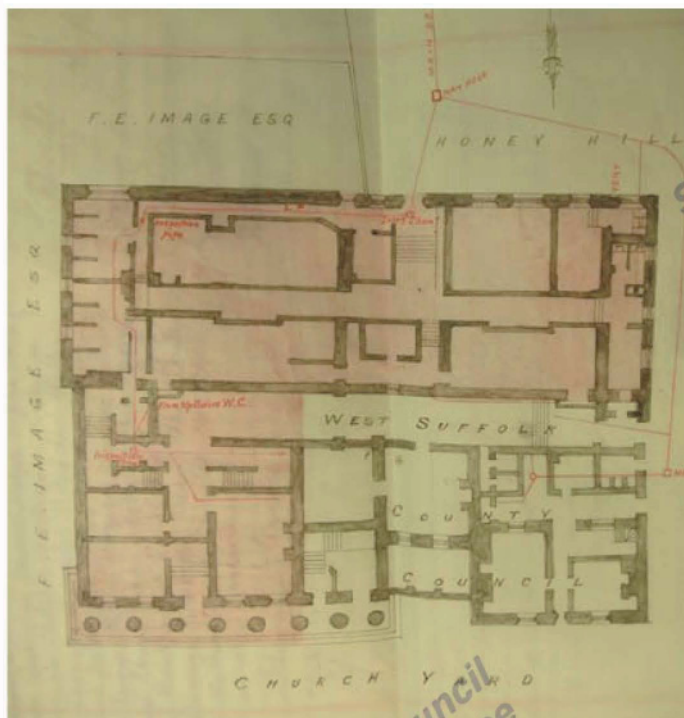


Figure 18. Plan of the shire hall

The site of the Shirehall is in a fixed position and the property ownership can be traced back to Thomas Badby's grant in 1572.

### St Margaret's House

St Margaret's House is a listed building described as "early 18<sup>th</sup> century but incorporating 13<sup>th</sup> century Abbey remains". On the south side of the east range of this building there are "a series of ornately gabled Edwardian extensions including a turret with conical roof". There is "an old wine cellar below the western half of the main range. The brick-fronted range has a 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed core". West Suffolk County Council purchased the building on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1932

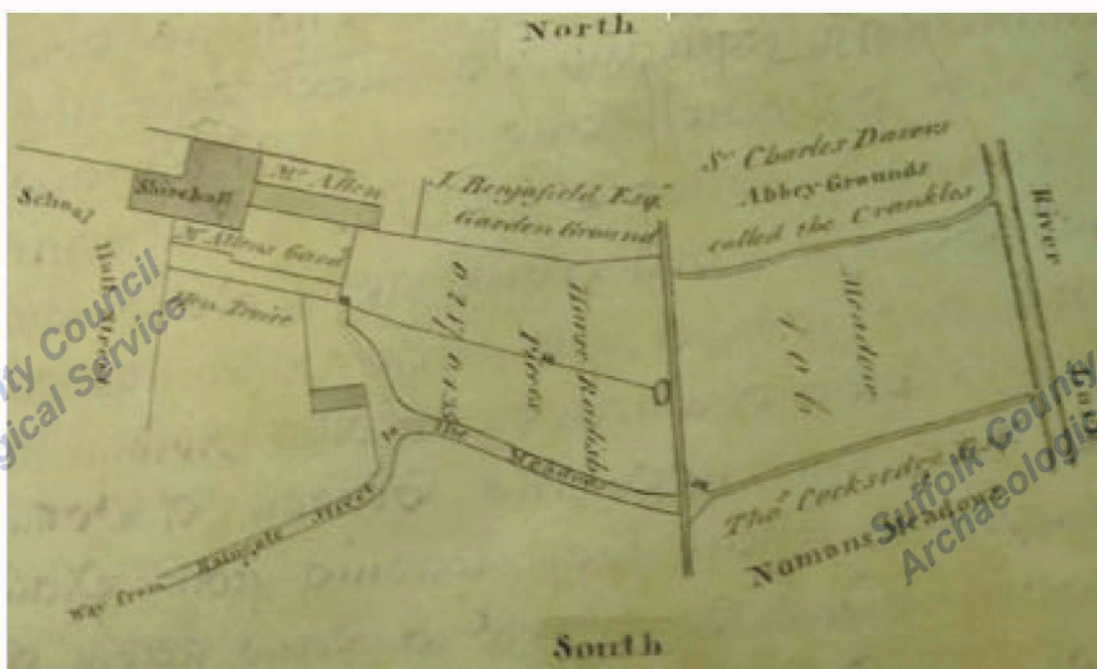


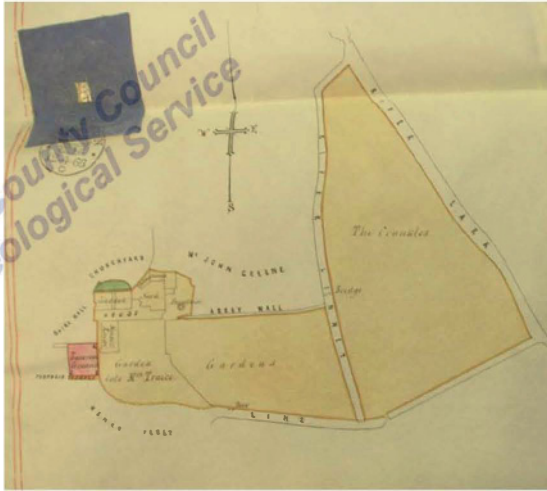
Figure 19. Plan of St Margret's House and its lands 1802

and the only substantial changes to the structure had been the demolition of various outbuildings at the eastern end of the site to accommodate the original site of the County Library. Of immediate interest are the lands attached to the buildings. These can be divided between those parcels of land immediately to the south of St Margaret's House and between the house and the present council offices and additional lands now forming that part of the car park to the south of the abbey wall these were added to the property in 1802. A series of detailed plans attached to the property deeds and dating from 1802 show the house and lands (Fig 19).

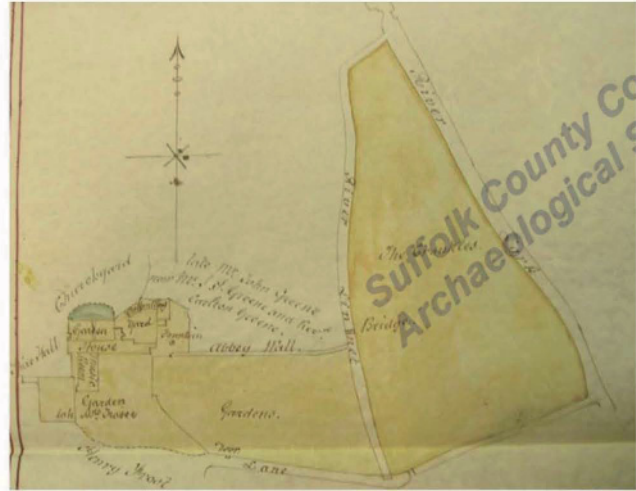
In 1806 John Wilson Allen of Bury St Edmunds sold the property to Cecilia Lawton of Walthamstow, Essex. The house and fore courts to the north were described as "*All that messuage or tenement formerly a garden or piece of ground containing by estimation three roods be the same more or less situate, lying and being in Bury St Edmunds aforesaid in or near to a certain place there called the Churchyard or Church Meadow ... as the same premises late were in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Jones esquire and now of the said John Wilson Allen*". The description continues with the small plots of land immediately to the south "*And also all that toft or small piece of ground containing twelve feet in breadth and in length nineteen feet and an half lying in Bury St Edmunds aforesaid whereon a House did lately stand abutting upon the Shire House on the North part and upon a way leading into the meadows of the Right Honourable the Earl of Strafford south the east head thereof abuts upon a piece of Garden ground of the said Earl now or lately used with the said messuage or tenement and the west head upon the Schoolhall Street ... were formerly in the occupation of Wenyewe widow ... and late in the occupation of Elizabeth Boelin widow ... and now in the tenure or occupation of the said John Wilson Allen ... And also all that piece or parcel of garden ground lately belonging to Leveson Vernon Esquire since Thomas Cocksedge esquire and now to the said John Wilson Allen but now laid open and used with the garden belonging to the said John Wilson Allen situate in or near the Church yard in Bury St Edmunds aforesaid which said piece of Garden Ground contains in width fourteen feet or thereabouts and in length one hundred and fifty feet more or less and doth abut upon the Schoolhall Street aforesaid to the west upon the messuage and ground of the said John Wilson Allen towards the north upon certain tenements belonging to Mary Traice widow towards the south and upon Garden Ground belonging to John Benjafield esquire on the part of the east ... late John Wilson Allen*".

There are no earlier deeds of this property in the council's own records. In a solicitor's collection of deeds deposited at the record office in Bury St Edmunds in 1951 there are some earlier deeds relating to St Margaret's House and these are described in detail in the collection's catalogue. In 1754 Thomas Johnson a mercer of Bury St Edmunds sold a "Messuage etc total 3 roods, in Bury 'Church Yard' or 'Church Meadow' (sometime in the occupation of Thomas Norton esq, & John Holt, abutting on the North Shirehouse; on the south the way to Lord Strafford's land, on the east garden ground of Lord Strafford on the West School House Street (late in the occupation of Francis Boggest esq purchased by Thomas Johnson of William Bryan & Dorothy Hyat)", (ref. SRO Bury 312/18).

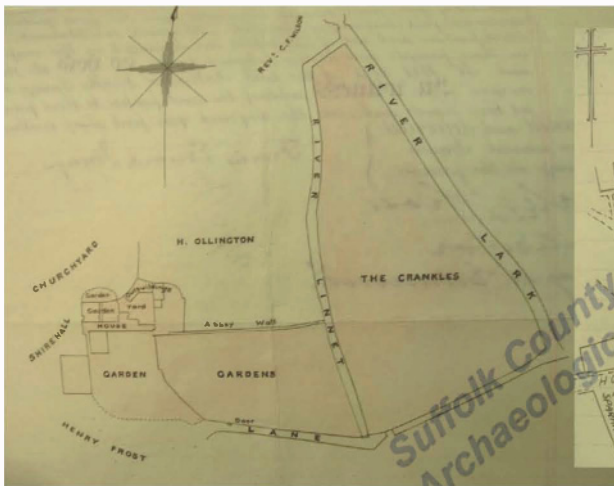
In another deed in the same collection dated 13<sup>th</sup> October 1806 Thomas Cocksedge of Bury sold to John Wilson Allen "*a piece of ground 14 feet wide & 156 feet long (formerly a driftway from Schoolhall St to the meadows) now laid into a garden of John Allen in the churchyard*". The



1866



1872



1907



1937

Figure 20. Plans of St Margaret's House 1866-1937

abuttals were described as on the “*West School Hall Street; on the north the messuage and ground of John Wilson Allen; on the South tenements belonging to Mary Traice, widow on the East the garden of John Benjafield esq*” (ref. SRO Bury 312/45). This is an important deed as it shows that the access to the meadows behind the present council office was not through the lane later known as “The Lavers” (Fig. 20, 1937). This entrance is described in an earlier deed of 1686 for the adjoining property to the south as the “gateway leading from Schoolhall Street to the meadows of Sir William Raystorne, & chamber over the gate” (ref, SRO Bury 312/2). The 1754 deed links the ownership of the site back to the 1741 Guildhall Feoffment plan of the Shire Hall that names Mr Bryant as the then owner of St Margaret's House through to the 1822 plan that names the owner as the Revd J. T. Lawton. On 10<sup>th</sup> October 1825 the Revd Joseph Thomas Lawton sold the property to Robert Nunn a music master of Bury.

In subsequent deeds the site of the building now used for Weddings is shown on the plans as a “*music room*” and may have been added to the building for that purpose. A small semi circle land used as a garden and formerly part of the churchyard was added to the north of the site before 1866. The garden is shown on a plan attached to a deed of 1866 and is now enclosed in part with a small iron fence (various plans of St Margaret's House and grounds are shown on Fig. 20).

The property plans name the owner of the houses to the south as Henry Traice in 1802 and subsequently Henry Frost from 1866 onwards. The site of the present Archaeological Unit's office is shown as in the ownership of J. Benjafield in 1802 and then John Greene in 1866 and in 1907 as H. Ollington.

### **The Car Park to the South of the Abbey Wall**

In October 1833 the Revd John Frederick Benjafield sold part of Nomans Meadow and lands known as Horse Radish Pieces, and part of the Crankles to Robert Nunn the then owner of St Margaret's House. Horse Radish Pieces and the part of Nomans Meadow are shown on the earliest plan attached to the property deeds for St Margaret's House. The plan is dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1802 and shows two pieces of land to the south of the abbey wall named as "*Horse Radish Pieces*" and a Meadow measured at 1 acre and 6 perches (Fig 19). These lands can be traced back to a deed of Anna Yeend now in the Vernon Wentworth Collection held at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich and dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 1663 (ref SRO Ipswich HA 34/50/2/11.1). The text of the 1663 deed is of particular importance as the document was quoted in Whittingham's 1952 description of the abbey precinct.

The 1802 deed is endorsed "*Conveyance of a meadow and Horse Radish Pieces late part of the Earl of Strafford*". The earl's land are shown on Warren's 1791 map of the Borough of Bury St Edmunds and then consisted in part of the meadow numbered 27 and measured as 1 acre 1 rood and 6 perches, one rood less than in 1802 and an adjoining piece numbered 166 on the 1791 map and measured as 1 acre and 20 perches this was later the two pieces named as Horse Radish Pieces measured as 1 acre 12 perches in 1802. Following the death of the earl his estates were divided in "an Act of Parliament for confirming and rendering effectual a Partition and Division ... of divers Manors' Lands and Hereditaments (heretofore the Estate of the Right Honourable William Earl of Strafford, deceased)" dated 1795 (SRO Bury 312/36). In the division of the estates as described on page 37 of the act "All those two Messuages or Tenements, with the Barn and divers Pieces or Parcels of land thereto belonging and therewith occupied, situate, lying and being in the Parish of *Saint Mary* in *Bury Saint Edmund's*, in the said County of *Suffolk*, containing Twenty-nine Acres and Thirty-four Perches (be the same more or less), now in the Tenure or Occupation of *John Stutters*" were awarded to Leveson Vernon.

The land is linked to the deed in the Vernon Wentworth Collection through a copy of mortgage (ref. SRO Bury 312/39). The copy was made in 1825 though the original mortgage is dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 1797 and relates to "2 messuages, buildings & 29 acres (occupier John Stutter)", the property was "purchased by Anna Yeend, widow, and descended to her daughter Alice, who married firstly Hugh Smithson (& secondly Sir William Rawsterne), whose daughter Anna Smithson married Sir Henry Johnson, eventually an Anna Johnson married Thomas, earl of Strafford, and eventually to Leveson Vernon". Thomas Earl of Strafford had married Anna Johnson in 1711. Sir William Rawsterne is likely to be the same as "Sir William Raystorne" mentioned in the 1686 deed (ref, SRO Bury 312/2).

In the deed of 1663 Alice Yeend's mother had gave her "*All those grounds called or knowne by the name or names of the Sextry yard and the Walmuttree yard or by either of those names as the same or part thereof are now planted with trees together with the Barne thereupon builded and of the nether part of the gate leading into the said ground called or knowne by the name Nomans Meadows conteyning together with the said Sextry Yard and Walmuttree yard aforesaid by estimation thirty acres more or less as they doe lye together in Bury St Edmunds aforesaid and doe abut towards the North upon a certayne ditch or watercourse running betweene the said Meadow Grounds and the Ground called the Pond Yard there within the precinct of the late dissolved Monastery of Bury St Edmunds aforesaid all which said premises were in the late temure of or occupation of Thomas Varby ... and were lately purchased by the said Anna Yeend ... from Thomas Pooley esquire*".

Though the property boundaries in the 1663 deed are incomplete they were interpreted in Whittingham's description of the abbey precinct. He believed that Walnut Tree Close was "within the precinct". He further states that,

"The 'Sextry-Yard' is mentioned in 1663. It and 'Walnut Tree Yard' were 'Neare unto the Shire House' and with Noman's Meadow separated by a ditch from the Pond-Yard on the North, 'lye together'. Here then adjoining the Sextry or Sacristry Yard were 'the mansion for the sacrist's household without the wall, namely the hall, solars, chambers, brewhouse, bakehouse, kitchen, granary, and hay loft with stables; carpenter's shop, the subsacrist's building with the mint, and with other offices there'. The sacrist had a staff of 24 of whom at least 6 were employed in the mint and 8 in the church. He and the Cellarer between them divided the responsibilities of administrator of the town and lord of the manor in the suburbs, but the sacrist was also in charge of all buildings operations of the monastery except the abbot's buildings".

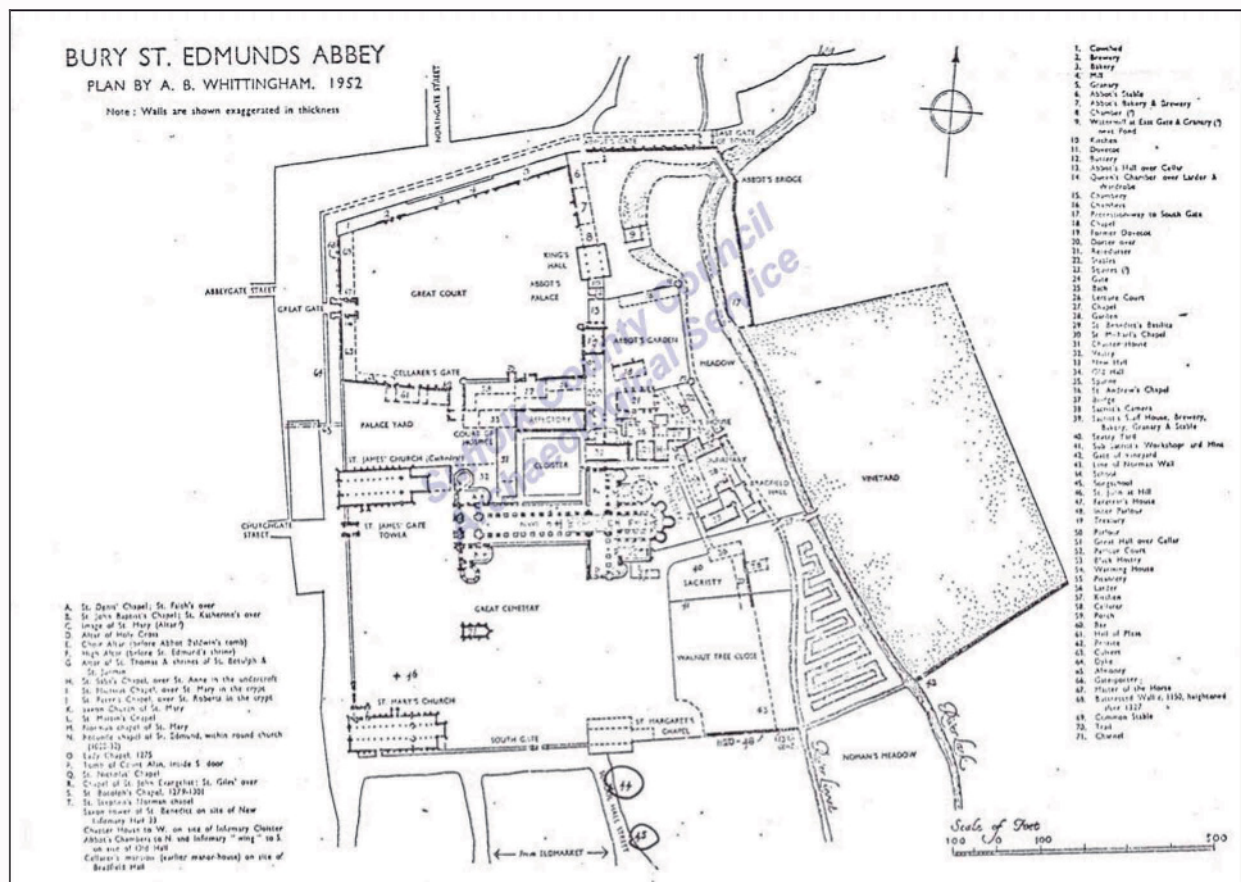


Figure 21. Whittingham's plan of the Abbey

On his plan of Bury St Edmunds Abbey (Fig 21) he placed the sacristy to the north of the present Suffolk Archaeological Unit's Offices and the positioned Walnut Tree Close between the sacristy and to the north of the abbey wall within the car park to the south. Unfortunately these positions cannot be correct and are contradicted in the quoted passage that states that the mansion for the sacrist's household was "without the wall". Further unlike the land to the south of the abbey wall that can be traced from 1663 through to the 1791 map of Bury and was then shown to be in the possession of the earl of Strafford the land to the north of the wall is not described in the same property records and was in the possession of William Eldred in 1791.

According to Copinger there are further documents relating to the Vernon Wentworth property in Bury St Edmunds held at the British Library described as "Letters and papers relating to land at

Bury belonging to the Earls of Stafford 1701-1787 Add 22250". These records would further assist in the assessment of the Shire Hall and Council Office site.

In the same bundle there is a release and conveyance from Revd John Frederick Benjafield to Mr Robert Nunn dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 1833 of the 1 acre 6 perches of Nomans Meadow, the 2 pieces called Horse Radish pieces and Crankles Meadow. The recital mentions various deeds back to a deeds dated 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1802 between Thomas Cocksedge and John Benjafield. The 1833 conveyance includes a long and complicated exclusion clause relating to the Crankles and adjoining lands.

The 1802 plan shows the position of a barn to the west of the Horse Radish Pieces (Fig 19). This building may possibly be the barn mentioned in the 1663 deed. The building is still shown on Payne's 1834 map of Bury (Fig. 11). There is a plan coloured in green on a deed dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 1846 between Mr Harry Wayman and Mrs Traice and others. The property is described as "*All that piece or parcel of ground situate and being in the parish of St Mary ... part and parcel of a piece of land or waste ground heretofore used and occupied by James Lofts with a barn there situate which said piece of ground ... abuts the premises belonging to and in the occupation of Robert Nunn towards the north and east upon Ground retained by the said Harry Wayman in part and by a drift way to Nomans Meadows in other part towards the south and upon the premises of the said parties ... towards the west as the same is delineated in a ground plan thereof drawn in the margin*". This land "*all that piece or parcel of ground ... formerly used and occupied by James Lofts with a barn*" was conveyed to Robert Nunn in another deed dated 13<sup>th</sup> August 1857 together with "*all those three messuages or tenements situate and being ... in a street called Schoolhall Street as the same were formerly in the tenure of Samuel Langham and Nicholas Arundall their undertenants and assigns and since Richard Arundall the widow Abbot, John Soal, John Middleditch*". It should be noted that on the 1846 plan the building is shown as the "*Site of the Old Barn*" (Fig. 22).



Figure 22. Plan of 1846 showing site of the "Old Barn"

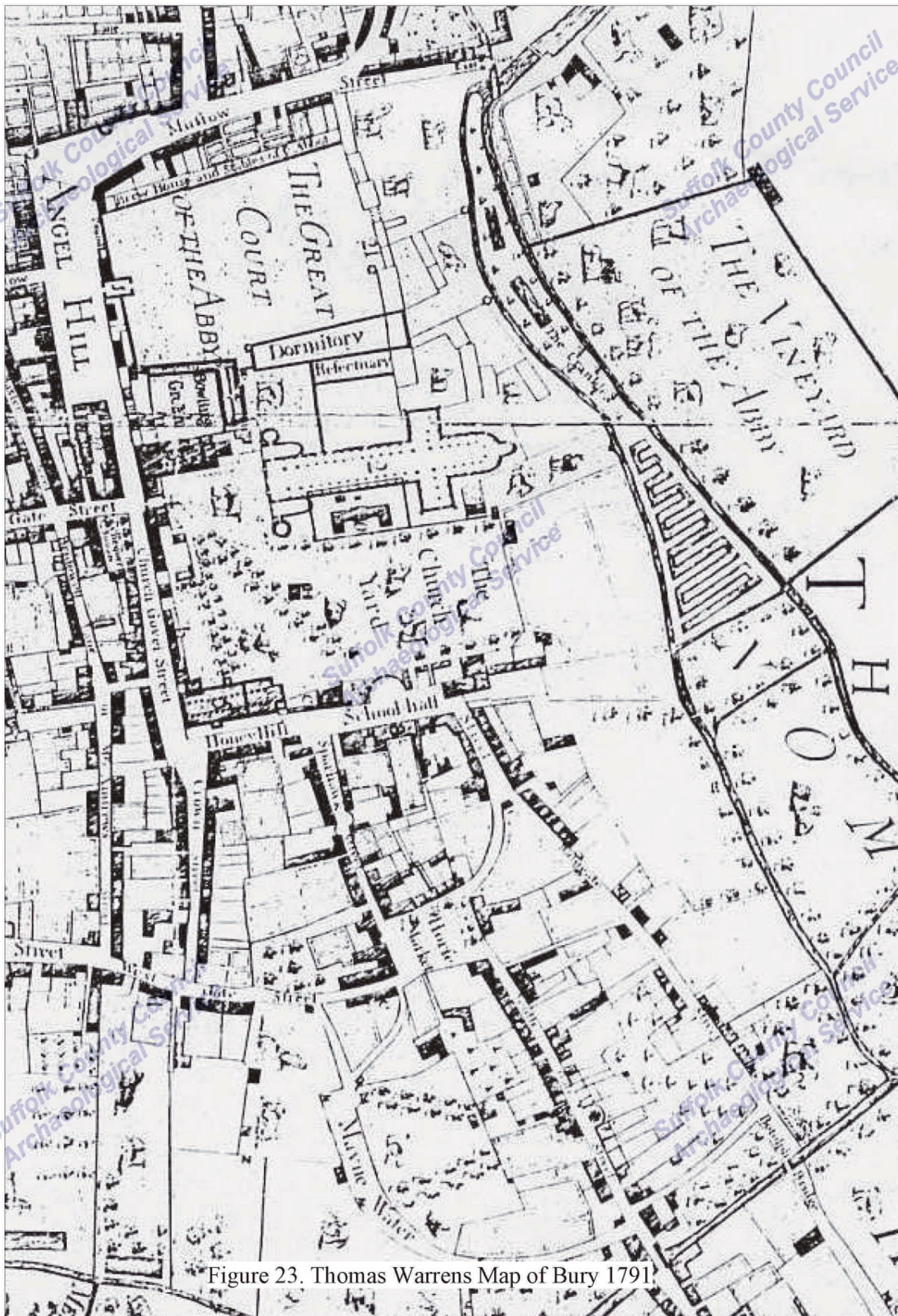


Figure 23. Thomas Warrens Map of Bury 1791.



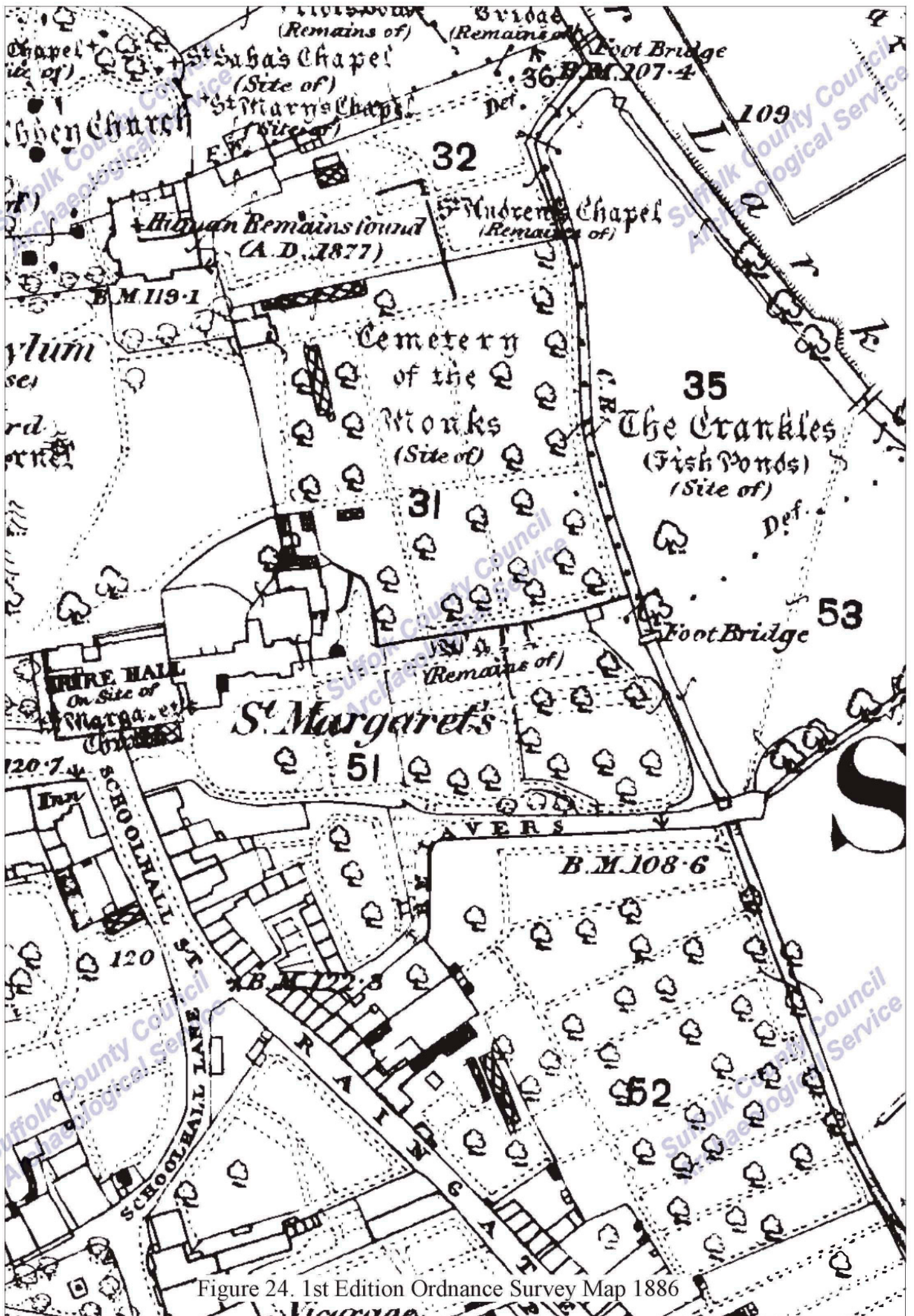


Figure 24. 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1886

## The Crankles

The name “The Crankles” is shown on Warren’s 1791 map of Bury (Fig.23) to the north of the piece of meadow measured as 1 acre and 6 perches on the plan attached to the 1802 deed. In the deed and on Warren’s 1776 map of Bury the measured meadow is clearly shown and described as part of Noman’s Meadow. On the later plans, beginning with on a plan in a mortgage deed dated 10<sup>th</sup> May 1866, the meadow is shown as part of the Crankles. This usage has continued through to the Ordnance Survey maps of the area. The Crankles have been leased to St Edmundsbury Council and are no longer part of the council offices site (see SCC file A1/3/5/2/3677) however it is necessary to describe the original boundaries of these meadows.

In the 1825 lease of the St Margaret’s House from the Revd Lawton to Robert Nunn part of the property is describes in a rather complicated clause as *“And also all the piece or parcel late called by the name of the Crankles Meadow containing by a late admeasurement one acre two roods and twenty eight perches formerly John Boldero late the said John Benjafield and now of the said Robert Nunn (except nevertheless all that small piece of ground late part of the said meadow called Crankles and laist to and forming part of the said meadow ground belonging to the mansion house late of the said John Benjafield and now of the Reverend Edward William Mathew as the now excepted piece contains by late admeasurement twenty three perches ...Secondly all that newly erected messuage or tenement and all that site of a wasted messuage or tenement wasted and all that garden and ground to the said wasted messuage or tenement belonging and thereunto used containing by estimation one acre and a half of ground be the same more or less. And also all that garden and ground containing by estimation one rood likewise parcel of the premises and lying at the north head of the site of the said wasted messuage or tenement and ground with the appurtenances as the same wasted messuage or tenement and the said gardens and premises were for several years in the tenures of Robert Nash or his assigns and afterwards of Edward Coe and subsequently of Thomas Hogg and do lie at the east end of the Great Churchyard in Bury St Edmunds aforesaid and also all that piece of land or garden ground containing by estimation one rood and an half more or less lying on the south side and late parcel of all that piece of land or garden situate in or near the aforesaid churchyard in Bury aforesaid near unto a river there on the East part formerly in the occupation of Robert Nash deceased afterwards of Thomas Coe also deceased and subsequently of the said Thomas Hogg ... containing three roods more or less as all and singular the aforesaid messuage garden and hereditaments were lately used as a Botanic Garden and are bounded on the North by the premises late of the said John Benjafield deceased on the south by an old wall on the west by the said Churchyard and on the east by a river there and the same were late in the occupation of Nathaniel Shirley Hadson and are now in the tenure or occupation of the said Robert Nunn ...”* (ref. SCC A1/3/5/2/3676).

These excluded pieces formed the lands to the north of the abbey wall.

## The Car Park to the North of the Abbey Wall

This area is marked as the site of the “Cemetery for the Monks” on the Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 24). The cemetery is mentioned in Burrough’s collection of documents in relation to the site of St Andrew’s Chapel. The chapel is believed to have been to the north of the council office site. In 1877 human remains were uncovered during building work at the houses now known as 1 & 2 Abbey Precinct.

The abbey wall is a listed structure described as “An interrupted stretch of Precinct wall to the east of Shire Hall and at the southern end of the Precinct. 12<sup>th</sup> century in flint, part coursed, part random. At the west end approximately 9 metres are at a higher level and partly form the rear

wall of St Margaret's being a continuation of the section of wall which runs through that building. Its lower stages are in good coursed flint. The remainder of the wall, approximately 78 metres in total length is in 3 sections, partly coursed flint, all approximately 3 metres high, later archway and a narrow roadway. Parts have been extensively restored".

The description fails to mention a change in the alignment of this wall at the eastern end. As the wall was a property boundary this change in alignment is evident on the property deeds especially the 1802 plan. On Whittingham's 1952 plan of the abbey he offers a date of between 1120 and 1148 for the main section of the wall and a later date of "13<sup>th</sup> century" for the eastern section. He also suggested that a line of wall ran north from the position where the alignment changes to join a building to the north. A section of this wall juts out the boundary wall between the council office and 1 & 2 Abbey Precinct at a point to the west of the Archaeological Unit's Offices. A wall or palisade is shown on Ryland's "East View of the Town" published in 1791 (Fig. 25 ref. SRO Bury HD 1390 page 93"). At the southern end of this wall a small tower can be seen projecting above the tree line. On this view there is no wall separating the churchyard from the present site of the council office's car parks and the archaeological unit's offices.

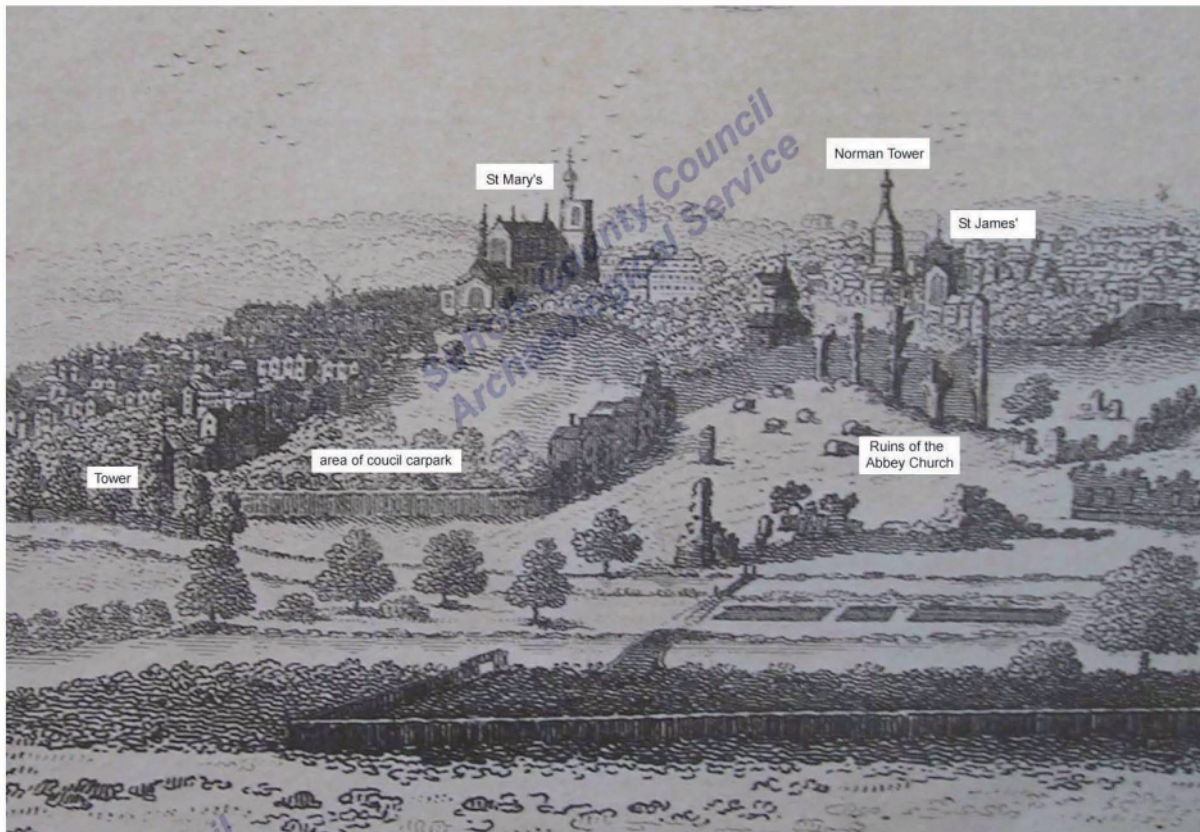


Figure 25 Ryland's "East View of the Town" published in 1791

The land history for the area to the north is possibly described in one of the council's file containing the documents of the conveyance of "1.3 acres, land for office & other accommodation for Shire Hall, part of garden of 6 The Churchyard". This file contains a conveyance between West Suffolk County Council and Miss E. A. Ollington dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 1957. Unfortunately the file has been returned to Legal Services. The surname Ollington appears on the 1907 plans of St Margaret's House instead of Greene on earlier plans and Benjafield on the 1802 plan. On Warren's 1791 map of Bury the owner of the site is named as William Eldred. The lands are described in part in the exclusion clause in the 1825 deed. They are also described in yet another collection of deeds held at the record office in Bury (ref. 771 "Abbey Precincts").

In an extract from the 1836 “Guide to Bury St Edmunds” there is a description of the Botanic Gardens, “The Botanic Garden was established in the year 1820, by a gentleman devoted to Botany, and under the patronage of the nobility and gentry of the town and county. It was at that period situated on the east side of the church-yard, and immediately on the bank of the river Lark; but the present beautiful site was suggested by the noble proprietor the Marquis of Bristol, who being satisfied with the zeal and ability of the old garden, was pleased to grant him a lease of the great court of the abbey for the purpose, and also to allow the entrance through the magnificent gateway: a house was also built for the conductor, and grounds were laid out and planted by him in the year 1831” (ref. SRO Bury HD 1390 page 186). The position of earlier 1820 Botanic Garden is marked with the letter ‘y’ on J. G. Lenny’s 1823 plan of Bury (ref. SRO Bury HD 1390 page 8).

The site of 1 & 2 Abbey Precinct is shown on a property plan dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 1834 (Fig 16 ref. SRO Bury 771/5). This document is in a collection of deeds of the “Abbey Precincts” that was deposited in record office in July 1957. The collection has been carefully catalogued and the descriptions of the documents as they appear in the catalogue have been used in this report. There are numerous parties to this deed concerning the deposal of the estate of John Benjafield according to his wishes as expressed in his will dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 1830 and its codicil dated 28<sup>th</sup>

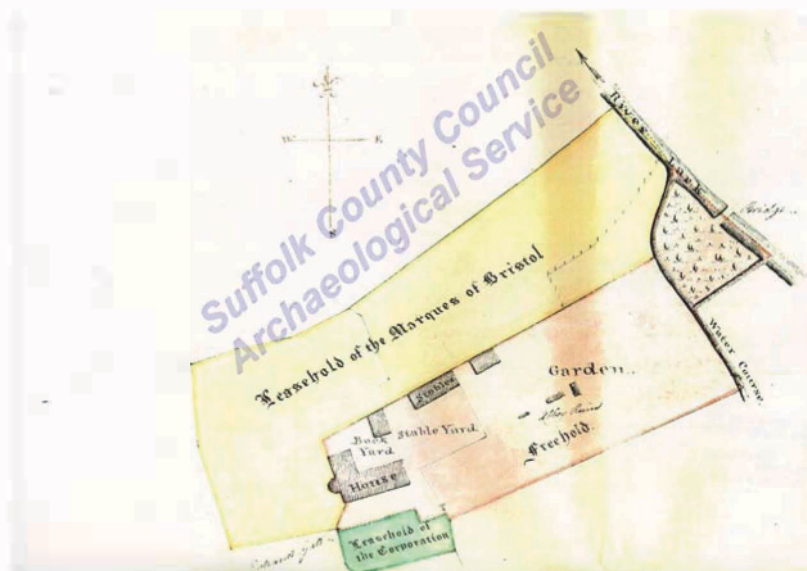


Figure 26. Plan of Nos. 1 and 2 Precinct Close 1834

February 1831. The property is described as “all the messuage in the churchyard at Bury which apart from the leaseholds was conveyed to John Benjafield and his trustee from John Godbold esq by an indenture dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 1799, other parts previously conveyed by John Pate gent, by an indenture of 14<sup>th</sup> June 1798, part of pleasure grounds included in a field called the Crankles which was conveyed to John Benjafield and his trustees from Rev Thomas Cullum, ... 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1810”. These earlier documents are not in this collection. In another property description in a deed dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 1865 there is the following phrase “Messuage and appurtenances ... containing 1 acre bounded ... on the south partly by part of the churchyard which has for many years formed part of the garden and partly by a garden formerly part of the old Botanic gardens, formerly belonging to Mr Robert Nunn and now to John Greene, esq and others” (ref. SRO Bury 771/9).

An earlier deed of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1757 describes the house as “new built” unfortunately the property description omits any mention of the land to the south. There is a reference to the “orchards or gardens lately occupied by Francis Kempe and now by Robert Nash” in a deed dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1731 (ref. SRO Bury 771/2). In the earliest deed in the collection dated 20<sup>th</sup>

February 1727 the house is described as “the messuage and yard in the church yard at Bury between the ruins to the North the churchyard to the south the close now used with the churchyard to the east and the churchyard to the west” (ref. SRO Bury 771/1). This phrase should be treated with some caution as it may have been copied from earlier documents that are no longer extant. It seems to be suggested that churchyard had formerly extended down to the river Lark

None of the Abbey Precinct deeds mention “all that site of a wasted messuage or tenement wasted” the phrase that appears in the exclusion clause of the 1825 deed. This might suggest that this tenement was situated somewhere within the Old Botanic Gardens, though none is shown on early maps of Bury.

At the dissolution the churchyard was leased out to first Sir Anthony Wingfield and then granted to John Eyer in 1560. In the Corporation’s minutes for 16<sup>th</sup> June 1798 it states “*Whereas the churchyard of this Borough, being private Property, and late the estate of John Spink esquire, having been seized to his Majesty’s Use under a Writ of Extent was on the Thirty First day of May last, put up to Public Auction, pursuant to an order made by the Court of Exchequer, and sold before the Deputy Remembrancer of that Court*”. It was purchased by James Oakes one of the town’s burgesses for £330 and then offered to the corporation. A committee was then established “*to make such regulations as a may appear to them necessary*” (ref SRO Bury D4/1/4). Though the regulations are of interest to the history and subsequent development of the churchyard and its monuments, there are not relevant to this report.

As the churchyard was in private ownership until 1798 it is not possible to trace the dates when minor parts of the former churchyard were sold off to other proprietors. In the letters patent of 14<sup>th</sup> February 1560 as translated in Yates’ work John Eyer was granted “all the church-yard of the said Monastery”. In an abstract of title of 1720 this phrase has been changed to “The Churchyard heretofore the Church-yard of the said Monastery, now called The Ruines”. The name “The Ruines” only appears in the property deeds from this time onwards. The Walnuttree Close and Noman’s Meadow are mentioned in the letters patent of 1560 in 1723 when the abbey precinct was sold to Sir Jermyn Davers the property deeds omit these pieces.

### **Street Frontage to the West of the Council Offices**

The houses that formerly fronted the site of the Council Offices were in Schoolhall Street and these were demolished in the 1960’s. A photograph was taken of some of these houses shortly before they were demolished (Fig 27, ref. SRO Bury K736/80). The buildings were immediately to the south of the gardens attached to St Margaret’s House and linked to that building by a garden wall. From their appearance some if not all the buildings date from at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Another range of buildings not shown in the photograph were built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and behind this second range there was a small close consisting of 7 dwellings known as Providence Place. Some of the council’s files relating to acquisition of land for New Shire Hall are not currently available. These include the files for “2 & 3 Schoolhall Street” purchased in 1966, “1-4, 6 & 7 Providence Place” purchased in 1958 (ref. SCC A1/3/5/2/3673 & 3674).



Figure 27. Houses that formerly fronted the site of the Council Offices demolished in the 1960's.

As the various owners of the houses immediately adjoining St Margaret's House are named on the property plans it is not necessary to describe the 19<sup>th</sup> century succession of owners in detail. On 1846 plan showing the site of the Old Barn, the houses to the west were then in the ownership of Mrs Traice and the land to the south described as Mr Wayman's Premises (Fig 22). A Henry Traice is named in the 1802 plans of the Horse Radish Pieces. In the solicitors collection at Bury, Henry Traice, a baker acquired "3 messuages in Schoolhall Street (now in the occupation of Richard Arundale, widow Abbot, John Seal, John Middleditch, widow Peed, Samuel Fletcher, William Stocking, John Banham & Henry Traice" from John Dearson in the deeds dated July 1780 (ref. SRO Bury 312/27, 28). The previous owner was Elizabeth Prick, widow the property having been left to her in the will of Philip Prick, bricklayer dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 1753 and proved on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1764 (ref. SRO Bury 312/19). He was the nephew of John Prick also a bricklayer who had acquired the property in 1721. Earlier deeds dating from 1687 mention only two messuages one of which was in the occupation of the owner Nicholas Gyrling or Girling. The abutments of a mortgage dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 1687 describe the property was "on the south the message of Ambrose Bishop, on the north the message of Henry Nunn on the east the ground of Dame Alice Rawston" (ref. SRO Bury 312/4).

Henry Wayman's property is described a council file (ref. SCC A1/3/5/2/3672). Amongst the documents in this bundle there is a deed for the settlement of a mortgage for £300 lent by Harry Wayman to Robert Watson dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 1846. The deed describes the then recent history of the site mentioning the mortgage dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 1844 between Robert Watson and Harry Wayman "*since the purchase by the said Robert Watson ... he hath pulled down and removed the messuages or tenements formerly occupied by the said Samuel Calfe and Joseph Loffts and upon the site thereof hath built five new messuages or tenements which he hath separated by a stone wall from the residue of the hereditament and premises so purchased*". These five houses were then sold to Joseph Frost. After their construction the properties were further described as being "*upon the stable yard and premises belonging to and in the occupation of the said Harry Wayman towards the north and upon a road or way leading from School Hall Street ... to Noman's Meadow*".

The stone wall mentioned in these deeds was between the houses in Schoolhall Street and those in Providence Place. Amongst the lands acquired for the New Shire Hall there is a separate file for 5 Providence Place. The house was purchased from A. C. Gunsman (ref. SCC A1/3/5/2/3675). On a plan of this property dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 1958 an air raid shelter is shown at

the end of the place (shown on Fig 30). The abstract of title to this property describes all the properties in Providence Place as they appeared in a deed dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 1855 as “*All those 7 messuages or cottages with the gardens and appurtenances thereto belonging situate and being Numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6, and 7 Providence Place in Raingate Street and School Hall Lane in Bury St Edmunds as the same were then in the occupations of C. Stogg, Mrs H. Devereux, Mrs S Stewart, E. F. Hurst, C. J. Marcan, C. Last and J. S. Melton and were bounded by the School Hall Lane aforesaid on the West by Raingate Street aforesaid and a driftway leading there from to Norman’s Meadows on the south side and by the hereditaments then formerly of Harry Wayman ...*”. When number 5 was sold to Arthur Gunsman, a sugar beet employee in October 1952 the title stipulated that he should have “*the use of a lavatory site near the side of No 4 Providence Place*”.

The Driftway was known as “The Lavers” and this name appears on the Ordnance Survey maps (Fig 24). The land to the south is now in the ownership of the police authority though originally acquired by West Suffolk County Council (ref. SCC A1/3/5/2/3748). The deeds are modern and largely uninteresting though in a deed dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1871 the land is described as “*all that messuage or dwelling house or double tenement with a yard garden and orchard ... situate and being in Raingate Street ... abutting towards the North upon the premises formerly Middleditch and now of Samuel Betts towards the east upon the garden ground late in the occupation of Richard Caney and now of the said John Stevens being part of the Leshil Ground of the Monastery of Bury St Edmunds towards the south upon a messuage and hereditaments formerly George John Haggitt afterwards of the said George Frost Edwards deceased*”. It is interesting to note that as late as 1871 the property descriptions continued to mention the monastery. “Leshil” is mentioned in some mid 16<sup>th</sup> century documents. The earliest owner of this land, mentioned in the deed, was George Ernest Frost a Beerseller who died in 1862.

The collection of deeds and other documents “relating to the Vernon-Wentworth estates” were deposited at Ipswich Library in November 1949. The collection was subsequently transferred to the East Suffolk Record Office and is now held at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich. In an deed dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 1676 (1677) Mathew Frith of bricklayer of Bury St Edmunds conveyed to Samuel Clarke of Grays Inn, London “*All that messuage or tenement lying and being ... in Scholehall Street ... late in the several occupations of Thomas Stevens, James Cobb, John Garwood, Thomas Godward, John Godward and Charles Hall ... and also one piece of ground to the said messuage or tenement near adjoining late belonging to the office of the monastery of Bury St Edmunds aforesaid lying and being in Bury St Edmunds aforesaid in the street called the Raynegate Street which the said messuage or tenement lye between the tenement in the occupation of Ambrose Bishop on the north part and the tenement of Mudd on the south part the east head abutteth upon the garden of the late convent called the Walnuttree yard and the west head abuts upon the King’s way of the street aforesaid called the Scholehall Street And that aforesaid piece of Ground lyeth between the tenement of Mudd on the South part and the tenement in the occupation of Ambrose Bishop on the north part the east head abutteth upon the inclosure of the late Convent called Walnuttree yard and the West head abutteth upon the King’s High way of the aforesaid Reynegate street which said premises were heretofore of Thomas Godward and were given to his grandchildren to be sold after his decease of his son Thomas*”. The grandchildren are named in this deed and sold the property to Mathew Frith on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1676. The deed of 12<sup>th</sup> February appears to relate to an enrolment of the transaction in the records of the court in London. The property was sold to William Andrewes on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1677 and the transaction was enrolled at the court. Andrewes raised a mortgage on the property on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1677 and the mortgage was assigned to another party on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1683 before being sold to Lady Springe on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1685. In all the subsequent deeds the description of the property is the same. Lady Sarah Spring left this property in her will and it was subsequently assigned “*in trust for Sir Henry Johnson*” on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1698 (ref. SRO Ipswich HA 34/50/21/11.3). It should be noted that Ambrose Bishop named here in 1677 is also mentioned in

the 1687 deed in Bury (ref. 312/3) and a Mary Andrewes is mentioned in relation to another property in another deed dated 1686.

In another deed in the same bundle dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 1693 William Andrewes an innholder of Bury St Edmunds conveyed to Henry Johnson of Blackwall, Middlesex and John Wright of Bury St Edmunds “*All that messuage or tenement situate lying and being in Bury St Edmunds aforesaid called or known by the name or sign of the Golding Lyon with the stable coach house and other outhouses to the same now or heretofore belonging*”. This property was sold to Henry Johnson on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1693 and the property description remains the same. The site of this Inn is unclear though it is mentioned in a deed in Bury relating to one of Nicholas Girling’s properties described as a “Messuage ... in the street from Shirehouse to the Golden Lion” dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 1685 (ref. SRO Bury 312/1). The sites of these two properties were added to the lands acquired from Anna Yeend and they then passed to Leveson Vernon under the 1795 act of Parliament.

In the borough collection there is a bundle of deeds relating to tenements in Mustowe and Schoolhall Street and nearly all date to the years 1651-52 (ref. SRO Bury D7/8/1-6). On 19<sup>th</sup> August 1652 Edward Badby of London conveyed to the corporation, “*All that his other messuage or tenement ... now or late in the occupation of William Scolfeild carpenter ... scituate and lying and being in Bury St Edmunds aforesaid in the parrishe of St Mary in or neere to a streete there called the Schoolehall Streete between the messuage or tenement of Thomas Goddard on the south parte and the messuage or tenement of John Cocksedge on the North parte and abutting towards the East upon the meadow called Nomans meadowe and the barn there unto belonging in parte and in another parte upon the garden belonging to the aforesaid messuage or tenement of the aforesaid John Cocksedge and towards the west upon the aforesaid street called Schoolehall Streete*”. Edward had inherited the property under the terms of the will of Edward Badby of Offington Sussex dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 1646. Henry Blagg had sold the property to Thomas Badby in December 1581. The property was bequeathed to the Corporation for Charitable purposes under the terms of the will of Edward Badby and is referred to in the abutments of a deed dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 1721 (ref. SRO Bury 312/10, 11). Amongst the council’s files a site approximately 30ft x 63ft site in Schoolhall Street was purchased in 1961 (ref. SCC A1/3/5/2/3706). A plan of this property is attached to the conveyance dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 1961 and has not been copied for this report. The earliest deed in this bundle of documents is dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 1919 and was between the Corporation of Bury St Edmunds, John Henry Wakefield, the Borough Treasurer and Leslie William Smith the purchaser. The property was described as “*All that two storied freehold stable or tenement and hereditaments with the yard thereto belonging situate in Schoolhall Street ... adjoining a cottage known as Number 3 Schoolhall Street all which said premises were late in the occupation of Messrs T. H. Nice and company and are now unoccupied*”. The description was amended in a conveyance dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 1957 to “*all those workshops and yard*” with “*a frontage to the said Schoolhall Street of thirty feet nine inches and an average depth there from of sixty three feet nine inches or thereabout together with the wall on the north side thereof*”. John Wakefield had held the post of borough accountant from December 1889 and treasurer from March 1897 and stated that, “*Since December 1889 I have collected and received rents arising from the property known as a stable and yard adjoining No 3 Schoolhall Street*”. The rent of £6 was payable to the “*Trustees of Edward Badby’s Charity*”.

## **Sewer and Drainage Plans**

A series of drainage plans dating from 1872 to 1914 have been copied for this report they are in the council’s file (ref. SCC A1/3/5/2/3676) and shown in figure 28.



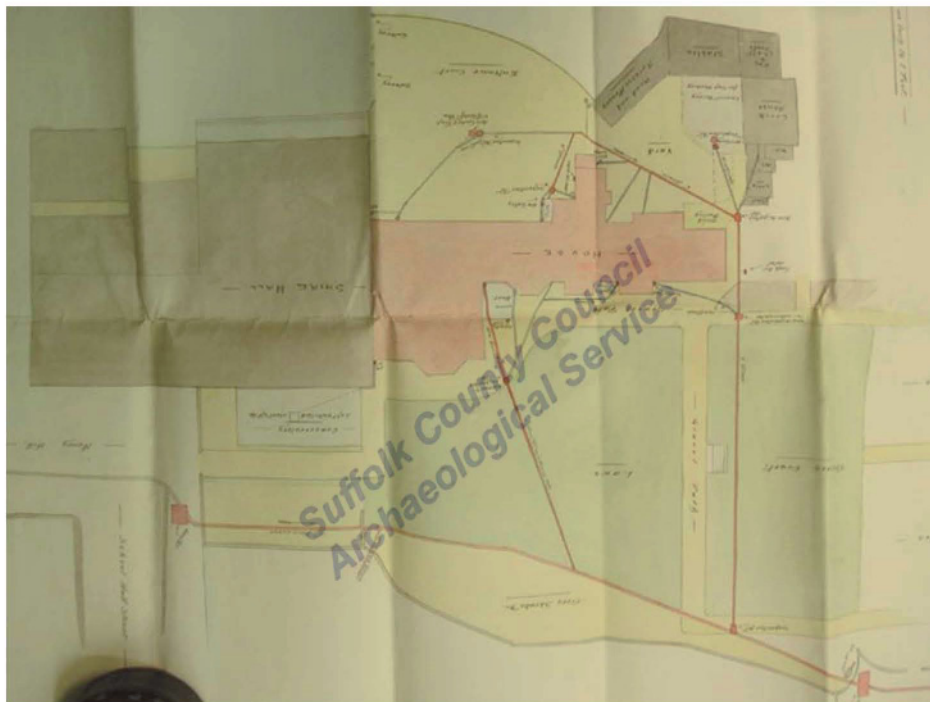
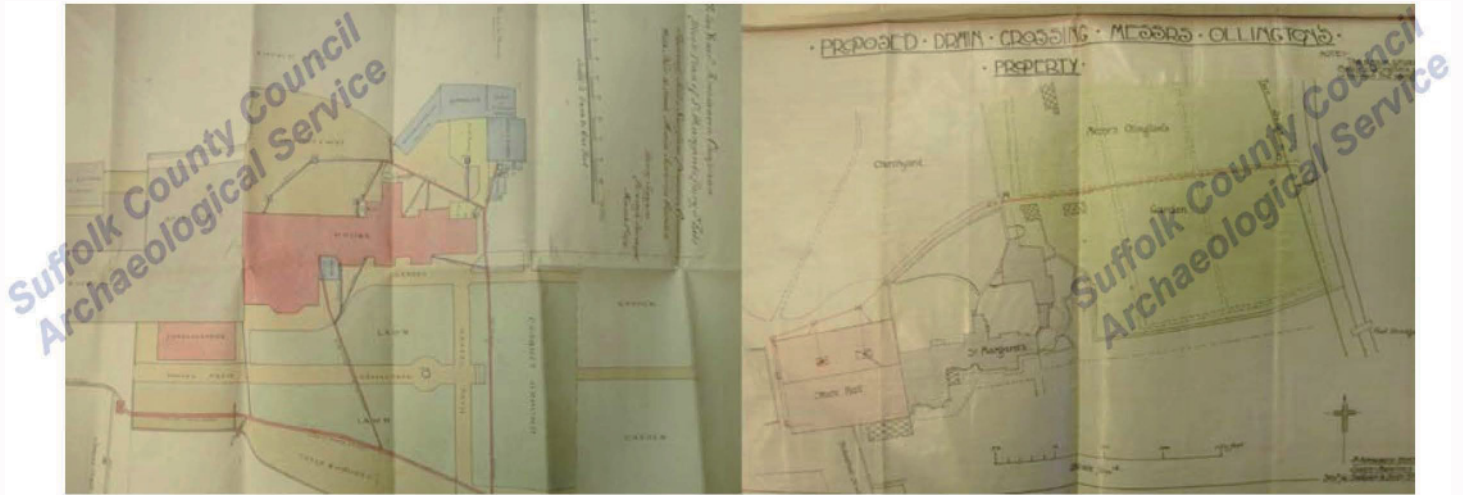


Figure 28. Plan of the drains 1872 and 1914

### The Record Office Site

The council's conveyance file for the site of the record office formerly the county library is temporarily unavailable. Map evidence suggests that most of the site had formerly been parts of the gardens attached to the manor house. The earls and later marquises of Bristol owned the manor house from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century having acquired the building from Henry Jermyn. In Corporation minutes for 15<sup>th</sup> March 1720 the corporation leased to Henry Jermyn "the waste ground before his house" and in the minutes for 19<sup>th</sup> April 1737 the lease was renewed to John earl of Bristol and the land described as "a piece of waste ground ... before his house in Schoolhall Street to set his pales containing in length eight four feet and in breadth five feet from his house".

Amongst Thomas Warren's 1741 plans of the feoffment properties (ref. SRO Bury H2/3/4/33) the plan numbered XVII is entitled "The Messuage in School-hall St occup'd by Mrs Battely Widow" (Fig.29). This depicts the building to the east of the former Manor House. The building

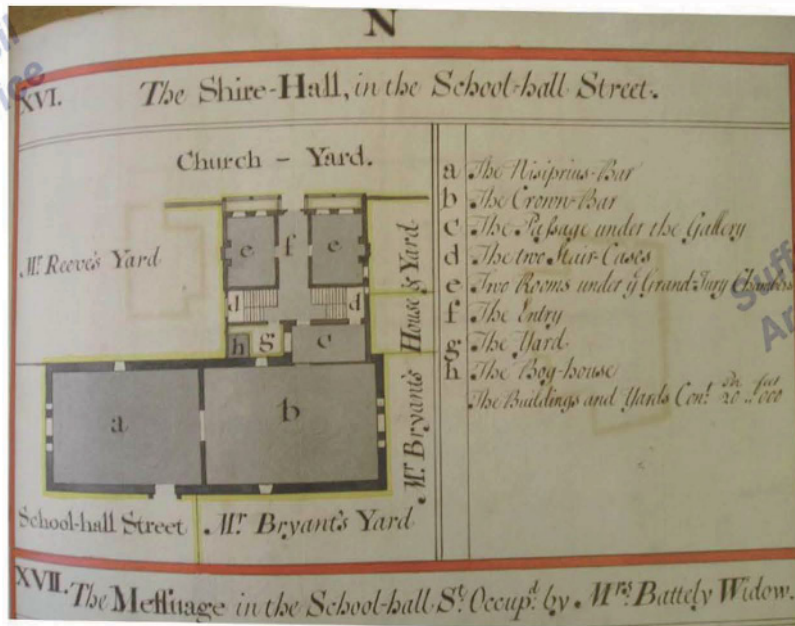


Figure 29. Extract from Thomas Warren's 1741 plans of the feoffment properties

may have come to the feoffment through the gift of William Tassell. Copinger lists a grant from the Exchequer of "Tenement called 'The Swanne' and 'The Tunne' in Scholehall Street and 2 pieces of land belonging to the King, Right and Inheritance, survey William Swanton versus William Tassell, 1605-6". There is another reference to this property on page 125 of Woodward's register of Feoffment properties amongst those formerly in the ownership of William Tassell. In his deed dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 1557 he gave "one messuage or tenement situated & existing in the Schoolehallstreete now or late in the temure of Roger Lynge".

Three properties described in various rentals dated 1542, 1526 and 1433 appear to be part of record office site as their frontages rested on Schoolhall Street to the north. These are described in greater detail under the medieval geography of this area. One of the properties adjoined an entrance leading to a barn probably within the car park area

On a plan dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 1960 (Fig. 30) attached to one of the council's conveyance deeds two civil defence buildings are shown in the car park to the rear of the Record Office (ref. SCC A1/3/5/2/3679).



Figure 30. Plan of the Shire hall Site 1960

## Medieval Geography

On Whittingham's plan of the abbey he places both the site of the school and school hall (numbered 44 and 45 on Fig. 21) outside the abbey precinct and within the area of the Council Offices. It is possible to identify most of the properties in Schoolhall Street at the time of the dissolution and to identify the site of the school.

Margaret Statham has described the origins of the medieval song school and identified the site of the building;

“The song-school was controlled by the Dussegild, which was of early origin and had many privileges granted to it by Abbot Baldwin; according to one account it was a re-formation by Baldwin of the seculars who had cared for St Edmund's shrine before Cnut founded the Benedictine house at Bury St Edmunds, and he established them in the Church of St Denis, which he had set up as a parish church and which Anselm replaced with the first church of St James. However, according to notes on the Suffolk Guild Certificates of 1389, it then consisted of a master and twelve clerks in St Mary's church. The objects of the guild were to chant at the funerals of Bury monks; their possessions were eight acres in Melford and five shops and a cottage in Bury St Edmunds. Nothing is said about the school, but there is abundant evidence

that the members of the Dussegild appointed the master and chose the scholars of the song-school, and jealously forbade anyone to teach the singing of psalms and canticles without licence. The position of the song-school is known with certainty, for the Sacrist's rental of 1433 makes it clear that it abutted on the east end of St Mary's Church".

The original Sacrist's rental of 1433 written in Latin is held at the British Library and a photostat copy at the record office in Bury (ref. Acc 1055). Only five properties in Schoolhall Street are describe and include "item the 12 brothers of the Gilde called Dusseyilde for a tenement formerly Henry Le Potter lying under the walls of the cemetery between a tenement of the convent of St Edmund on the part of the east and the tenement of the same guild called Le Scolehall on the part of the west and abuts on the King's Highway to the south 3d, item of the same brothers for a tenement there called Songscolehall lying between the same brothers on the part of the east and on a vacant piece of land and the church of St Mary on the part of the west ... 8d".

In another sacrist's rental for years 1526 (Breen) these same tenements are listed as

"Of the Brethren of the Guild of Saint Nicholas, called Aules Gilde, for a tenement under the church wall of Saint Mary parish between the tenement of the convent on the east part and the tenement pertaining to the same Guild called the Song School on the west part iiid

Of the same Guild for a tenement called the Song School between the tenement pertaining to the same Guild on the east part and a void place of ground and the church of Saint Mary on the west viiid".

One of these tenements is listed in the Latin text of a post dissolution account of the monastery property in the town as "3d from the guardians of the Guild of St Nicholas for a tenement there late called *The Dusse yelde* and pays annually for the same" and "8d from the same guardians for a tenement there late the same aforesaid guild and pays annually for the same" (ref. TNA SC6/HenVIII/3434).

There seems little doubt that the Dussegild was also known as the Guild of St Nicholas. In Woodward's Guildhall Feoffment register the properties of the former St Nicholas Guild are described in English on page 74 as "*Lands and tenements in Bury and Long Melfield in Suffolk given by whom and to what intent and purpose we cannot learne but the Brotherhood and sisternes of the Guylde there called St Nicholas Gild have always received the profits of the same to the maintenance of an obijt releife of the poore but no corporation thereof cann be shewed*".

As with other lands and tenements that formerly belonged to the abbey there are references to the guild in later documents. In a deed dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 1709 the property in Schoolhall Street is described as

"Two messuages now one entire messuage sometime Nicholas Baker afterwards of Thomas Sellars and his wife Katherine afterwards of Abraham Wright and Charles Wright and now the said Anne Burton in School Hall Street in Bury St Edmunds between the messuage sometime of Francis Mondeford gent afterwards of James Skinner here to before in the occupation of Robert Watts and now or late George Andrewes east and the tenement sometime belonging to the Guild of the Translation of St Nicholas the bishop now dissolved west" (ref. SRO Bury 1101/3/3). Additional parts of the text of this document describe land attached to the tenement as a "piece of ground part of the churchyard". Specific measurements are given for this piece linking it to the chancel end of St Mary's. The owners of the house had acquired land in 1694, though it may have been taken out of the churchyard at an earlier date.

Amongst Thomas Warren's feoffment plans the plan numbered XVIII shows "*The Alms-Houses, on the North side of the School-hall Street*". These adjoined St Mary's Church and appear to be in the same position as property owned by the St Nicholas Guild and mentioned in a Sacrist's rentals of 1433 and 1526. On the opposite page a note has been added to state "*Plan XVIIIth These Alms Houses were taken down by the Trust in 1793 and the Ground was conveyed together with other Premises to John Spink esqr in exchange for several Tenements in the North Gate Street and a piece of Pasture Ground near Spring Lane*". This is the same John Spink who is described in the Corporation minutes as the former owner of the churchyard.

Following the dissolution in November 1539 the possessions of the former abbey including rent from properties in the town passed to the crown under the administration of the Court of Augmentation. The crown continued to draw revenue from the abbey's estates until the individual properties were granted out. The Court of Augmentation appointed local receivers and for a brief period prepared detailed annual accounts of their revenue and expenses. After 1548 the court acquired the properties of the guilds and chantries. These accounts are now held at the National Archives in London and with the exception of the first ministers account (Redstone) most have not been published. The content of an account of 1542 (ref. TNA SC6/HenVIII/3434) has been described in a "List and Indexes Supplementary Series" volume though a full transcript has yet to appear in print. This 1542 account lists the properties in School Hall Street. The entries are translated here from the original Latin with the rents transcribed into arabic numerals instead of the roman numerals of the original. The two properties of the St Nicholas Guild have been linked to the earlier Sacrist's rental and the remaining three properties that probably abutted the record office site are linked here.

*Scolehalstrete* Sum total 70 s 8 d

2s 6d from Margaret Browne widow for two parcels of one tenement there late Robert Peretre and pays annually for the same.

In 1526 "Of Thomas Brown, mercer, for a tenement late Robert Pertre between the tenement of Roger Base, taylor on the east side and the tenement of the said Thomas Brown on the west side 2s 6d"

In 1433 "Item William Broun notary for a tenement late Laurence Goldyng and formerly John Bury, John Stamford and John Wylton lying between the tenement of the same William on the part of the west and a certain entrance leading to the barn of the said William on the part of the east and abuts towards the north on the King's Highway Scolehallstrete pays annually 2s 6d".

12d from Thomas Williamson for a tenement there late Margerie Newman and pays annually for the same.

In 1526 "Of Thomas Williamson for a tenement late Margaret Newman, widow between the tenement of Thomas Brown on the east part and the tenement of John Adams, pardoner on the west 12d"

In 1433 "Item of the same William (Broun) for a tenement late Katerine Bateman and formerly Geoffrey Mason, Robert Ramseye and John Reynham lying between the tenement of the same William on the part of the east and the tenement of William Ampe on the part of the west and abuts towards the north as previously 12d".

5d from John Adams for a tenement there late Margaret Newhaugh and pays annually for the same.

In 1527 “Of John Adams, pardonor, for a tenement late Margaret Newhawe, widow, between the tenement of Thomas Williamson on the east part and upon the convent of the monastery on the west part 5d”

In 1433 “Item of William Ampe parchemyner for a tenement late John Rycher and formerly John Brysett chaplain Peter Lenge and Robert Ramseye between the tenement of William Broun on the part of the east and a tenement of the convent of St Edmund on the part of the west and abuts towards the north on the King’s High way before named and pays annually 5d”

3d from the guardians of the Guild of St Nicholas for a tenement there late called *The Duffe yelde* and pays annually for the same (the sum is crossed out in the original text).

8d from the same guardians for a tenement there late the same aforesaid guild and pays annually for the same.

The remaining properties are not linked to the Sacrist’s rentals. Additional notes have been added to some the entries. The entries do not appear to be in a geographic sequence and the account may have combined various rentals for the estates allocated to different monastic offices.

6d from Robert Olyver for only a parcel of a tenement called *a Shedd* at will and pays annually for the same.

10s from Thomas Brydon for the farm of one tenement there and pays annually for the same by indenture.

8s from John Regette for the farm of one garden there with a certain tenement there demised by indenture and as the burden for the repairs of the same is with the Lord the King and pays annually for the same.

There is a reference to this tenement in Copinger to the “Sale by John Eyer to John Regate of a tenement in the way called Scolehalstrete ... and a garden in Reynagte Strete ... 21 Nov., 37 Hen VIII” 1545 (Ref. D.K.R 10, App ii p.236”).

15s from Anthony Wyngefeld knight for a certain garden there called *Walmuttre Yerde* or *Walmuttre Close* and pays annually for the same.

In the first minister’s account (Redstone) the entry is “15s for a meadow called Wallenottetreyeard late in the hands of the Sacristan, now in the occupation of Anthony Wyngefeld”.

10s from John Skotte for the farm of one tenement there with the only gate called *Seynt Margette gate* late in the tenure of Alice Brynckele and pays annually for the same as demised by indenture with the burden of repairs on the Lord the King. (The position of this gate is described below).

5s from Thomas Stocke for the farm of one tenement there late Robert Batalay clerk demised by indenture and pays annually for the same

8d of Thomas Williams alias Senyhill for a parcel of a tenement there late Thomas Browne demised by indenture and pays annually for the same.

5s of rent for one tenement there late Thomas Inglysshe and pays annually for the same.

3s 4d from Andrew Reve for one cottage there at will and pays annually for the same.

4s 9d from John Style for the free rent of one tenement there late Roger Basse and pays annually for the same.

3d from John Chapman for the free rent of one tenement there late John Harrys and pays annually for the same.

3s 4d of Margaret Browne widow for the free rent of one tenement there late Thomas Browne and pays annually for the same.

2s 8d from Thomas Brydon for the free rent of one bakehouse there and pays annually for the same (the sum is crossed out in the original text).

In the first minister's account (Redstone) there is an entry "2s 8d from Thomas Bryden for rent of a bakery next Skelldehall".

3d from Richard Sadde for the free rent of one tenement there called *Le Leshall* and pays annually for the same.

The property known as Le Leshall is the same as that mentioned in the abuttals of the 1871 deed (ref. SCCA1/3/5/2/3748).

Later in the same rental under "Rents assigned as freehold and customary holdings", there are two additional entries "7s from Godfry Dowe for the rent of one tenement and pays annually for the same" and "2s of Margaret Browne widow for the rent of one other free tenement there and pays annually for the same".

In 1616 the borough of Bury St Edmunds made a copy of one of these accounts and this copy was transcribed again in 1646. This later transcript was translated published (Breen) and it has been suggested that the original document might have been an account of the year 1547. A number of errors have occurred in the process of transcription. All of the nine properties from that of the St Nicholas Guild through to the property of Thomas Williams alias Senyhill are omitted from the 1547 account. The 1547 account does include two additional entries "of John Adams for free rent one tenement there p. a. xiid" and "Rent found on the examination of the Bailiff's rental p.a. xixd". In the original document (ref. C3/3) there are marginal notes against the properties late Thomas English, those of Andrew Reeve, John Stile and John Chapman stating that the properties were in decay and had been granted to Alderman Freeman.

There is an additional entry in the 1526 sacrist's rental "Of Thomas Jermyn, esquire, for a tenement late – Skelton between the tenement of Amy Stutts, widow, on the north part and the tenement of John Glover, weaver, on the south part 12d" Thomas Jermyn is mentioned in the 1542 rental as paying rent for a tenement in "Horsmarket with Sparrow Hauk Strete".

John Skotte is mentioned in the 1542 as paying a rent of 10s for a tenement with the gate called '*Seynt Margette gate*'. It is relevant to discuss the position of this gate as the Shire Hall is believed to have been built on the site of St Margaret's Church or chapel and the registry office is now called St Margaret's Lodge. The gate described as "The southern entrance to the Monastery" was situated between "St Mary's Church and St Andrew's Church". It was demolished in 1760 and the engraving published in Yates's book was "made from sketches found in the collection of Thomas Martin" (Fig 31). The path way visible through the gate ran

obliquely across the churchyard to the Norman Tower and is shown on Warren's 1776 map of Bury.

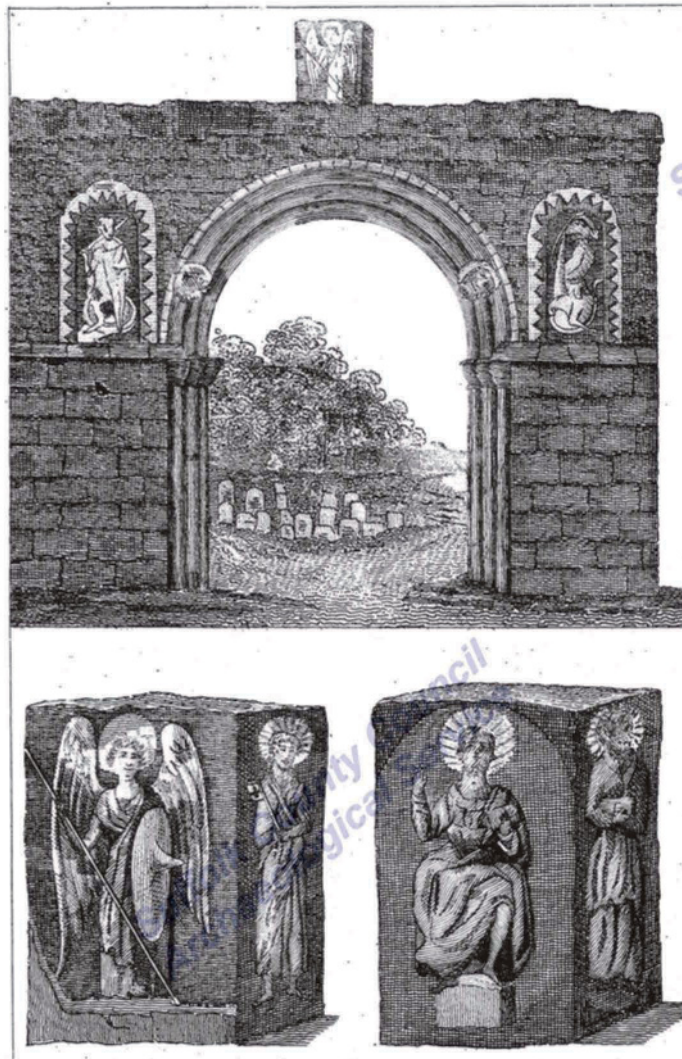


Figure 31. Engraving of St Margaret's Gate

The gate is mentioned in deed relating to the site of the car parks fronting the law courts (ref. SCC A1/3/5/2/3668). The bundle of deeds includes a conveyance of the Magpie Inn dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 1852. The property was then described as "*All that messuage or tenement and Common Inn called the Magpie with the stables, brewhouse outbuildings yards and other appurtenances to the same belonging ... between the ground of the Churchyard there on the North Part and the Street called the School Hall Street on the South Part the west head abuts upon a small piece of ground formerly belonging to John Ranby esquire and next hereinafter described in part and the gate called Saint Margaret's Gate leading into the said Churchyard and the East Head thereof upon the way leading out of the said Churchyard into the said street called School Hall Street by the Shirehouse there as the same was formerly in the occupation of Elsgood since of Martin Burroughs late of John Lofts and now of William Footer ... and also all that piece of ground ... adjoining to the said Public Inn ... on the East part bounded on the south part by the Street there called School Hall Street and laying against open ground formerly belonging to the said John Ranby on the west part and bounded by the Churchyard on the North being in length about forty feet and in breadth about fourteen feet as the same now walled in and was formerly in the occupation of John Ranby late of the said John Lofts and now the said William Footer*".



The Magpie Inn shown on the 1851 print of the “Shire Hall & Court House” (Fig. 17) had been removed before 1872. In a deed dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 1872 Edward Charles Thomas the then owner of the Manor House had “*with view to making a public improvement pulled down the Magpie Inn which formerly stood on the said piece of Ground of which he is seized ... has enclosed two separate portions of the said pieces of ground ... and connected such two separate portions by an archway under the roadway*”. He also made an agreement with the Borough’s Paving Commissioners for a piece of ground to be “*laid out and permanently dedicated to the public use*” (ref. SCC A1/3/5/2/3667). Before these improvements a low semi circular balustrade had been place on this side of the churchyard in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to improve the settings of both the Manor House frontage and that of Clopton’s Asylum to the north a view now interrupted by the rows of 19<sup>th</sup> century planted lime trees.

A house on Honey Hill still bears the name St Margaret’s Gate. Unlike the two great entrances to the abbey grounds Abby Gate and the Norman Tower this gate is not aligned with the street pattern of Bury.

## Conclusion

A. B. Whittingham’s paper and plan of the former abbey and its precinct has been the only comprehensive attempt to date to combine the evidence from written sources with an interpretation of the standing structures. On his plan the sacristy is within the precinct in the area of 1&2 Abbey Precinct and Walnut Tree Close is between that building and the abbey wall. He has positioned the school and school hall on the eastern side of the then Schoolhall Street and within the area of the present council offices. The research for this report questions the positions of these buildings. If Whittingham was correct to link the medieval reference to the sacristy to Anna Yeend’s 1663 deed then the building has to be to the south of the precinct wall and in the area of the council offices’ car parks.

The phrase “All those grounds called or knowne by the name of names of Sextry yard and the Walnuttree Yard” in the 1663 deed suggests two properties. These properties and other lands mentioned in the deed can be traced through a succession of owners to the maps and plans dating from 1791 onwards. These maps and plans show clearly that the area to the north of the wall was not included in the property. It appears to be the case that the Walnut Tree Yard was the low lying meadow adjoining the river Linnet. Though it is possible that a barn may have been constructed as a shelter for animals grazing on the meadows or for storage of hay cut from them, a building of that nature and use would not normally be described as a barn. Access to the area immediately to the north of the site of the barn was through a drift way later linked in property deeds to the gardens of St Margaret’s House. Its entrance was on Schoolhall Street. There was a chamber above this entrance in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The position of the entrance suggests that there may have been buildings to the north of the barn. It seems to be reasonable to suggest that this area may have been the site of the “sextry yard”.

In the documents that have been examined for this report no references to either a school or schoolhall in the positions suggested on Whittingham’s plan have been found. The only school mentioned is the song school situated immediately to the east of St Mary’s Church. Two medieval references to another school within the abbey grounds show that the room was within the un-located building depicted on the plan of the water system and below the also un-located library.

The site of Shire Hall is supposedly the same as the church or chapel of St Margaret. Unfortunately the earliest reference to Shire Hall or House in 1572 does not mention the chapel. St Margaret’s gate is to the west and not linked to Shire Hall. The northern extension of Shire

Hall shown on various plans between 1741 and 1904 was within the churchyard the width of the northern extension of the building as described in 1572 was only 12 feet much smaller than it appears to be on the plans.

St Margaret's House was within the churchyard. There are cellars beneath the western half of this building. The archaeological assessment of this site should consider whether or not the cellars are part of the present structure or of an earlier building. Fragments of the abbey precinct wall are incorporated into St Margaret's House and the wall extends into the car park. The tower depicted on Ryland's print of "The East View of St Edmunds Bury" may be connected to this building.

The wall has not been subject to careful archaeological examination. The alignment of the wall changes at the eastern end and it is suggested on Whittingham's plan that there was a return of the wall to the north to join the fragment jutting out of the boundary wall between the council offices and 1 & 2 the Abbey Precinct.

On the Ordnance Survey maps the area to the north of the precinct wall is shown as the site of the "Cemetery of the Monks". The deeds for this area are not currently available for research however the references to the land in the deeds of the adjoining properties show that it was an area of orchards, gardens and the former Botanic Gardens. The earliest reference to the land in the deed of 1727 suggests that it had been part of the churchyard. From 1798 the churchyard was in public ownership and after that year the exact dates at which land was leased out from the churchyard can be found in borough records. From 1560 through to 1798 the churchyard was in private hands. The gardens of the houses to the south of St Mary's Church are encroachments on the churchyard as are the northern side of Shire Hall and the site of St Margaret's House. These are relatively small areas. The council offices car parks to the north of the precinct wall and including the archaeological unit's own offices are within a plot of land marked on the 1791 map of Bury as over 2 ½ acres, much larger than any of the other encroachments. In the absence of the deeds only an archaeological examination of this area can help to determine whether or not it was part of the churchyard.

Access to the County Councils conveyance files of the various parts of this site has been invaluable to this research. Without this access it would have been impossible or at least extremely difficult to link the various parts of the site to earlier deeds. Hopefully these records will soon be publicly available to others to research.

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C 3/3 16<sup>th</sup> century Town Rental 1646 copy  
D4/1/4 Corporation Minute Book 1720 - 1798  
D7/8/1-6 Deeds Badby's Bequest 1580 – 1652

#### *Illustrations*

HD 1390 J Lenny's Map of Bury 1823  
HD 1390 Photograph Shire Hall circa 1860  
HD 1390 Rylands Print "The East View of St Edmunds Bury" 18<sup>th</sup> century

K511/507 Print St Margaret's Gate 1843  
K511/733a Print Shire Hall & Court House, Bury St Edmunds June 1851  
K736/80 Houses in Schoolhall Street shortly before they were demolished photograph dated circa 1965

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H2/4/31 Receivers' Account Book, 1738-1832 with a survey of farms belonging to the Feoffment, taken by Thomas Warren of Bury 1741

H6/1/2 J. G. Lenny Surveyor Book of Plans of Estates belonging to the Guildhall Feoffment 1807

#### *Maps*

M532 R. Payne's Map of Bury 1834  
373/17 Thomas Warren's Map of the Town of Bury 1776

#### *Property Deeds*

312 Deeds Properties in Bury St Edmunds

(a) Messuages in Schoolhall Street to south of Shire House 1685 -1857 312/1-17, 19, 22-24, 27-29, 34, 35, 38, 44, 56, 60

(b) House with garden in churchyard adjoining Shirehouse 1754-1796 312/18, 20, 21, 26, 33, 37, 45

(c) Messuage, barn & 29 acres (Vernon Estate) 1795 – 1802 312/36, 39-43, 45

771/1 – 771/7 Deeds Abbey Precincts 1727 - 1891

1101/3/3 Deed Property Schoolhall Street 27-28 March 1709

Parish Records St James' Bury St Edmunds

FL 541/13/4 Sir James Burrough's 'Collectanea Buriensia' pre 1764

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#### *Photographs and Illustrations*

K681/1/81/71 Photograph Shire Hall circa 1905

#### *Vernon Wentworth Papers*

HA 34/50/21/11.1 Bundle of deeds relating to lands held of the Manor of Bicling Couthbetts and Risings in Snape and to tenements in ... Bury St Edmunds 1565-1794  
Includes the Settlement of Anne Yeend dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 1663

HA 34/50/21/11.2 (2)-(11) Bundle of deeds relating to messuage in Schoolhall Street and to piece of ground adjoining in Raingate Street: also Golden Lion Inn and Stable, coach house and other outhouses all in Bury St Edmunds 12 Feb 1676 – 21 Nov 1693

HA 34/50/21/11.3 Assignment Executors of will of Lady Sarah Springe to William Johnson in trust for Sir Henry Johnson houses in Schoolhall Street Bury St Edmunds 25<sup>th</sup> April 1698

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## Appendix 4 The Geophysical Survey Report

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**GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT  
2007/06**

**SHIRE HALL COMPLEX  
Bury St. Edmunds**



**Client:**



**Suffolk County Council**

**on behalf of:**

**COUNTY LANDAGENTS**

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## GSB Survey No. 07/06

Shire Hall Complex, Bury St.Edmunds

<b>NGR</b>	TL 858 642.
<b>Location</b>	Shire Hall car park, land immediately east of New Shire Hall and immediately north of the Police Station.
<b>Parish</b>	Bury St.Edmunds.
<b>Topography</b>	Very gentle slope from west to east towards river.
<b>Current land-use</b>	Tarmac car parking areas, paved paths and lawns.
<b>Soils</b>	Unclassified (urban area).
<b>Geology</b>	Unclassified, but chalky deposits and glaciofluvial till are typical of the area. <i>Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 4, Eastern England.</i> Soil Survey of England and Wales. 1983.
<b>Archaeology</b>	The majority of the survey lies within the footprint of the former Medieval Abbey Precinct; evidence of Saxon settlement is also recorded in the immediate vicinity.
<b>Survey Method</b>	Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR).

### Aims

Within the Shire Hall car park and in front of New Shire Hall the survey aimed to identify any detectable features associated with the former Abbey and ancillary buildings. Across the site as a whole it was hoped that it might be possible to identify the depth of overburden/subsoil and map the former topography of the floodplain. This work forms part of a wider appraisal being conducted by **Suffolk County Council** on behalf of **County Land Agents**.

### Summary of Results\*

Anomalies potentially relating to remains of features associated with the Abbey have been tentatively identified in the northern half of the Shire Hall car park. A similar interpretation has been applied to a confined anomaly abutting the south side of the Precinct wall. A far more cautious interpretation has been cast upon a rectilinear spread of anomalies in the southern half of the Shire Hall car park owing to them being partially aligned with relatively well-defined service-type anomalies.

It has not been possible to identify the overburden/sub-soil depth or reliably and consistently map any palaeosurfaces that might indicate the former topography of the floodplain. That said, there is a certain increase in the depth of deposits towards the east of the site, to around almost 3.0m. In a small number of sections a possible surface has been recorded dipping to the west but is set back some 15.0m from the current waterway.

The vast majority of recorded reflections and responses appear to be from services and variations in surface materials/construction.

### Project Information

**Project Co-ordinator:** J Adcock  
**Project Assistants:** I Wilkins, E Wood & C Stephens  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2007  
**Date of Report:** 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007

\*It is essential that this summary is read in conjunction with the detailed results of the survey.

## Survey Specifications

### Method

The survey grid was set out and tied in to prominent map features using tapes.

Technique	Traverse Separation	Reading Interval	Instrument	Survey Size
Magnetometer - Scanning	-	-	-	-
Magnetometer - Detailed	-	-	-	-
Resistance - Twin Probe	-	-	-	-
Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) (Appendix 1)	0.5m	0.05m	Sensors & Software Noggin <sup>plus</sup> SmartCart 250MHz	0.4ha (10.09 km Traverse Data)

### Data Processing

	Magnetic	Resistance	GPR
Odometer Correction	-	-	Y
Interpolate	-	-	Y
Filter	-	-	Bandpass / Background

### Presentation of Results

**Report Figures (Printed & Archive CD):** Location plots, summary data plots and interpretation diagram on base map (Figures 1-6).  
Selected Radargrams (Figures 7-14).  
Tie-in information (Figure T1 – T4).

**Reference Figures (Archive CD):** Full time-slice data plots - for reference and analysis (see List of Figures).

**Plot Formats:** Time-slices and Radargrams. See *Appendix 1: Technical Information*, at end of report.

### General Considerations

Conditions for survey were good with a mix of tarmac, paving and grassed areas which generally sloped gently down to the east. Man-made surfaces will introduce an element of 'noise' throughout much of the data and can reduce the effectiveness of the technique and complicate interpretation.

Where there is a strong electromagnetic contrast between layers/features, the GPR signal can be inter-reflected, or reverberated, below ground which produces a delay in the reflection of the signal. This is termed 'ringing' and happens to some extent with all reflections, resulting in a greater apparent depth than actually exists. As a result, it is often not possible to detect the base of features; only the tops of buried deposits are detected with certainty [Annan 1996].

Depths have been indicated in the diagrams, but should be viewed with caution. The conversion from time to depth depends on the velocity of the electromagnetic signal through the ground. Given the nature of the site, this will vary over relatively small distances (both laterally and vertically) and, as such, any conversion is *only an approximation*. Average velocities of 0.094m/ns and 0.08m/ns have been used for tarmac and grass areas, respectively. This is based upon time to depth conversions following velocity analysis using graphical methods which involve the fitting of curves to point source reflections.



## Results of Survey

### 1. Ground Penetrating Radar Survey

*In order to locate potential features relating to the Abbey Precinct, detailed, gridded survey was conducted across the Shire Hall car park (for ease of data collection and display, this has been separated into 'North' and 'South' with respect to the footpath bisecting it) and the courtyard in front of New Shire Hall (also extending east along the Precinct wall across the car park access road) [Figure 1]. In addition, long traverses running west to east were collected over these grids as well as an area north of the Police Station [Figure 1]. It was hoped that they may reveal information on the former floodplain topography.*

#### Shire Hall Car Park - North and South

- 1.1 The shallowest slices in the car park survey area have been dominated by the responses from what appear to be services and variations within the tarmac surfacing. Some of the interpretations in this area are more definitive than others. For example, (1) is coincident with a service trench and (2) is directly attributable to a concrete surface drain running to a grating at its eastern end. The paved and grassed areas have also shown up in the southwestern and southeastern corners of the data, respectively. The trends around (3) closely match changes in the surfacing and although it is not entirely possible to determine which responses are definitively services, it is obvious that these are all of modern origins.
- 1.2 In archaeological terms the responses are less clear-cut and less numerous but generally become apparent below approximately 0.75m [Figure 3]. Up against the western boundary wall a spread of high amplitude anomalies (4) within a general zone of increased response has been recorded. Whilst interpretation is less reliable when features are overlain by a service (as this appears to be) the radargrams [Line 5, Figure 6] show broad reflectors at a depth far more characteristic of archaeological remains. It is possible that the increased responses around the service feature (1) are also of an archaeological origin but the anomalies recorded in the radargrams [Line 16] cannot be definitively separated from the service response.
- 1.3 A broad linear zone of reflectors (5) is perplexing with regard to its interpretation. It has very well defined edges but appears too broad and discontinuous to be just a service; there is also no associated trench cut visible on the surface. Comparing the responses between lines running along a service [Line 55, Figure 6] and one along (5) [Line 121] it is noticeable that the service feature produces a relatively regular, series of 'ringing' horizontal reflectors whilst over (5) the responses are far less ordered suggesting a less distinct surface, perhaps rubble. The transverse radargrams [Lines 501-503, Figure 8] certainly seem to show anomalies of a more archaeological form in the vicinity of (5).
- 1.4 It is possible that (5) represents the remains of a former boundary wall, however it might then be expected to continue right across to the precinct wall and yet it barely reaches into the southern survey area. And even here, its presence is not as obvious as on the northern side due to the adjacent modern surface drain (2) and service (6). The well defined eastern edge of (5) may be a facet of the adjacent service trench (6) [seen in Figure 2] and the same may be true of the western side, with the bordering low

amplitude trend representing a less obvious service cut. If this is the case, then a far broader spread of anomalies (7) may represent a continuation of (5), rather than separate anomalies associated merely on the basis of having a similar depth and response strength. The responses marked at (7) stand out quite clearly in both the regular [Line 105, Figure 6] and transverse radargrams [Lines 501 - 503, Figure 8] and potentially hold some archaeological significance.

- 1.5 To the southwest, a rectilinear pattern of high amplitude responses has been recorded. Although the distribution may suggest an archaeological nature it has not been categorised as such owing to the alignment of nearby services. The northern linear anomaly (9) [Lines 245 and 254, Figure 7 and Line 506, Figure 9] aligns with a distinct service trend (10). Although (10) displays a distinct hyperbola in the east of the grid [Line 291], in the region of (9) it is far less clear and the radargrams show a lot of disturbance. It is not clear whether this is archaeological material or modern disturbance from the laying of this purported service (assuming it extends this far). It is not even clear whether the service is modern; this could be an antiquated feature and as such directly related to any potential archaeological deposits.
- 1.6 A similar ambiguity exists with the eastern linear anomaly (8) [Line 260, Figure 7]. In this case it could be a continuation of the trend and service feature running to the north, through the northern half of the survey area.
- 1.7 The high amplitude anomalies (11) [Line 203, Figure 7] may be further archaeological features; they are similar to those seen at (4). However, many of the radargrams are far more ambiguous and strong ringing from the surfacing, noticeable in the radargrams [Line 210], could easily be the primary cause. The tarmac in this area was particularly uneven which will have introduced further noise.
- 1.8 Two anomalous low amplitude trends (12) and (13) have been recorded from around 2.2 and 2.4m respectively. It is unclear as to their origin and they could be natural variations in the sub-soil. Nothing of significance has been imaged below 3.0m.

### **New Shire Hall**

- 1.9 Services and modern anomalies dominate this entire dataset. The 'stronger' trends on the interpretation diagrams delimit the variation in response between the grassed and paved areas of the site, whilst anomaly (14) is a flower bed. The vast majority of the high amplitude responses recorded can be attributed to either services or very confined reflectors that are almost certainly modern given their high contrast and 'ringing' characteristics. Some of these may be features originating from when New Shire Hall was under construction.
- 1.10 The only real exception to this general picture is a small, high amplitude anomaly (15) recorded from around 0.75m depth adjacent to the Precinct wall. It is not a service and not obviously modern from the nature of the response [Line 416, Figure 11]. The close proximity to this ancient wall also adds weight to its archaeological interpretation.
- 1.11 A zone of increased response (16) from around 2.0m depth is unlikely to be more than the effects of overlying services [Line 490, Figure 11]. However, a natural or archaeological origin cannot be completely dismissed.

### Transverse Radargrams

- 1.11 The west-east traverses do not reveal a great deal with regard the former topography of the floodplain or the profile of the subsoil/overburden interface. This is certainly true over the car park site [Lines 501 – 509, Figures 8 - 10] and east of New Shire Hall [Lines 510 – 511, Figure 12] where no palaeosurfaces or obvious broad changes in deposit depth are readily apparent.
- 1.12 Over the grass north of the Police Station [Lines 512 – 513, Figure 13] there has been slightly more success but it is still not really possible to identify a clear difference between overburden and subsoil. However, both lines show a dipping reflector (17) towards their eastern limits which could be the former riverside deposits. Both traverses also show a second reflector (18) dipping in the same direction some 10m further west. It is possible that these are two phases of bank-side deposits.
- 1.13 Over the tarmac area the radargrams are again relatively complex. It appears that there is a greater depth of response (down to almost 3.0m) toward the river (best seen in Line 516 [Figure 14]) perhaps suggesting that there is a fill of material levelling the site, either naturally or intentionally. In order to investigate as close to the current watercourse as possible, Line 515 was extended onto the footbridge. However, the extra few metres revealed no extra information.
- 1.14 Again, a distinct palaeosurface is not obvious, certainly not one that can be traced reliably between the lines (which are only 1.0m apart). A horizontal reflector (19) in Lines 514 and 515 is quite likely to be an adjacent service pipe. Although the traverses were collected to the sides of the trench line visible in the tarmac, the conical nature of the radar wave transmission below the instrument means that features slightly to the side will sometimes be detected. It seems that this is likely to be the case here.

## 2. Conclusions

- 2.1 The survey covered two areas within and adjacent to the Abbey Precinct wall, Shire Hall car park and New Shire Hall, respectively. Detailed GPR survey was used in order to locate any detectable remains associated with the Abbey and its ancillary buildings. In addition, a number of individual long traverses were collected to try to assess the former topography of the site and the depth of overburden/subsoil.
- 2.2 Potential archaeological anomalies have been found in the extreme northwest of the Shire Hall car park and it is possible that these originate from features related to the Abbey. However, the possibility that the western boundary has changed cannot be dismissed. A further anomalous spread of response can be seen to the east crossing the northern half of the car park, and despite the proximity of potential services, these appear to be of an archaeological form.
- 2.3 In the southern half of the car park a rectilinear distribution of anomalies may be of interest. That said, there is a close correlation between the alignment of two sides of this feature and suspected service routes. As such, any interpretation must remain tentative. There is, however, a relatively distinct change in the response pattern recorded in the radargrams in this area which lends support to an archaeological interpretation.

2.4 Outside New Shire Hall the only response that stood out as not being an obviously modern or surface feature was in the northwest against the remains of the precinct wall. Very little else was recorded of interest. As with the whole of the site, there were numerous anomalies relating to surfacing variations and services.

2.5 In general, the survey has not been able to effectively define the depth of overburden, subsoil interface or palaeosurfaces. The best results were obtained north of the Police Station, where there is an increase in the depth of recorded deposits further east towards the current watercourse. It is unclear whether this is a natural feature or deliberately dumped material. In two traverses there are some suggestions of a slight sloping surface set back from the current bank by approximately 15.0 metres, however even this cannot be definitively identified as a palaeosurface.

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## References

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## Appendix 1: Technical Information

### Instrumentation

#### Fluxgate Gradiometer: Geoscan FM36/256 and Bartington Grad601-2

Both the Geoscan and Bartington instruments comprise two fluxgate sensors mounted vertically apart; the distance between the sensors on the former is 500mm, on the latter 1000mm. The gradiometers are carried by hand, with the bottom sensor approximately 100-300mm from the ground surface. At each survey station, the difference in the magnetic field between the two fluxgates is measured in nanoTesla (nT). The sensitivity of the instrument can be adjusted; for most archaeological surveys the most sensitive range (0.1nT) is used. The fluxgate gradiometer suppresses any diurnal or regional effects. Generally, features up to 1m deep may be detected by this method. Having two gradiometer units mounted laterally with a separation of 1000mm, the Bartington instrument can collect two lines of data per traverse.

#### Resistance Meter: Geoscan RM15

This instrument measures the electrical resistance of the earth, using a system of four electrodes (two current and two potential.) Depending on the arrangement of these electrodes an exact measurement of a specific volume of earth may be acquired. This resistance value may then be used to calculate the earth resistivity. The most common arrangement is the Twin Probe configuration which involves two pairs of electrodes (one current and one potential): one pair remain in a fixed position, whilst the other measures the resistance variations across a grid. The resistance is measured in ohms and, when calculated, resistivity is in ohm-metres. The resistance method as used for standard area survey employs a probe separation of 0.5m, which samples to a depth of approximately 0.75m. The nature of the overburden and underlying geology will cause variations in this depth.

#### GPR: Sensors & Software Noggin Smartcart

The Noggin system includes an onboard digital video logger (DVL III), 250 MHz or 500MHz antenna, an odometer wheel and battery. It is, therefore, a fully integrated system. The built-in software uses the integrated odometer to provide an accurate distance measurement to the response. The data are recorded in digital format and can be processed to produce depth slice maps, 2D sections or 3D cubes.

### Display Options

#### XY Trace

This involves a line representation of the data. Each successive row of data is equally incremented in the Y axis, to produce a stacked profile effect. This display may incorporate a hidden-line removal algorithm, which blocks out lines behind the major peaks and can aid interpretation. The advantages of this type of display are that it allows the full range of the data to be viewed and shows the shape of the individual anomalies. The display may also be changed by altering the horizontal viewing angle and the angle above the plane. The output may be either colour or black and white.

#### Greyscale

This format divides a given range of readings into a set number of classes. Each class is represented by a specific shade of grey, the intensity increasing with value. All values above the given range are allocated the same shade (maximum intensity); similarly all values below the given range are represented by the minimum intensity shade. Similar plots can be produced in colour, either using a wide range of colours or by selecting two or three colours to represent positive and negative values. The assigned range (plotting levels) can be adjusted to emphasise different anomalies in the data-set.

#### Relief Plot

This is a method of display that creates a three dimensional effect by directing an imaginary light source on a given data set. Particular elements of the results are highlighted depending on the angle of strike of the light source. This display method is particularly useful when applied to resistance data to highlight subtle changes in resistance that might otherwise be obscured.

#### 3D Surface Plot

This is similar to the XY trace, but in 3 dimensions. Each data point of a survey is represented in its relative position on the x and y axes and the data value is represented in the z axis. This gives a digital terrain, or topographic effect.

#### Radargram

Radar data comprise a record of reflection intensity against the time taken for the emitted energy to travel from the transmitter down to the reflector and back to the receiver. The resultant plot is effectively a vertical section through the ground along the line of the traverse, with time (depth) on the vertical axis, displacement on the horizontal axis and reflection intensity as a grey or colour scale.

#### Time Slice

If a number of radargrams are collected over a grid, or in conjunction with GPS data, it is possible to reconstruct the entire dataset into a 3D volume. This can then be resampled to compile 'plan' maps of response strength at increasing time (or depth) offsets, thus simplifying the visualisation of how anomalies vary beneath the surface across a survey area.

## Terms Commonly used in the Interpretation of Results

<b>Magnetic</b>	
<b>Archaeology</b>	This term is used when the form, nature and pattern of the response are clearly or very probably archaeological. These anomalies, whilst considered anthropogenic, could be of any age.
<b>? Archaeology</b>	The interpretation of such anomalies is often tentative, with the anomalies exhibiting either weak signal strength or forming incomplete archaeological patterns. They may be the result of variable soil depth, plough damage or even aliasing as a result of data collection orientation.
<b>Areas of Increased Magnetic Response</b>	These responses show no visual indications on the ground surface and are considered to have some archaeological potential.
<b>Industrial</b>	Strong magnetic anomalies that, due to their shape and form or the context in which they are found, suggest the presence of kilns, ovens, corn dryers, metal-working areas or hearths. It should be noted that in many instances modern ferrous material can produce similar magnetic anomalies.
<b>Natural</b>	These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions e.g. palaeochannels or magnetic gravels.
<b>? Natural</b>	These are anomalies that are likely to be natural in origin i.e. geological or pedological.
<b>Ridge and Furrow</b>	These are regular and broad linear anomalies that are presumed to be the result of ancient cultivation. In some cases the response may be the result of modern activity.
<b>Ploughing Trend</b>	These are isolated or grouped linear responses. They are normally narrow and are presumed modern when aligned to current field boundaries or following present ploughing.
<b>Trend</b>	This is usually an ill-defined, weak, isolated or obscured linear anomaly of unknown cause or date.
<b>Areas of Magnetic Disturbance</b>	These responses are commonly found in places where modern ferrous or fired materials are present e.g. brick rubble. They are presumed to be modern.
<b>Ferrous Response</b>	This type of response is associated with ferrous material and may result from small items in the topsoil, larger buried objects such as pipes, or above ground features such as fence lines or pylons. Ferrous responses are usually regarded as modern. Individual burnt stones, fired bricks or igneous rocks can produce responses similar to ferrous material.

## **Resistance**

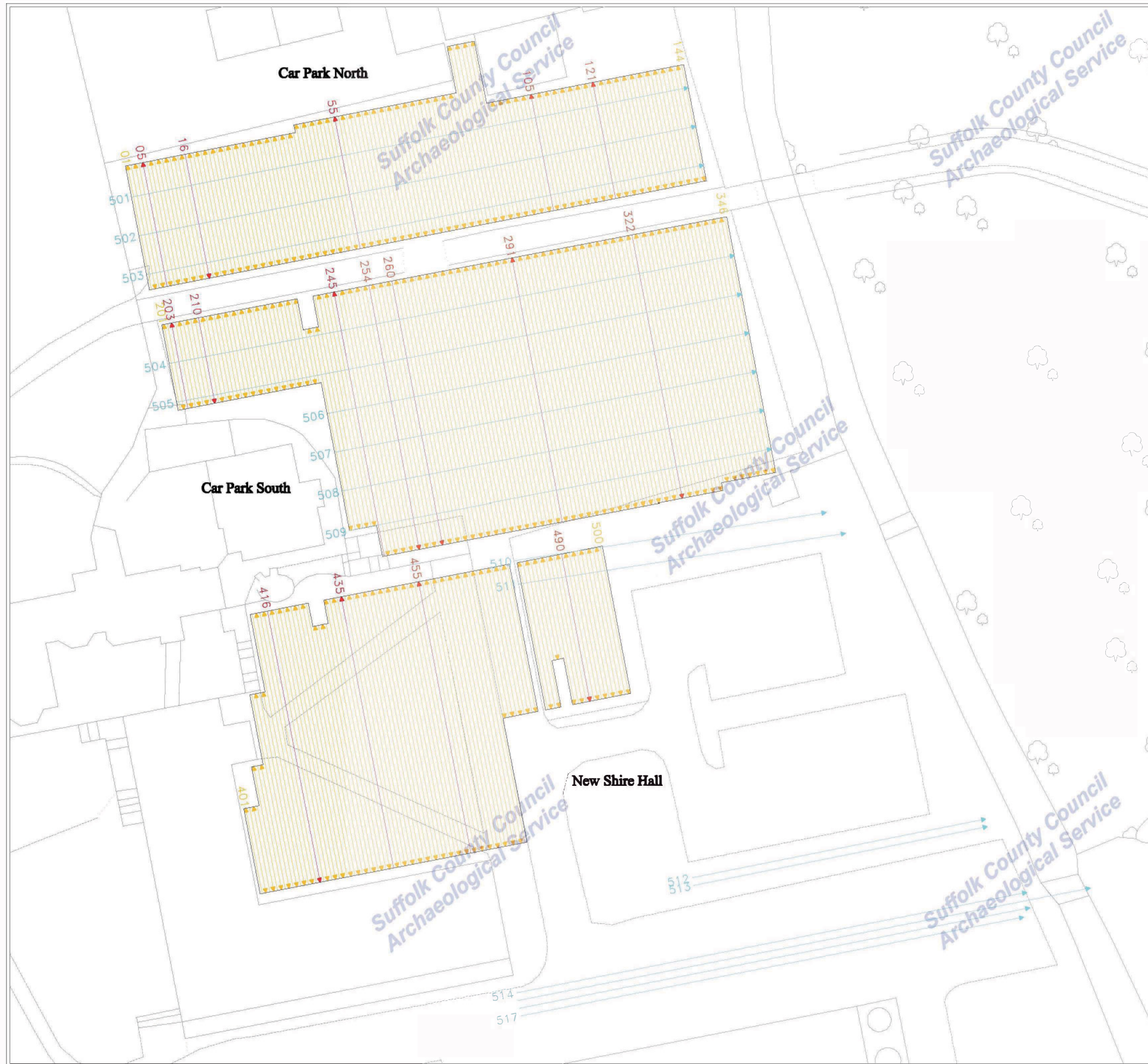
<b>Archaeology</b>	High or low res responses are clearly or very probably archaeological. These anomalies, whilst considered anthropogenic, could be of any age.
<b>? Archaeology</b>	The interpretation of such anomalies is often tentative, with the anomalies exhibiting either weak signal strength or forming incomplete archaeological patterns. They may be the result of variable soil depth, plough damage or even aliasing as a result of data collection orientation.
<b>Natural</b>	These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions e.g. palaeochannels or magnetic gravels.
<b>? Natural</b>	These are anomalies that are likely to be natural in origin i.e. geological or pedological.
<b>? Landscaping / topography</b>	These are regular and broad linear anomalies that are presumed to be the result of ancient cultivation. In some cases the response may be the result of modern activity.
<b>Vegetation</b>	These are isolated or grouped linear responses. They are normally narrow and are presumed modern when aligned to current field boundaries or following present ploughing.
<b>Trend</b>	This is usually an ill-defined, weak, isolated or obscured linear anomaly of unknown cause or date.




<b>GPR</b>	
<b>Wall /Foundation/ /Vault /Culvert etc.</b>	High amplitude anomaly definitions used when other evidence is available that supports a clear archaeological interpretation.
<b>Archaeology</b>	Anomalies whose form, nature and pattern indicate archaeology but where little or no supporting evidence exists. If a more precise archaeological interpretation is possible, for example the responses appear to respect known local archaeology, then this will be indicated in the accompanying text. As low amplitude responses are less obvious features it is unlikely that they would have a definitive categorisation.
<b>? Archaeology</b>	When the anomaly could be archaeologically significant, given its discrete nature, but where the distribution of the responses is not clearly archaeological. Interpretation of such anomalies is often tentative, exhibiting either little contrast or forming incomplete archaeological patterns.
<b>Historic</b>	Responses showing clear correlation with earlier map evidence.
<b>?Historic</b>	Responses relating to features not directly recorded on earlier maps but which appear to respect features that are. May form patterns suggestive of formal gardens, landscaping or footpaths.
<b>Area of Anomalous Response</b>	An area in which the response levels are very slightly elevated or diminished with respect to the 'background'. Where no obvious surface features or documentary evidence can explain this spread of altered reflectivity it is assumed to denote some kind of disturbance, though the origins could be of any age and either anthropogenic or natural. Possible explanations are changes in subsurface composition and groundwater 'ponding'.
<b>Natural</b>	Anomalies relating to natural sub-surface features as indicated by documentary sources, local knowledge or evidence on the surface.
<b>?Natural</b>	Responses forming patterns akin to subsoil/geological variations either attenuating or reflecting greater amounts of energy. An archaeological origin such as rubble spreads or robbed out remains cannot be dismissed.
<b>Trend</b>	An ill defined, weak or isolated linear anomaly of unknown cause or date.
<b>Modern</b>	Reflections that indicate features such as services, rebar or modern cellars correlating with available evidence (maps, communications with the client, alignment of drain covers etc.).
<b>?Modern</b>	Reflections appearing to indicate buried services but where there is no supporting evidence. Also applies to responses which form patterns, or are at a depth which suggests a modern origin. An archaeological source cannot be completely dismissed.
<b>Surface</b>	Responses clearly due to surface discontinuities, the effects of which may be seen to 'ring' down through radargrams and so incorrectly appearing in the deeper time-slices.

### **Data Processing**

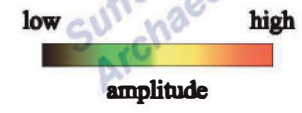
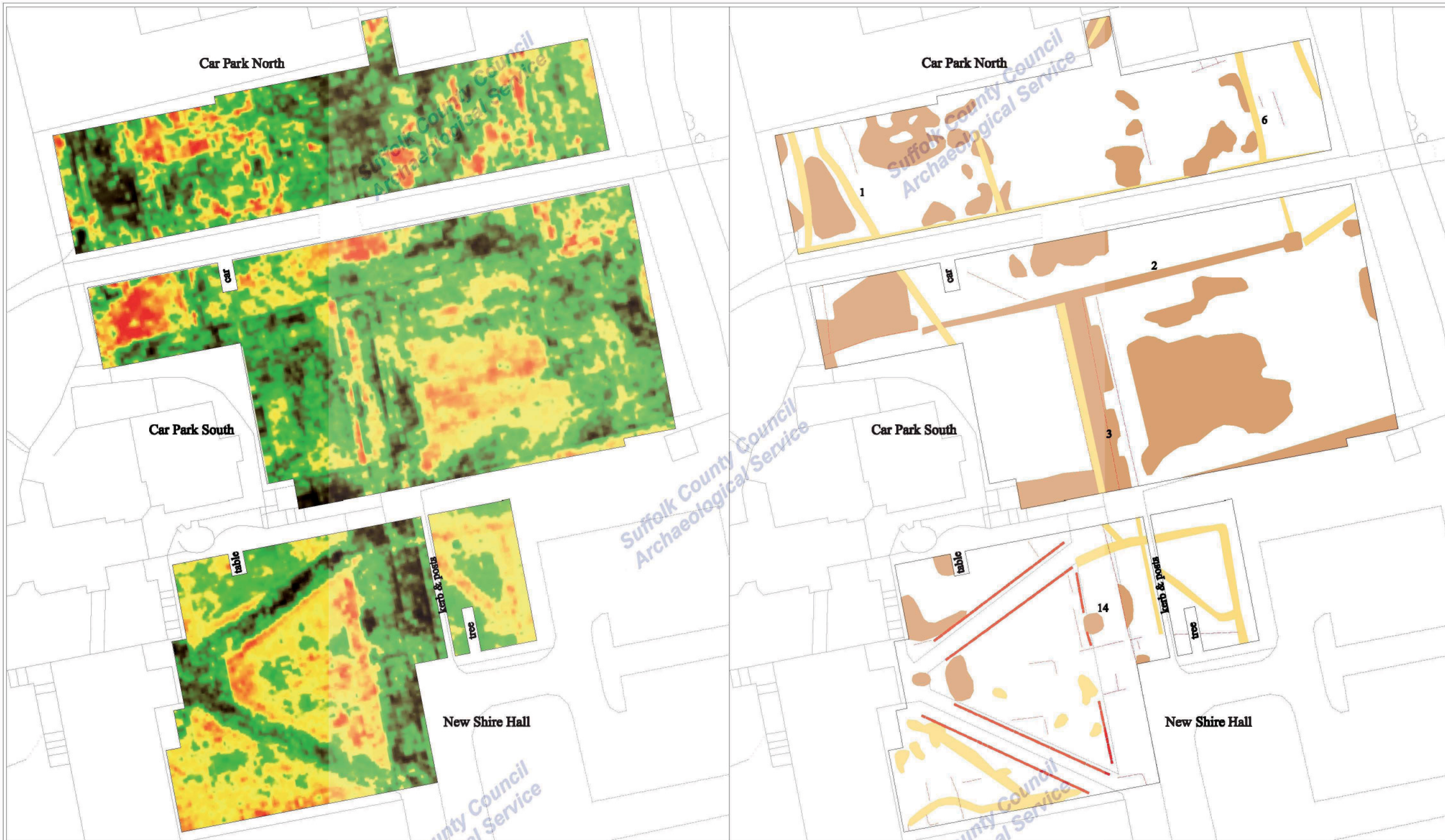
<b>Zero Mean Traverse</b>	This process which sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero. The operation removes striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set. It is usually only applied to gradiometer data.
<b>Step Correction</b>	When gradiometer data are collected in 'zigzag' fashion, stepping errors can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors
<b>Interpolation</b>	When geophysical data are presented as a greyscale, each data point is represented as a small square. The resulting plot can sometimes have a 'blocky' appearance. The interpolation process calculates and inserts additional values between existing data points. The process can be carried out with points <i>along</i> a traverse (the <i>x</i> axis) and/or <i>between</i> traverses (the <i>y</i> axis) and results in a smoother greyscale image.
<b>Despiking</b>	In resistance survey, spurious readings can occasionally occur, usually due to a poor contact of the probes with the surface. This process removes the spurious readings, replacing them with values calculated by taking the mean and standard deviation of surrounding data points. It is not usually applied to gradiometer data.
<b>High Pass Filter</b>	Carried out over the whole a resistance data-set, the filter removes low frequency, large scale spatial detail, such as that produced by broad geological changes. The result is to enhance the visibility of the smaller scale archaeological anomalies that are otherwise hidden within the broad 'background' change in resistance. It is not usually applied to gradiometer data.





-  GPR Traverse
-  Traverse Displayed as Radargram
-  Transverse Traverse

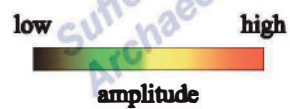
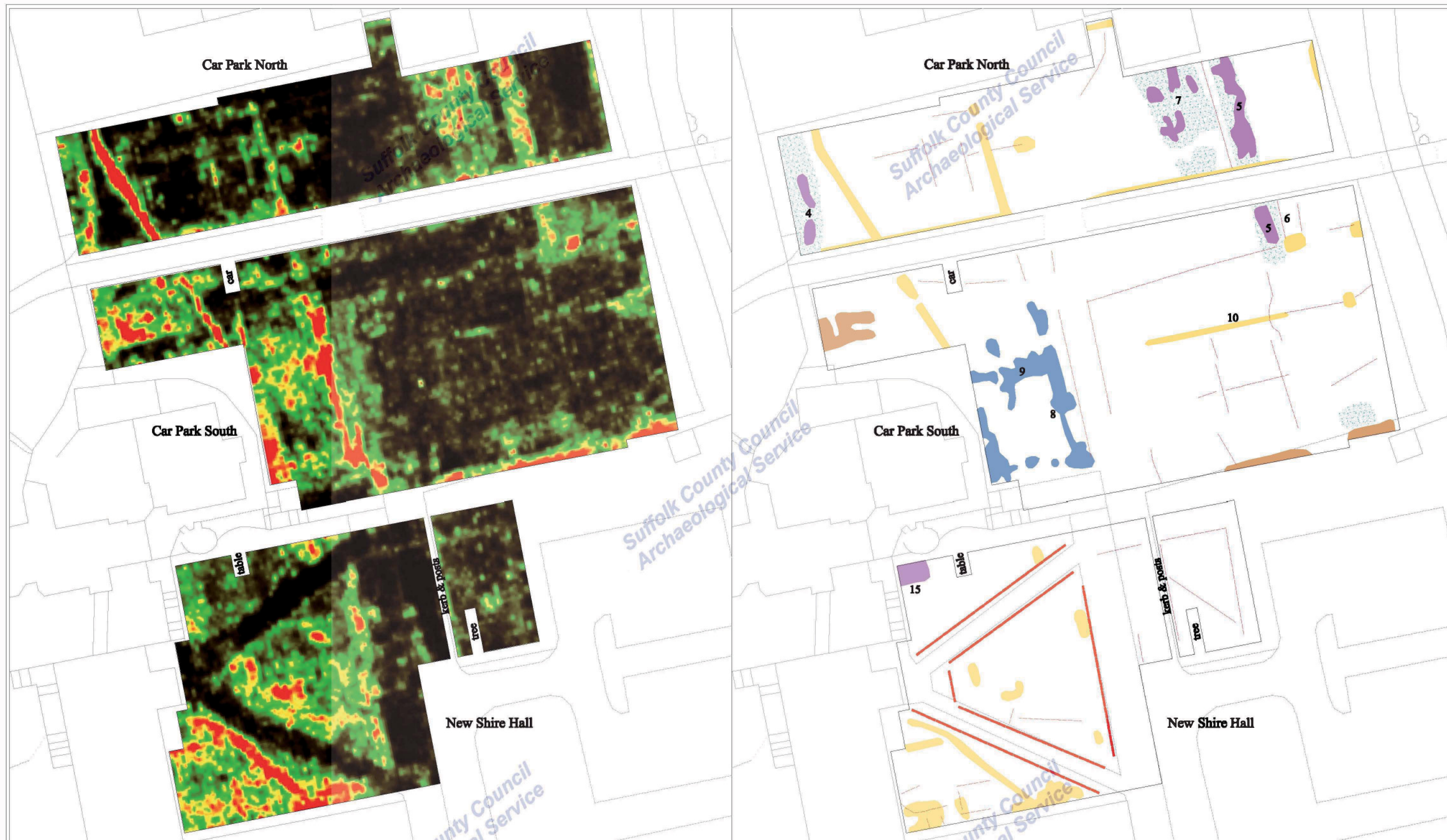
<b>GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.</b>
2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds
<b>Location Diagram</b>
<small>Based on a digital map provided by Suffolk County Council</small>
<b>Figure 1</b>



\* Reference should be made to the complete timeslice data-sets as the summary image is an overview and may not show all the responses highlighted in the accompanying interpretation.

- ?Archaeology
- High Amplitude Anomaly
- Increased Amplitude Response
- Trend
- ?Service / Modern
- ?Surface Effects

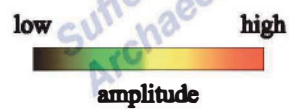
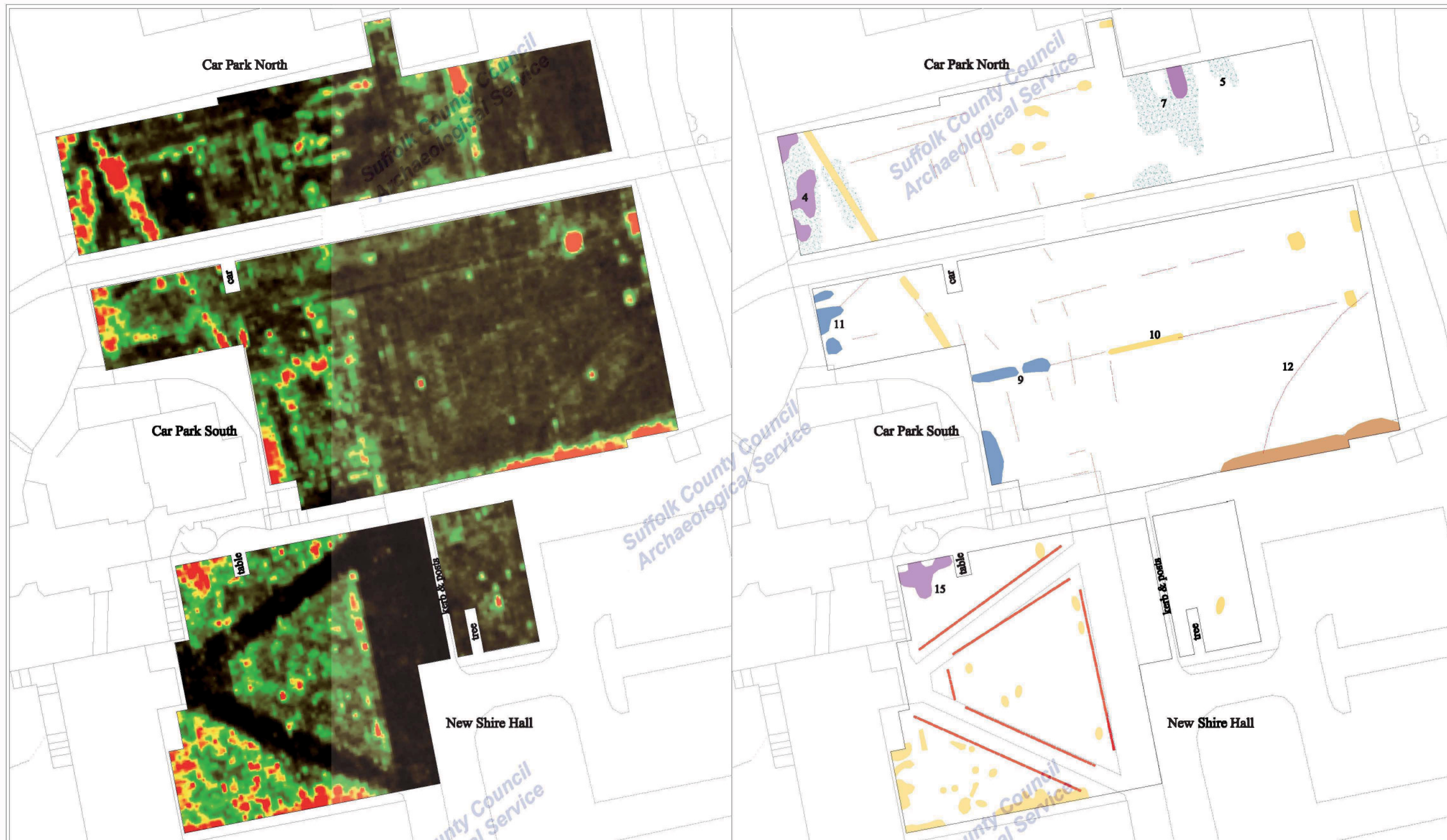
<b>GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.</b>
2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds
Timeslice and Interpretation: 0.00 - 0.75m*
Based on a digital map provided by Suffolk County Council
<b>Figure 2</b>



\* Reference should be made to the complete timeslice data-sets as the summary image is an overview and may not show all the responses highlighted in the accompanying interpretation.

- ?Archaeology
- High Amplitude Anomaly
- Increased Amplitude Response
- Trend
- ?Service / Modern
- ?Surface Effects

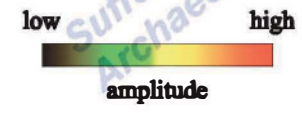
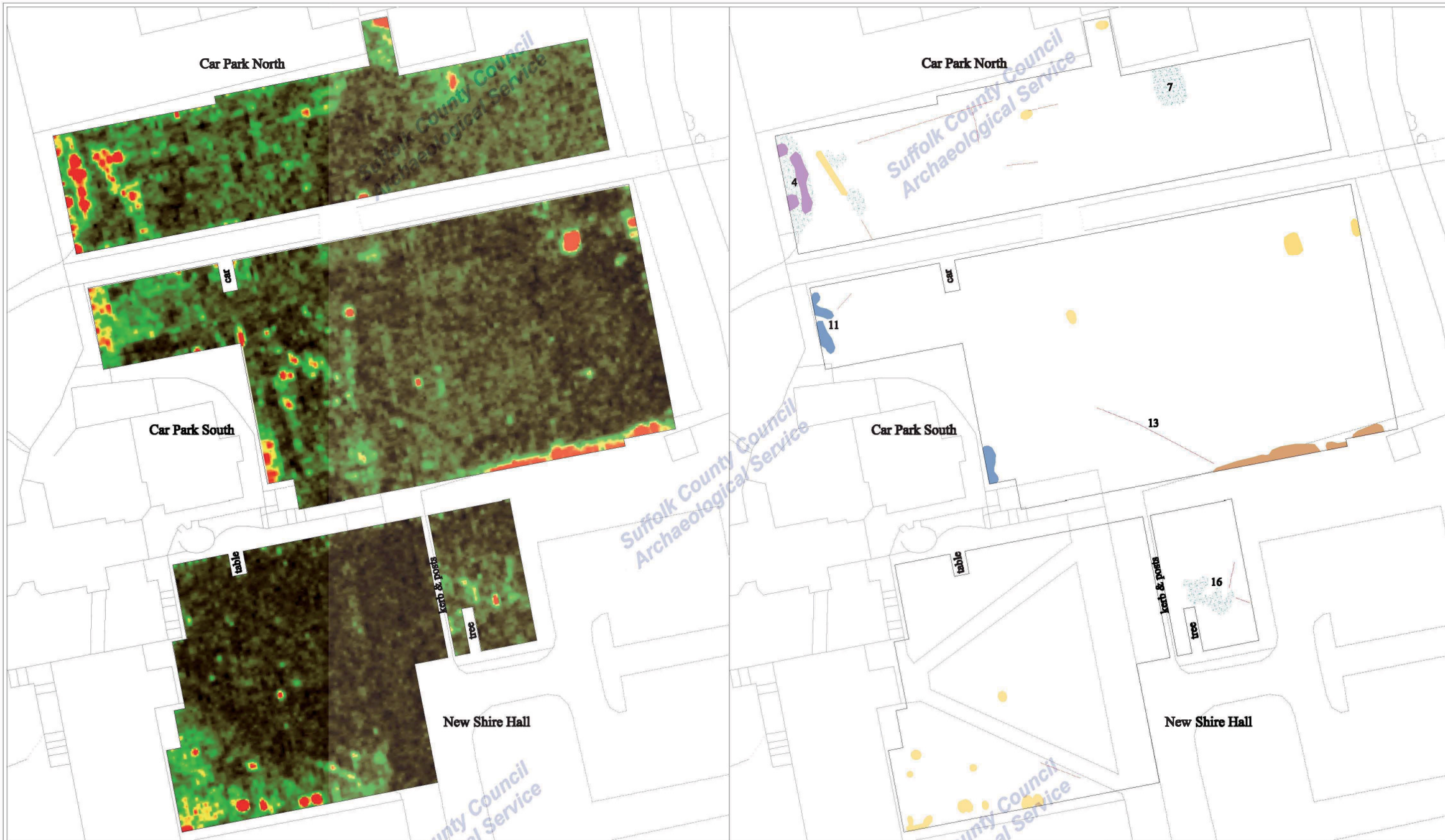
<b>GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.</b>
2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds
Timeslice and Interpretation: 0.75 - 1.50m*
Based on a digital map provided by Suffolk County Council
<b>Figure 3</b>



\* Reference should be made to the complete timeslice data-sets as the summary image is an overview and may not show all the responses highlighted in the accompanying interpretation.

- ?Archaeology
- High Amplitude Anomaly
- Increased Amplitude Response
- Trend
- ?Service / Modern
- ?Surface Effects

<b>GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.</b>
2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds
Timeslice and Interpretation: 1.50 - 2.25m*
<small>Based on a digital map provided by Suffolk County Council</small>
<b>Figure 4</b>

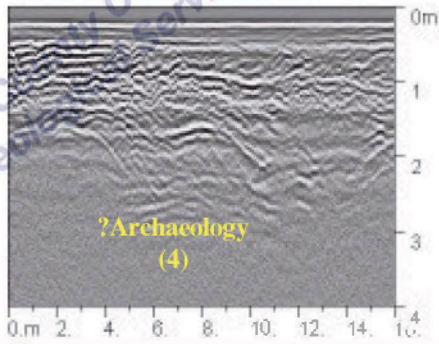


\* Reference should be made to the complete timeslice data-sets as the summary image is an overview and may not show all the responses highlighted in the accompanying interpretation.

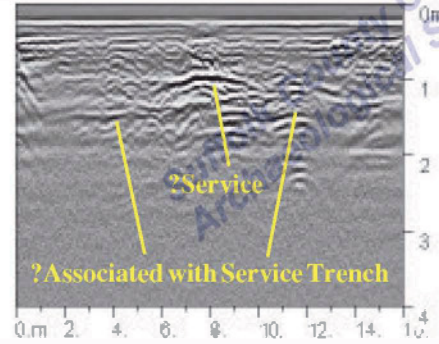
- ?Archaeology
- High Amplitude Anomaly
- Increased Amplitude Response
- Trend
- ?Service / Modern
- ?Surface Effects

<b>GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.</b>
2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds
Timeslice and Interpretation: 2.25 - 3.00m*
<small>Based on a digital map provided by Suffolk County Council</small>
<b>Figure 5</b>

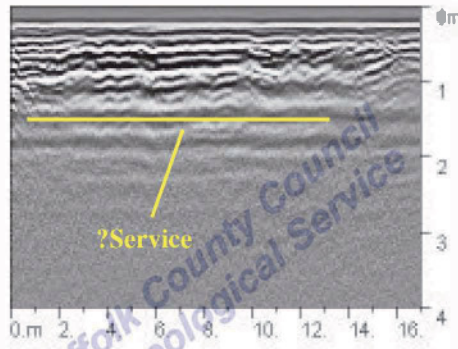
Line 005



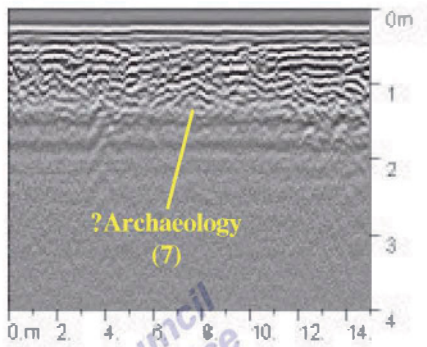
Line 016



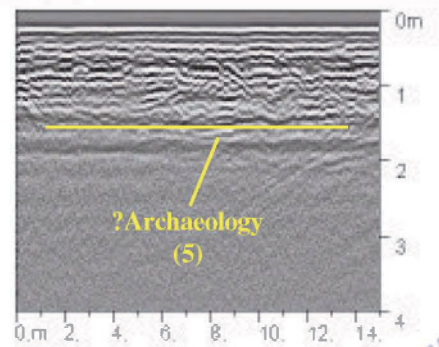
Line 055



Line 105



Line 121



TRAVERSES RUN SOUTH - NORTH  
See Individual Plots For Scale

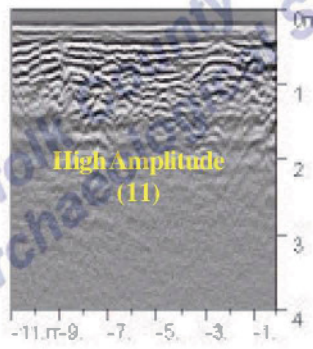
**GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.**

2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds

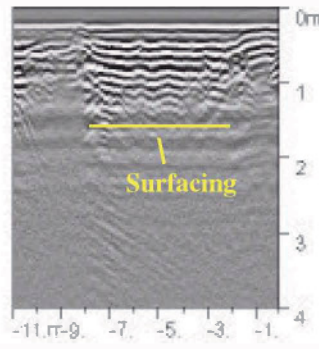
Selected Radargrams: Car Park - North

**Figure 6**

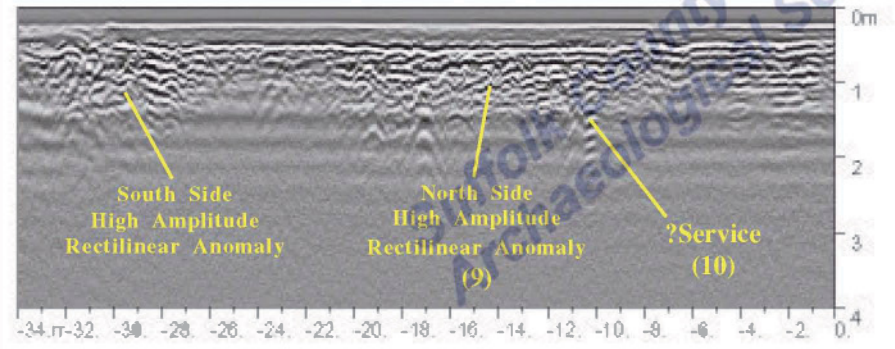
Line 203



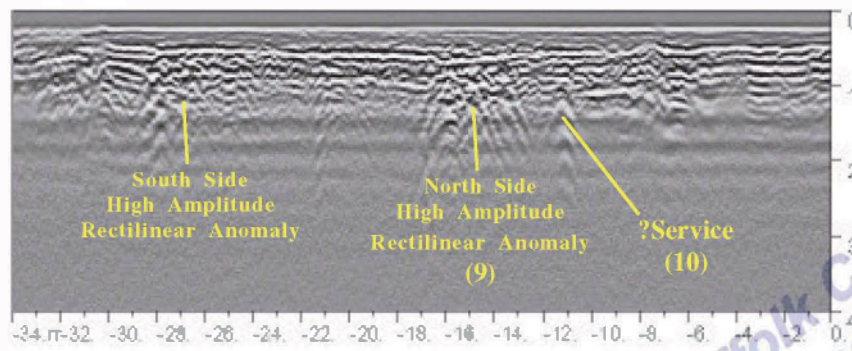
Line 210



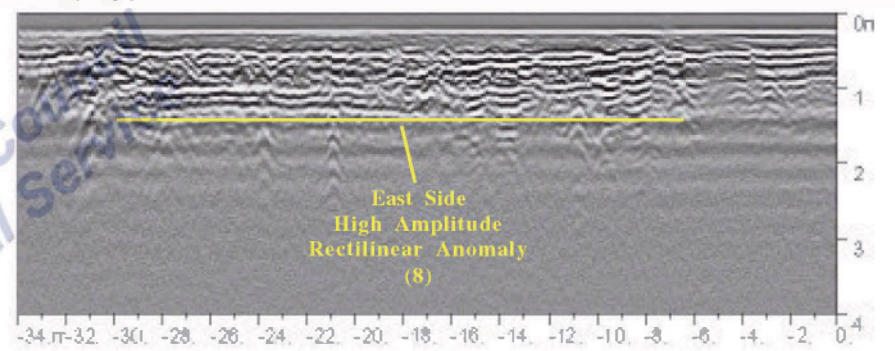
Line 245



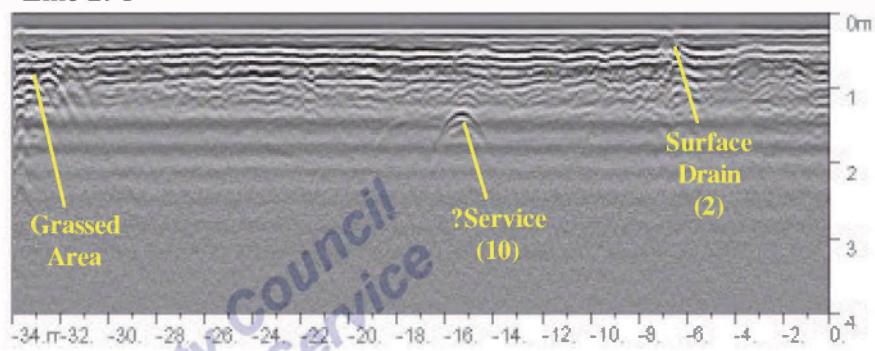
Line 254



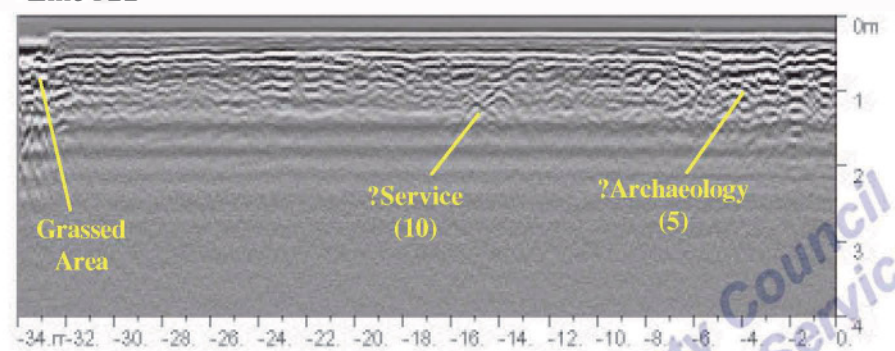
Line 260



Line 291



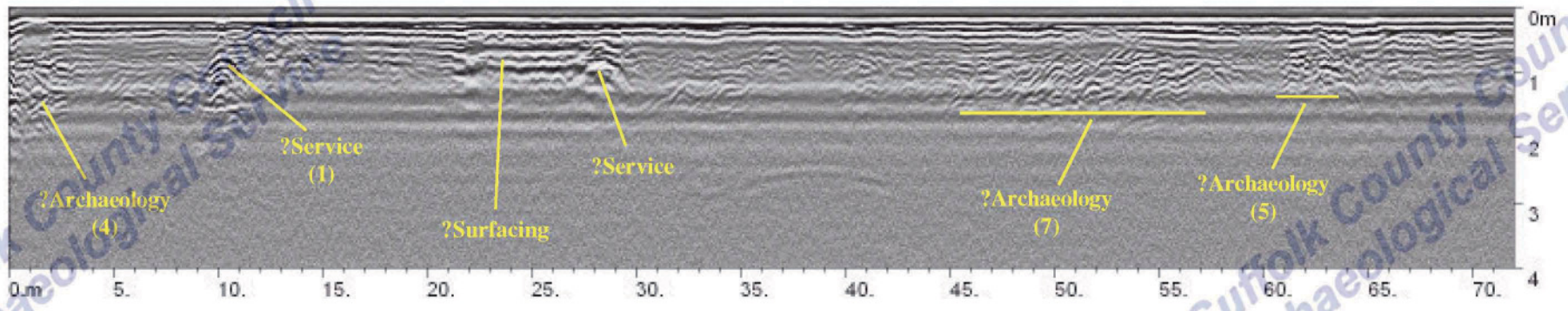
Line 322



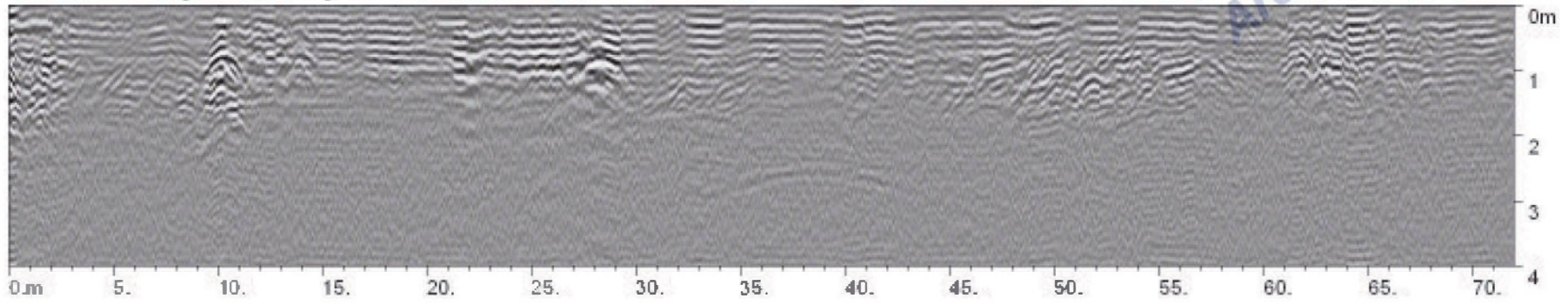
TRAVERSES RUN SOUTH-NORTH  
(See Individual Plots For Scale)

<b>GSBPROSPECTIONLtd.</b>
2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St.Edmunds
Selected Radargrams: Car Park - South
<b>Figure 7</b>

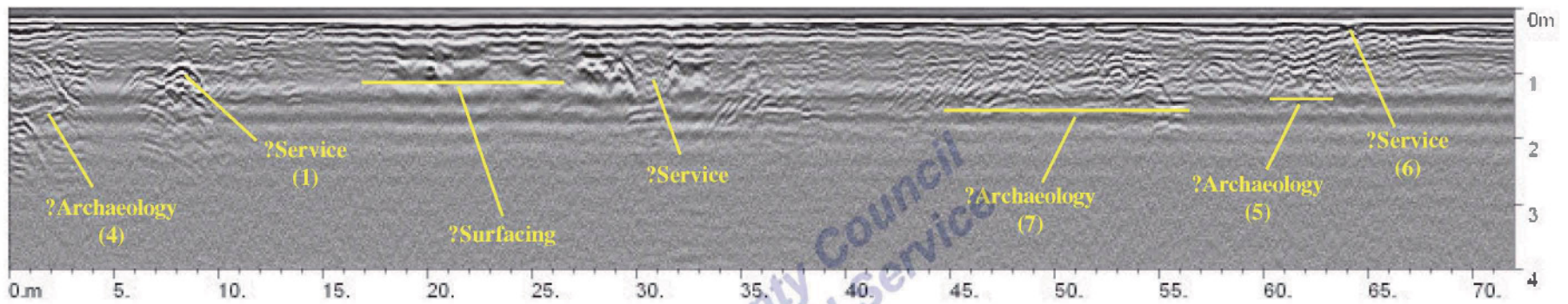
Line 501 - Raw Data



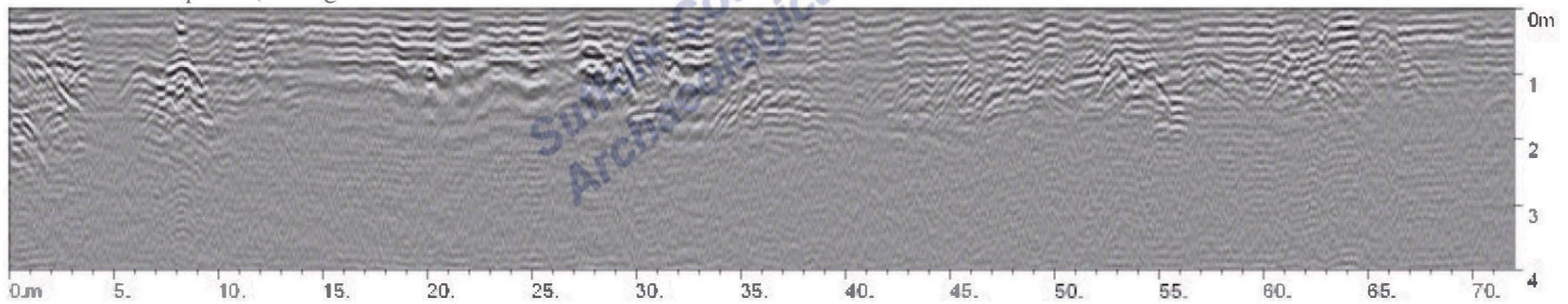
Line 501 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



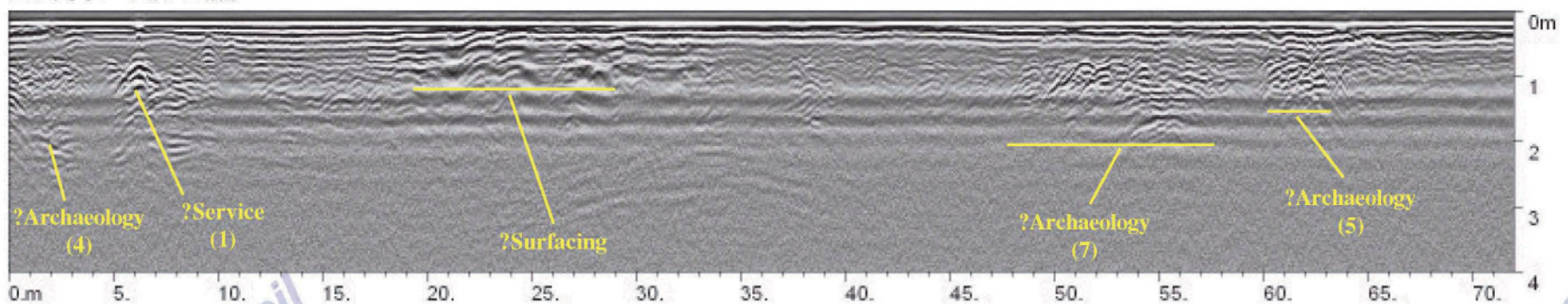
Line 502 - Raw Data



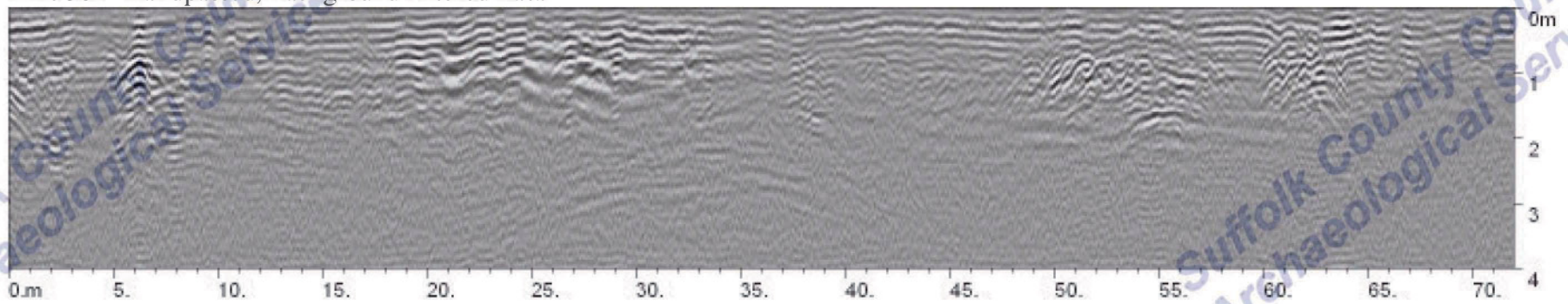
Line 502 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



Line 503 - Raw Data



Line 503 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data

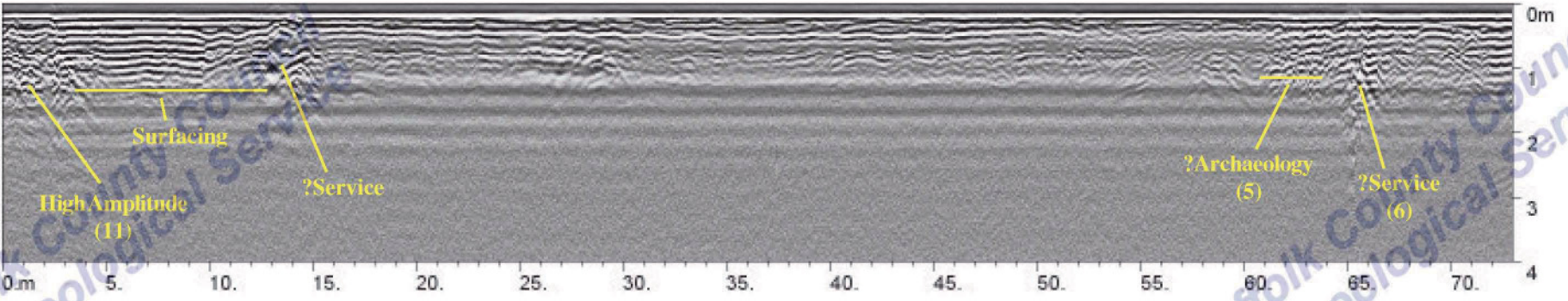


TRAVERSES RUN WEST - EAST  
(See Individual Plots For Scale)

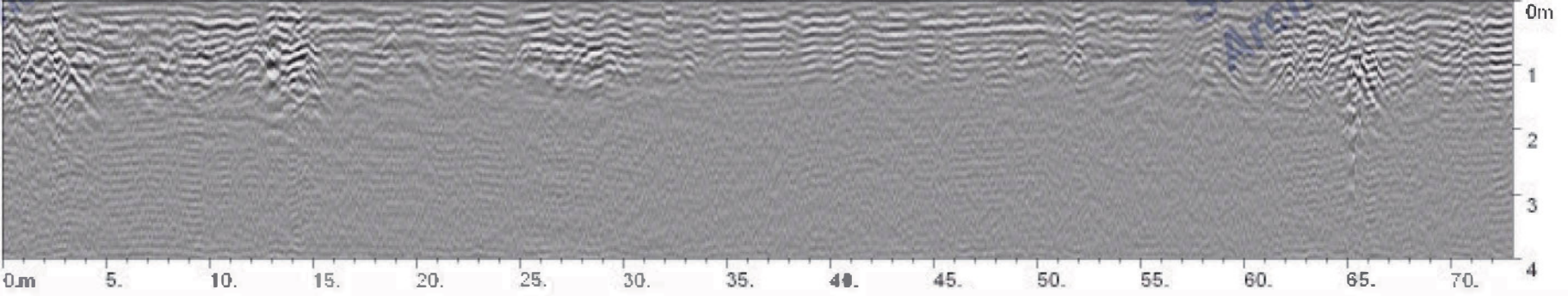
<b>GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.</b>
2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds
Transverse Radargrams: Car Park - North
<b>Figure 8</b>



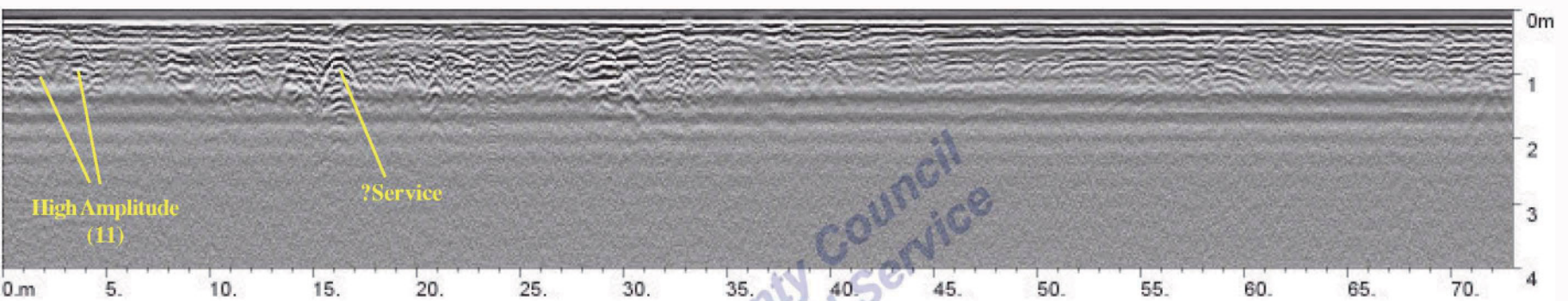
Line 504 - Raw Data



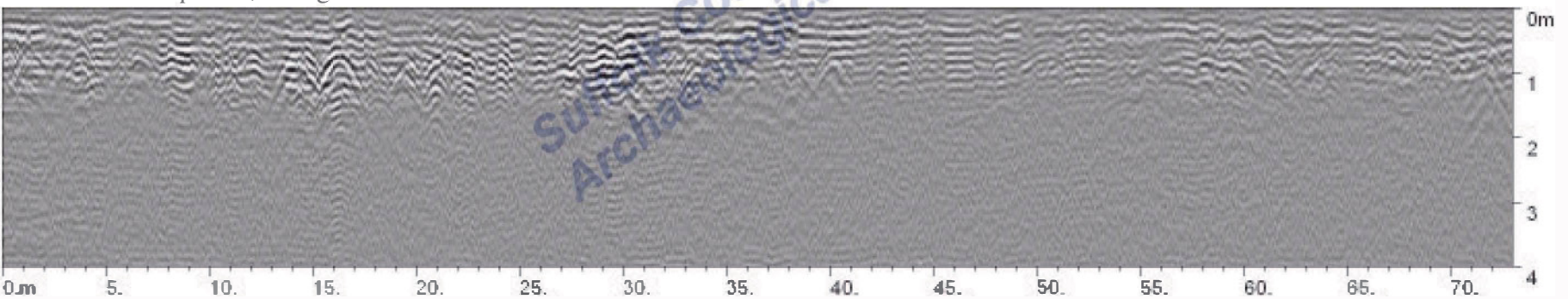
Line 504 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



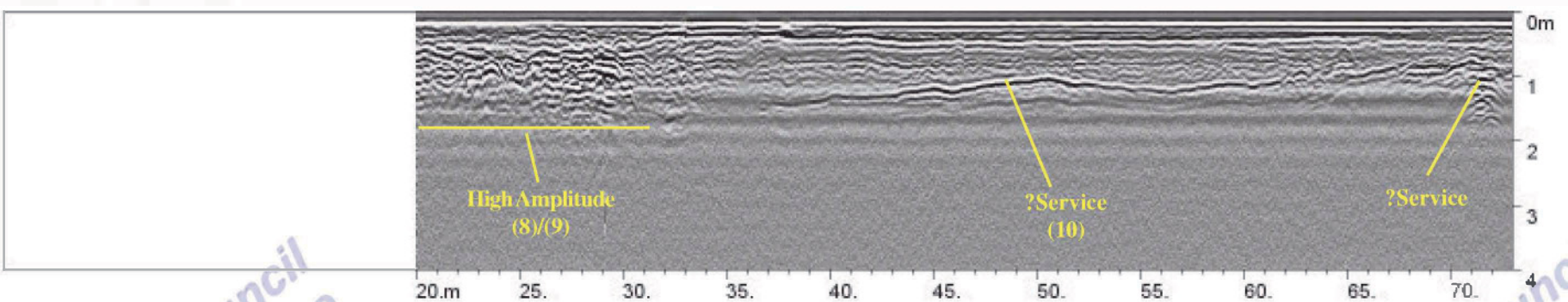
Line 505 - Raw Data



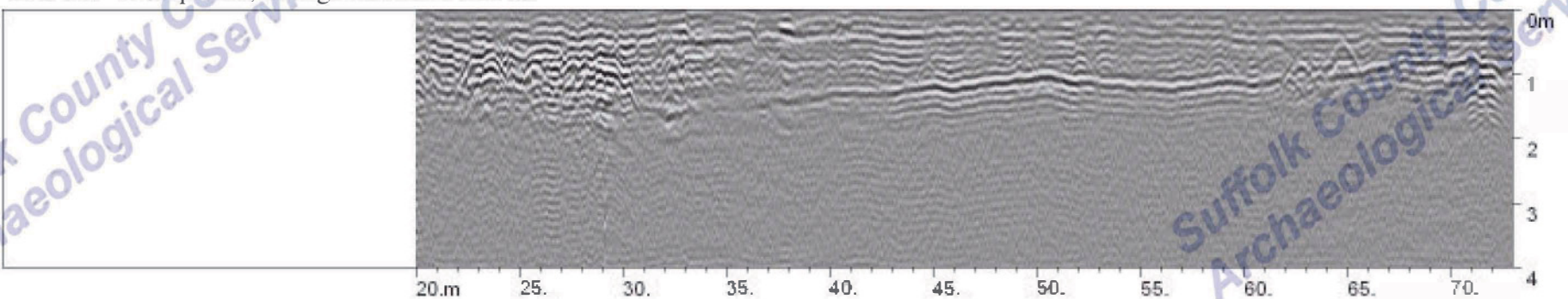
Line 505 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



Line 506 - Raw Data



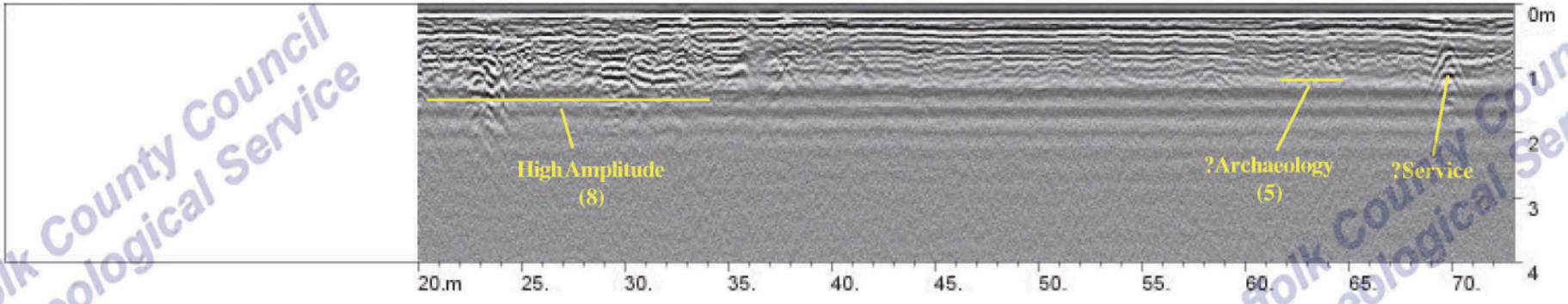
Line 506 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



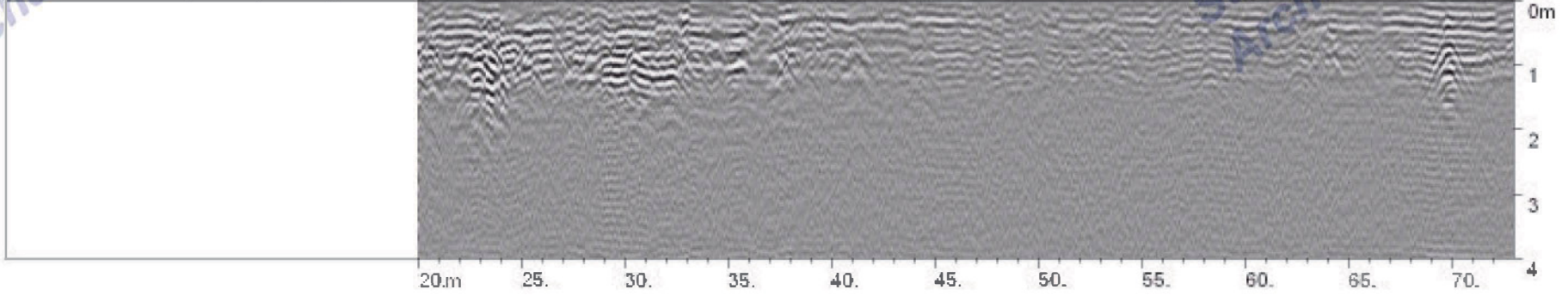
TRAVERSES RUN WEST - EAST  
(See Individual Plots For Scale)

<b>GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.</b>
2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds
Transverse Radargrams: Car Park - South
<b>Figure 9</b>

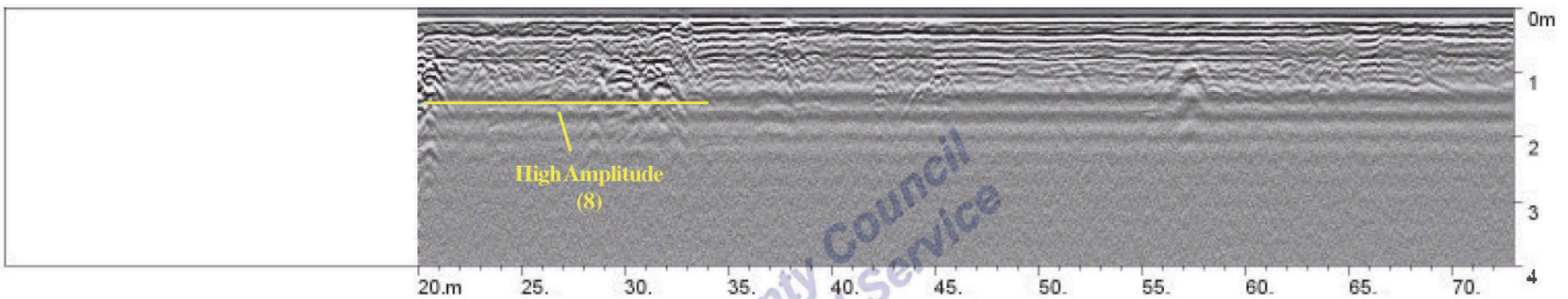
Line 507 - Raw Data



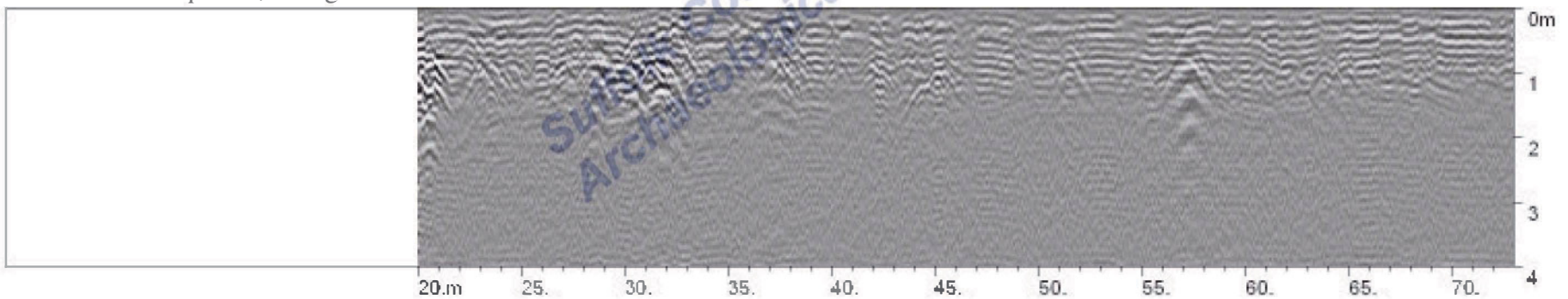
Line 507 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



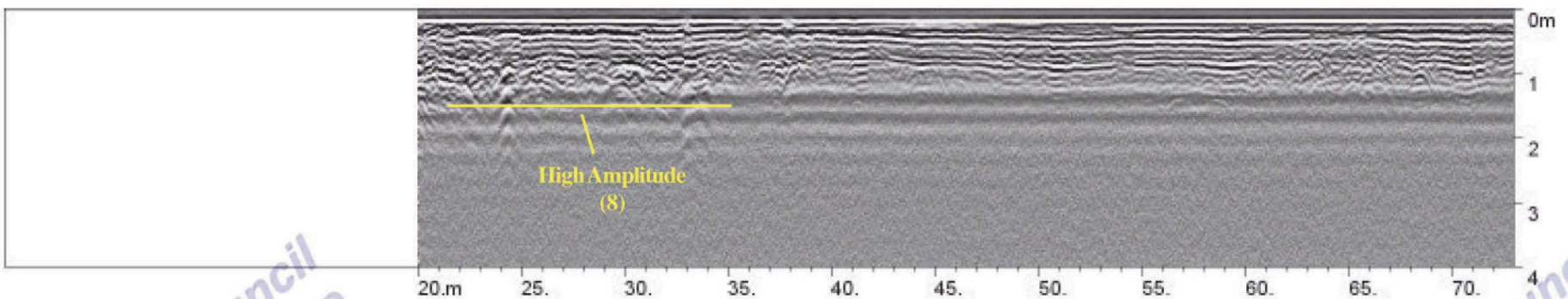
Line 508 - Raw Data



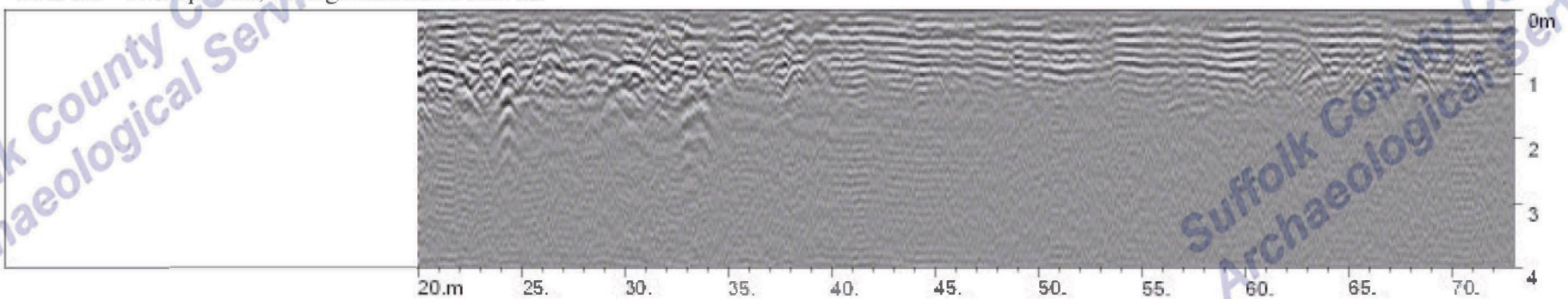
Line 508 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



Line 509 - Raw Data



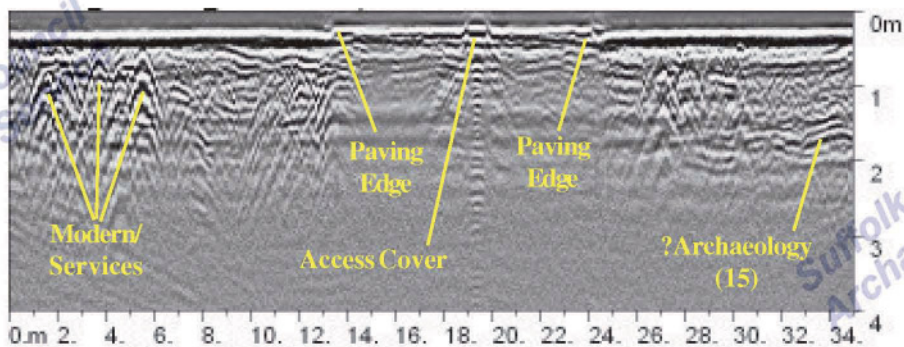
Line 509 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



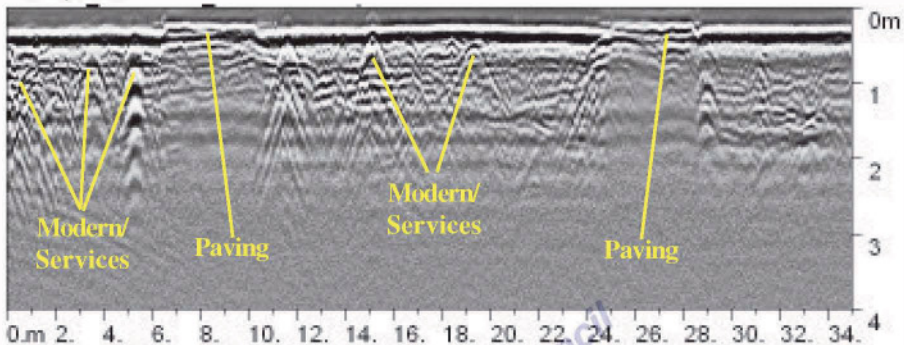
TRAVERSES RUN WEST - EAST  
(See Individual Plots For Scale)

<b>GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.</b>
2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds
Transverse Radargrams: Car Park - South (cont.)
<b>Figure 10</b>

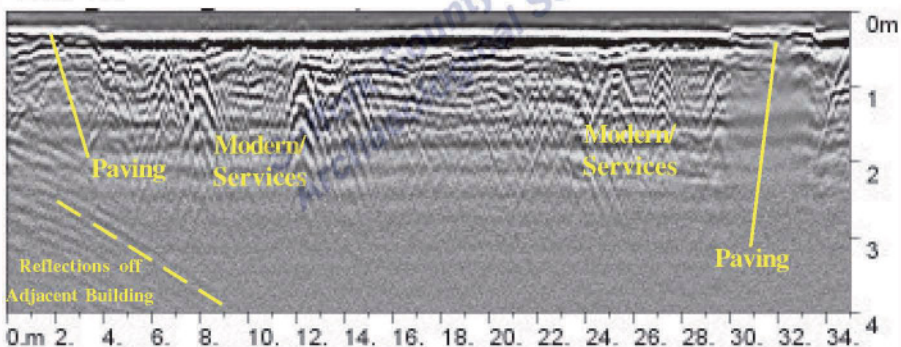
Line 416



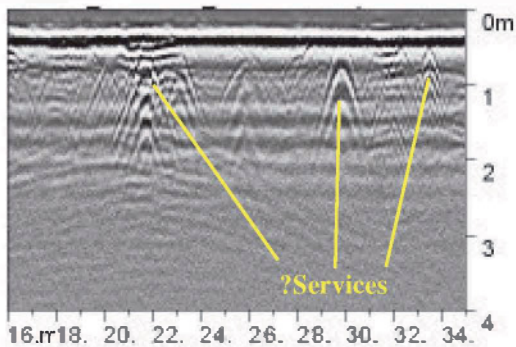
Line 435



Line 455



Line 490



TRAVERSES RUN SOUTH - NORTH  
See Individual Plots For Scale

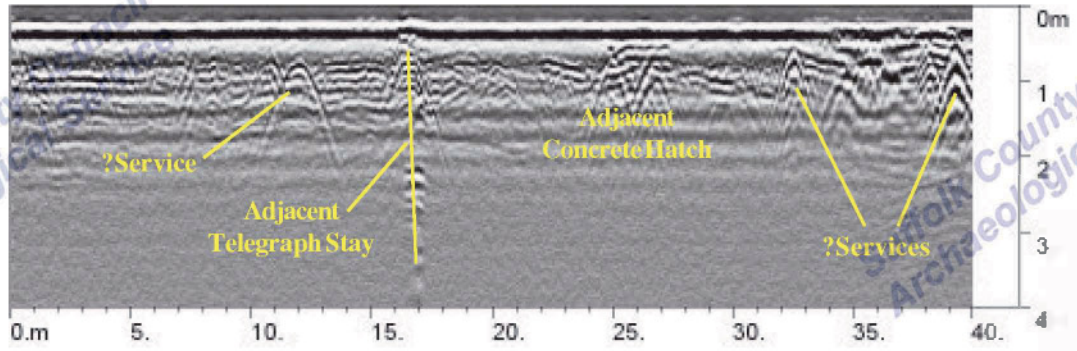
**GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.**

2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St.Edmunds

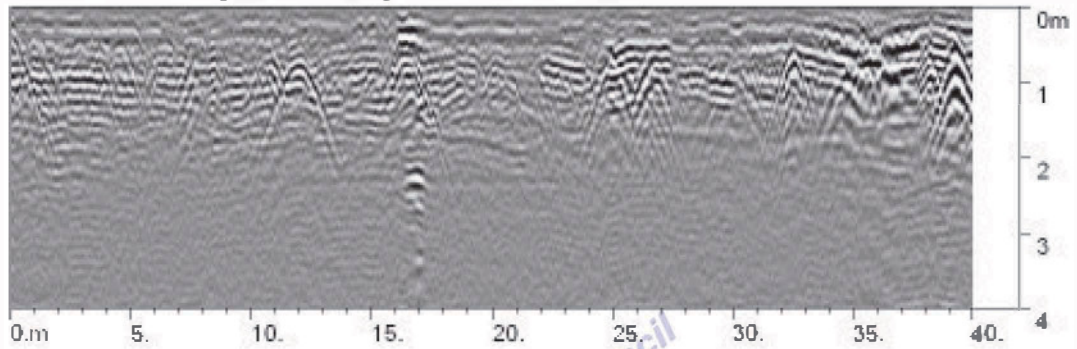
Selected Radargrams: New Shire Hall

**Figure 11**

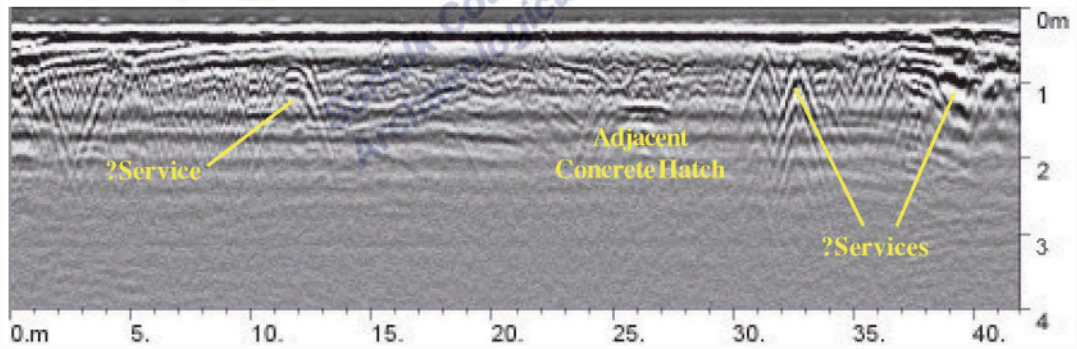
Line 510 - Raw Data



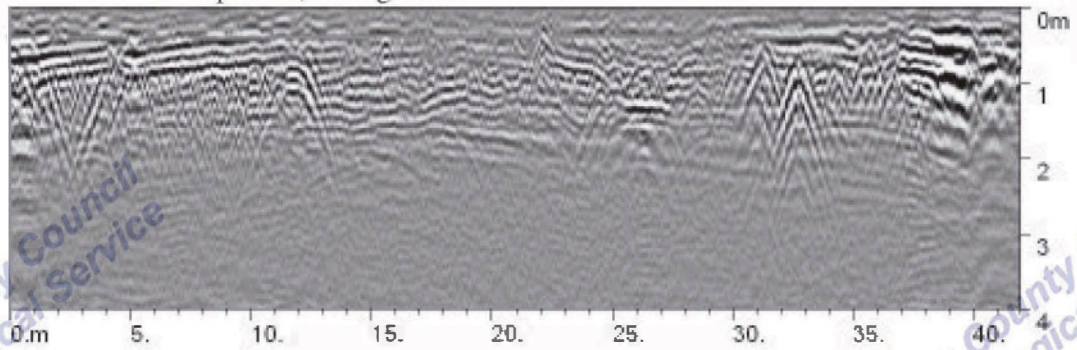
Line 510 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



Line 511 - Raw Data



Line 511 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



TRAVERSES RUN WEST - EAST  
See Individual Plots For Scale

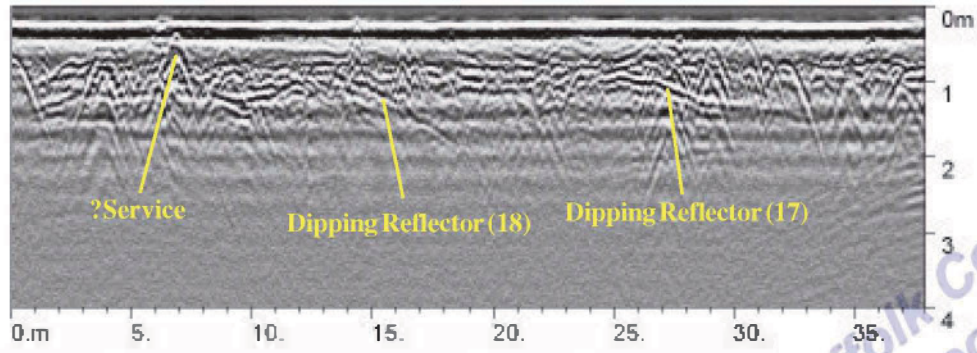
**GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.**

2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds

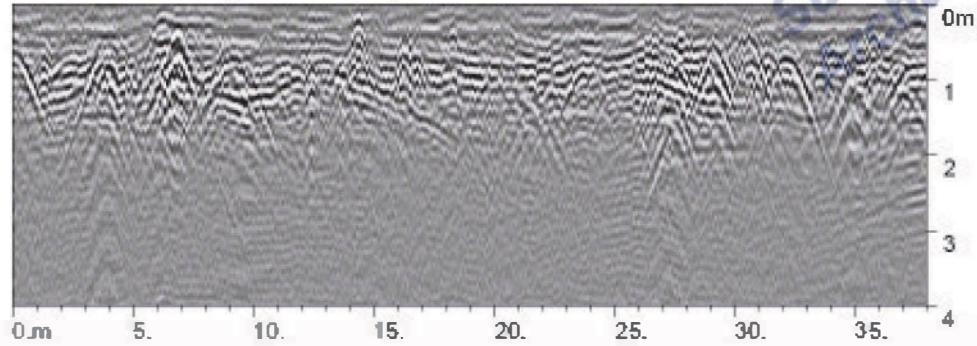
Transverse Radargrams: New Shire Hall

**Figure 12**

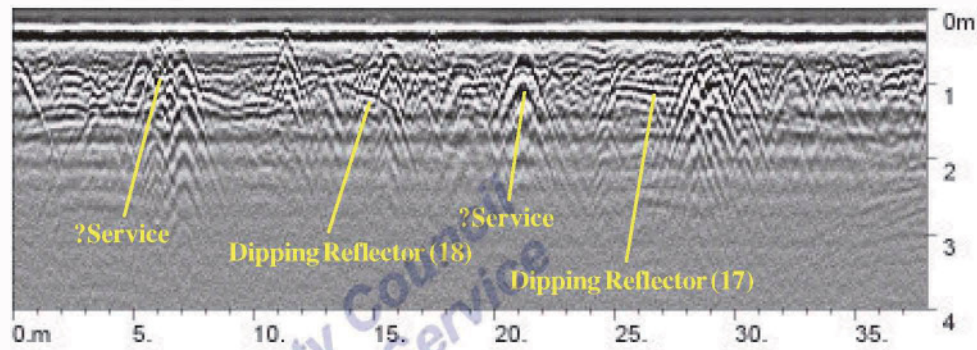
Line 512 - Raw Data



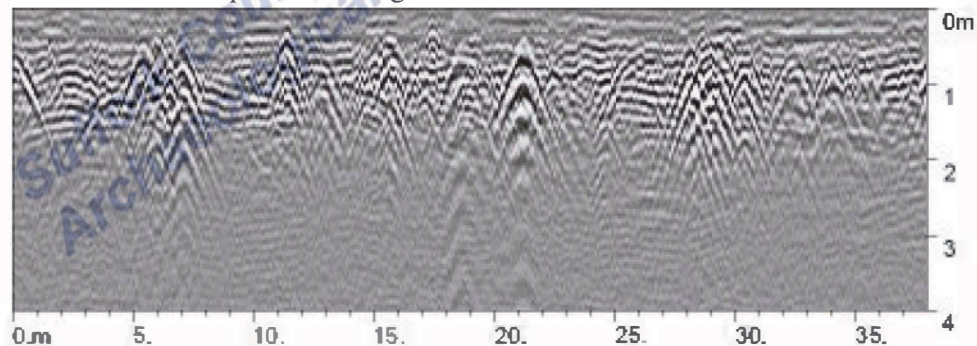
Line 512 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



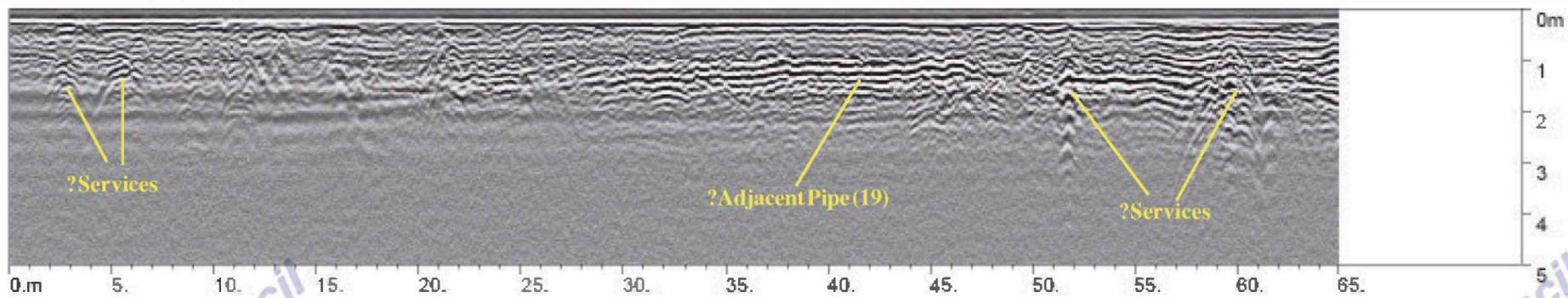
Line 513 - Raw Data



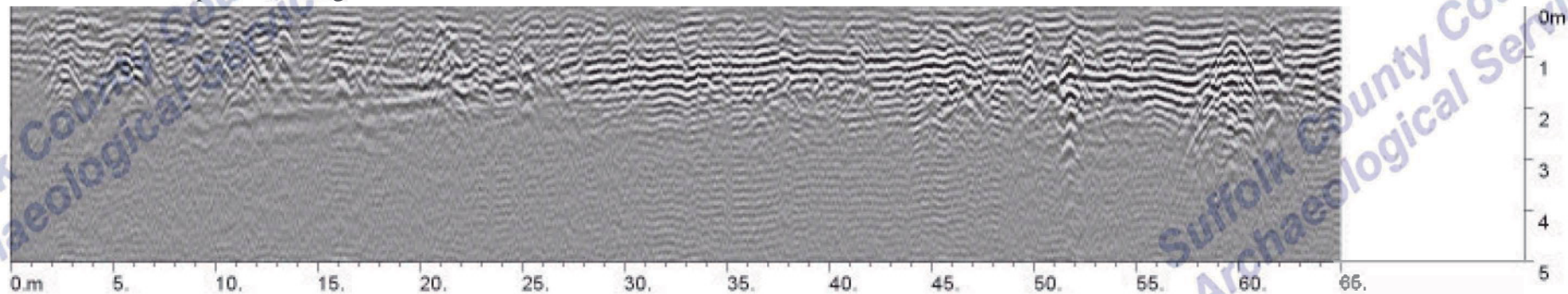
Line 513 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



Line 514 - Raw Data



Line 514 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



TRAVERSES RUN WEST - EAST  
(See Individual Plots For Scale)

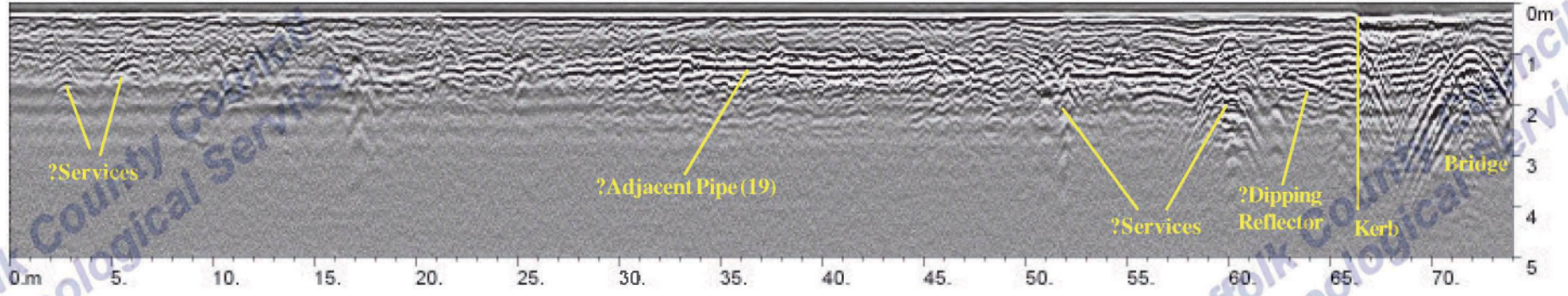
GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.

2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds

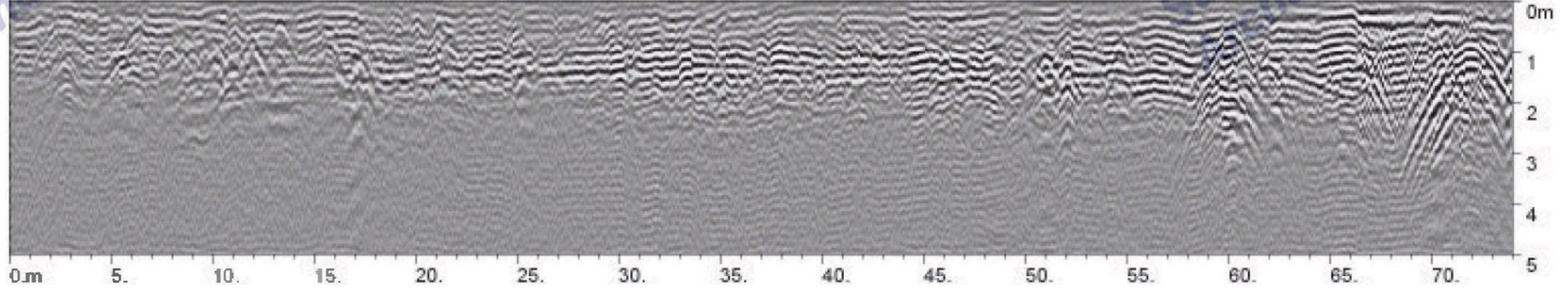
Transverse Radargrams: North of Police Station

Figure 13

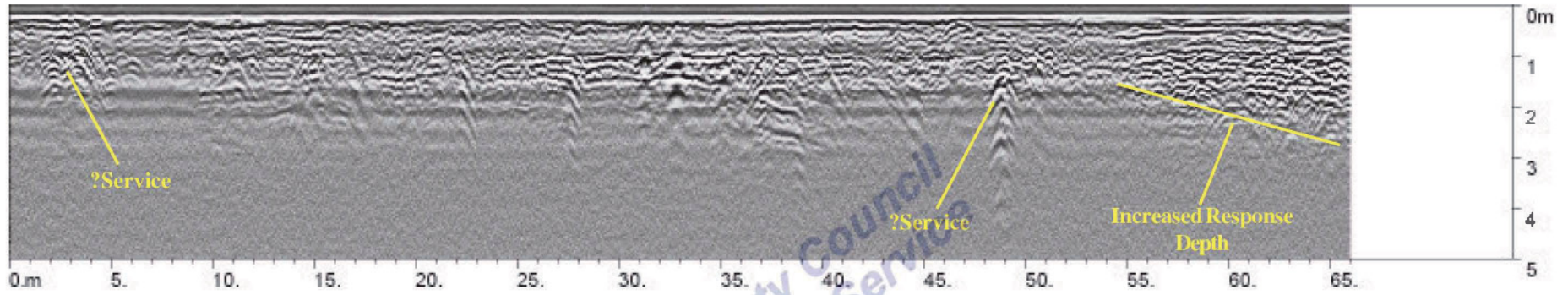
Line 515 - Raw Data



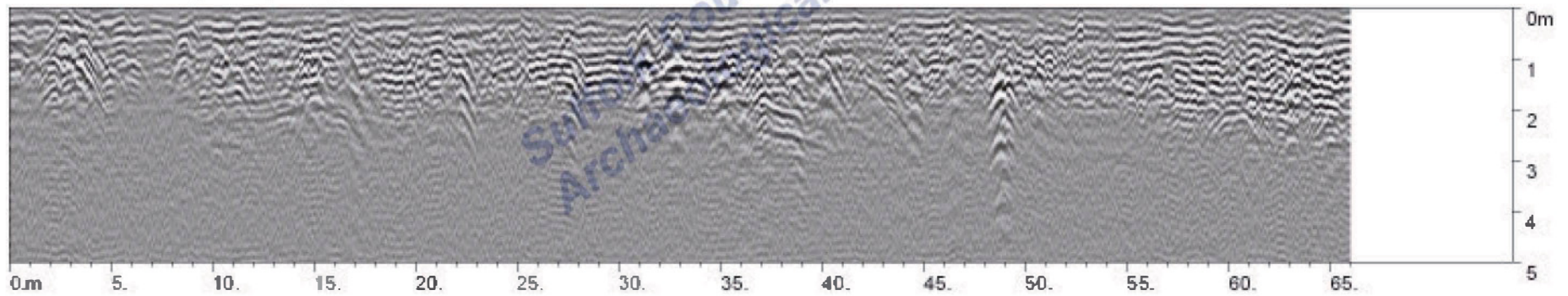
Line 515 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



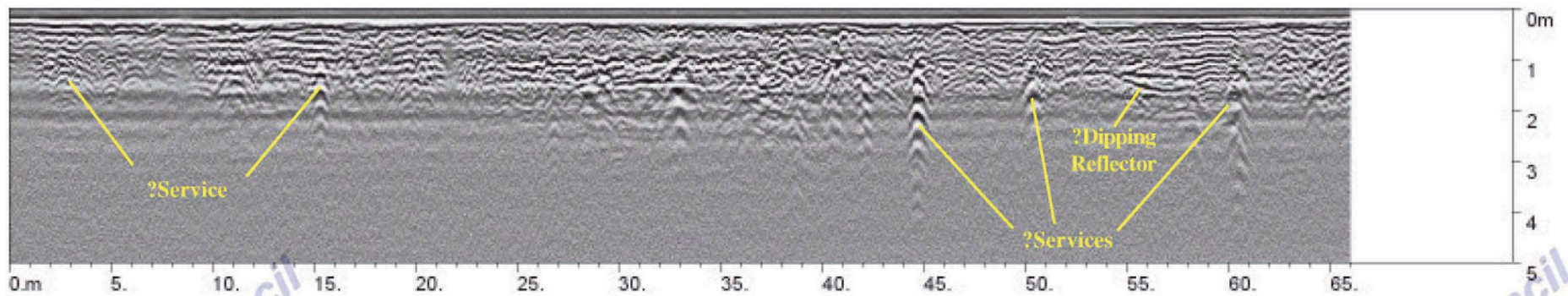
Line 516 - Raw Data



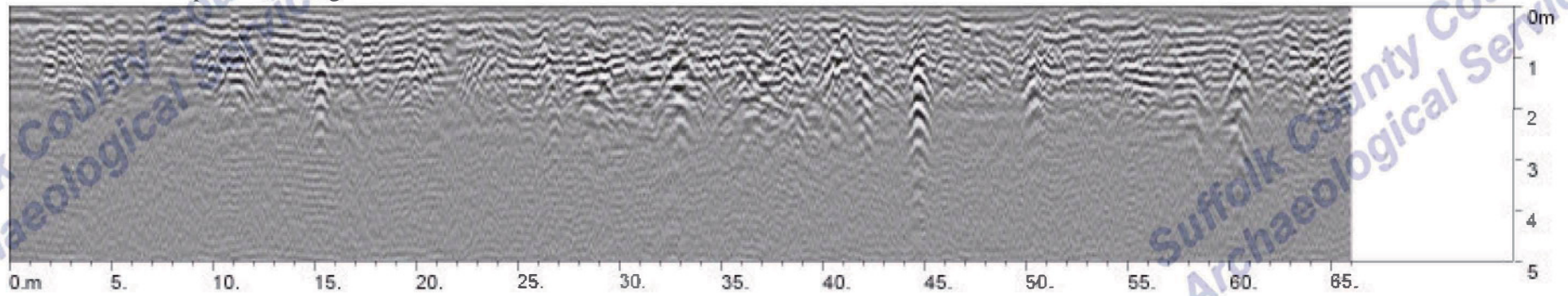
Line 516 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



Line 517 - Raw Data



Line 517 - Bandpassed, Background Filtered Data



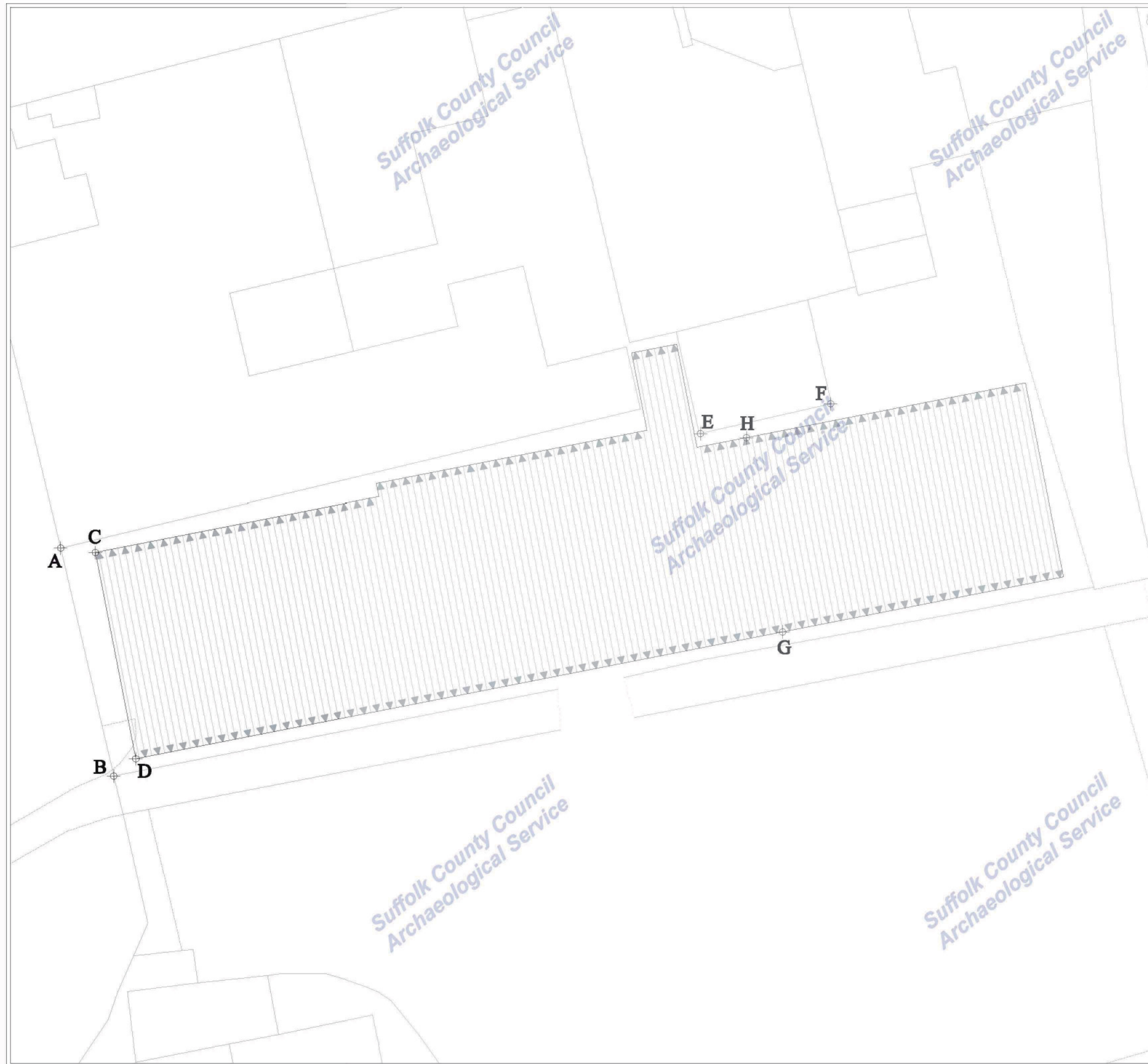
TRAVERSES RUN WEST - EAST  
(See Individual Plots For Scale)

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2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds

Transverse Radargrams: North of Police Station (cont.)

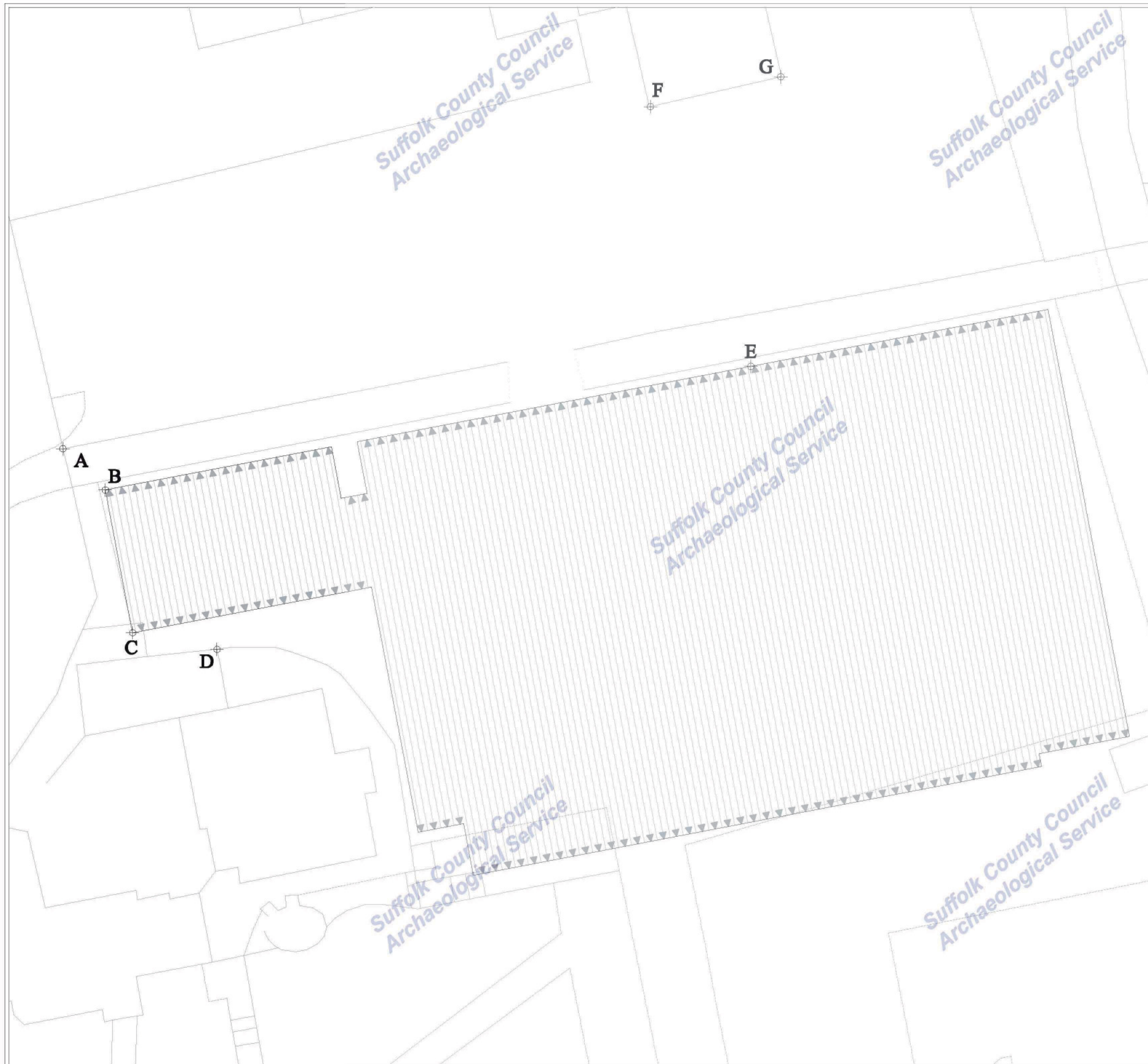
Figure 14



**A & B are wall corners; AB = 17.36m**  
**E & F are building corners; EF = 10.18m**  
**DG = baseline = 50m**  
 CD = 16m    GH = 15m  
 AC = 3.05m    BC = 16.65m  
 AD = 17.07m    BD = 2.36m  
 EG = 16.30m    FG = 17.70m  
 EH = 3.52m    FH = 6.92m

first traverse at 0.25m from D along baseline  
 traverse interval - 0.5m

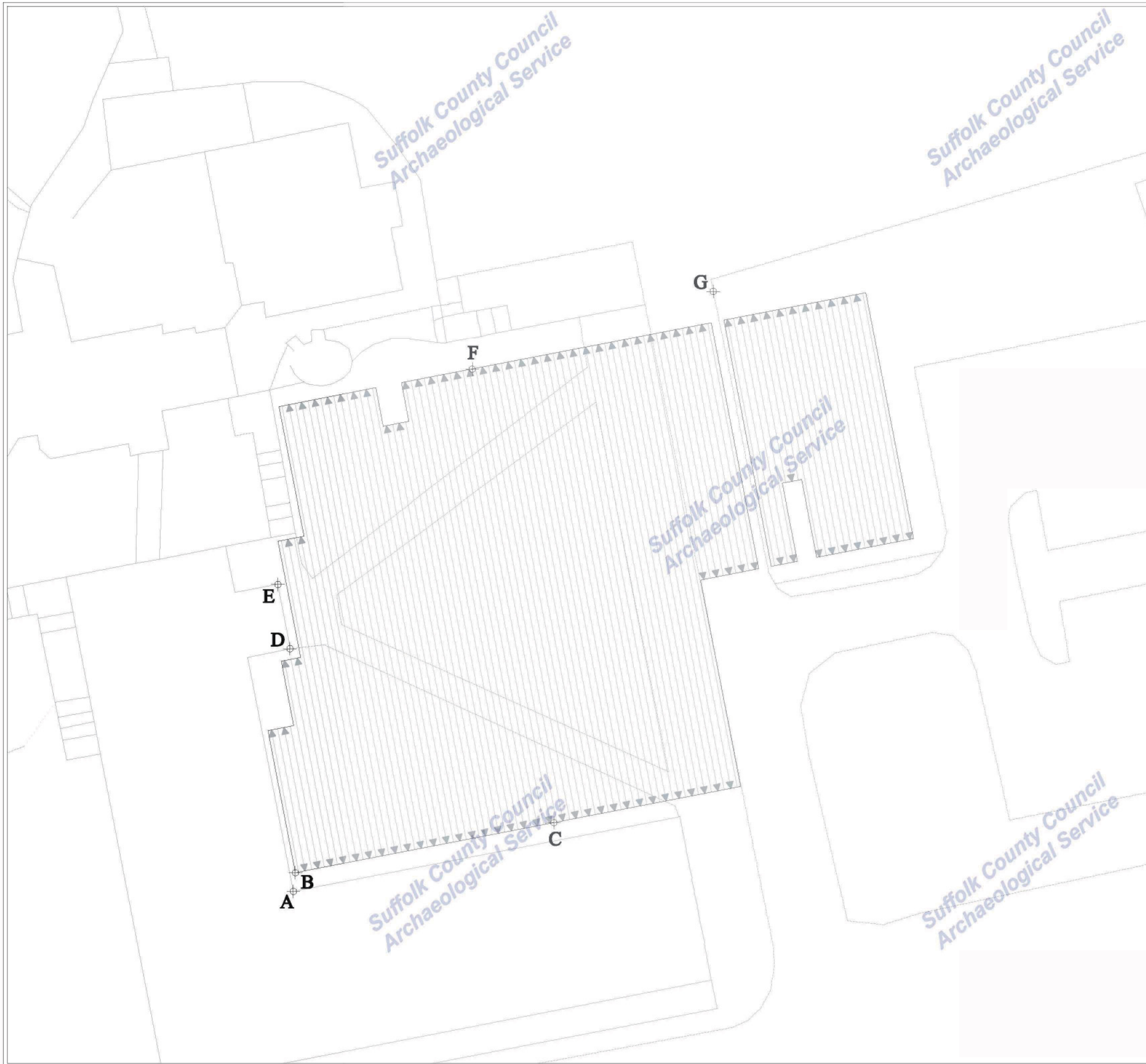
<b>GSB PROSPECTION Ltd.</b>
2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds
<b>Tie-in Diagram: Car Park North</b>
<small>Based on a digital map provided by Suffolk County Council</small>
<b>Figure T1</b>



**A is wall corner**  
**D, E & F are building corners; EF = 10.18m**  
**BE = baseline = 50m**  
**BC = 10m**  
**AB = 4.20m    DB = 14.60m**  
**AC = 14.65m    DC = 6.85m**  
**FE = 21.18m    GE = 22.14m**  
  
**first traverse at 0.25m from B along baseline**  
**traverse interval - 0.5m**

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<b>2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds</b>
<b>Tie-in Diagram: Car Park South</b>
<small>Based on a digital map provided by Suffolk County Council</small>
<b>Figure T2</b>





**A, D & E are building corners**  
**G is corner of precinct wall (not as shown on map)**  
 BC = 20m    CF = 35m  
 AB = 1.21m    DB = 16.81m  
 AC = 20.50m    DC = 24.05m  
 EF = 21.90m    GF = 19.30m

first traverse at 0.25m from B  
 traverse interval - 0.5m

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2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds
<b>Tie-in Diagram: New Shire Hall</b>
Based on a digital map provided by Suffolk County Council
<b>Figure T3</b>



**Car Park North:**  
 Three parallel traverses spaced 5m apart based on detailed GPR survey grid  
 0m is point D Figure T1

**Car Park South:**  
 Six parallel traverses spaced 5m apart based on detailed GPR survey grid  
 0m is point B Figure T2

**New Shire Hall (north):**  
 Two parallel traverses spaced 3m apart  
 A is corner of precinct wall (not as shown on map)  
 C is car park corner  
 AB = 2m CD = 5m

**New Shire Hall (middle):**  
 Two parallel traverses spaced 1m apart  
 E & G are car park corners  
 EF = GH = 2m

**New Shire Hall (south):**  
 Four parallel traverses spaced 1m apart  
 I & K are building corners  
 IJ = KL = 7m

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2007/06 Shire Hall Complex, Bury St. Edmunds

Tie-in Diagram: Transverse Traverses

Based on a digital map provided by Suffolk County Council

**Figure T4**

## Appendix 4

### Archaeological Advice on the future use of the Shire Hall Complex Bury St Edmunds

#### 1. Summary of Historical and Archaeological evidence

- 1.1 The complex includes a number of discrete Scheduled Ancient Monuments which are either part of the medieval Abbey precinct wall or buildings associated with it.
- 1.2 The historical background of the site (specifically during the medieval period) demonstrates that the area south of Schoolhall Street (i.e. excluding the Record Office area) was either within the Abbey precinct or directly managed by one of the principal officers of the Abbey.
- 1.3 The evidence laid out in the interim assessment demonstrates that there is high potential for surviving archaeological deposits throughout the Shire Hall complex.
- 1.4 Burials are shown to be present within the precinct, their extent is not known.
- 1.5 The entire complex falls within the area which is likely to have evidence of the urban development of Bury from the 9<sup>th</sup> century to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 2. Planning Policy Background

- 2.1 The Shire Hall complex includes two Scheduled Ancient Monuments. These physical remains and their setting are protected by statute (Scheduled Ancient Monument and Archaeological Act 1979).
- 2.2 Any planning proposal would have regard to Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning'. At paragraph 8 this includes the statement

*'where nationally important remains, whether scheduled or not, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of physical preservation'.*

- 2.3 The County Structure Plan policy ENV 22 says:

*'Development will not be acceptable if it would have a material adverse effect on Scheduled Ancient Monuments or other sites of national archaeological importance, or their settings'.*

- 2.4 The St Edmundsbury Local Plan says:

*'9.12 Archaeological remains are a finite resource highly vulnerable to damage and destruction and the desirability of preserving such remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining planning applications. There is a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important remains in place.'*

9.13 Bury St Edmunds is recognised as a town of considerable archaeological importance and the archaeological remains form an essential and valuable part of Suffolk's identity. Attention is drawn to Appendix B which shows the part of Bury St Edmunds which is of particular archaeological significance, the majority of which lies within the former town walls.'

The Shire Hall complex lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance shown at Appendix B.

### 3. Advice

- 3.1 The area of the medieval precinct is of national importance and of schedulable quality. New development within this area would be inappropriate and against planning policy. The area should be scheduled and remain accessible to the public.
- 3.2 The precinct wall (part of SAM 2) is a nationally important monument as part of a boundary wall defining the Abbey complex. Its setting, accessibility and visibility are a significant part of its importance. Development which compromises its current visibility from both north or south would be inappropriate and against planning policy.
- 3.3 The area south of the precinct wall (i.e. below and adjacent to the main Shire Hall building) has high archaeological potential; the Sacrist complex - which appears to be close to the precinct wall - is probably of national importance and justifies preservation *in situ*.
- 3.4 It is possible that a case can be made for development on the Police Station side of the complex provided it reflects the setting issues set out in paragraph 3.2 and adequate mitigation for damage to archaeology is provided.
- 3.5 A case may be made for replacement buildings on the footprint of existing buildings on the north side of the complex (i.e. archaeological store and architects). New ground disturbance would not be appropriate, and bulk and scale would be material issues within this area of national importance.
- 3.6 The Record Office area and car parking is in an area of high archaeological potential and some areas form part of the setting to The Manor House (Grade 1 Listed Building). Apart from setting issues there would not be an archaeological objection to the principle of development in this area, provided adequate mitigation were provided.  
Caveat: archaeological deposits in this area are likely to be deep and complex and multi-period. Mitigation costs are likely to be high.

R D Carr  
Archaeological Conservation Team Manager  
Arc\Dev Control\BSE\7\Shire Hall Complex

April 2007

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE  
Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR 01284 352443

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## Appendix 1

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Site Evaluation*

#### SHIRE HALL COMPLEX, BURY ST EDMUNDS

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The future use of the Shire Hall Complex is under consideration. In order to inform decision making an assessment of the heritage value of the site has been requested.
- 1.2 In order to provide adequate and up-to-date data for this assessment, it is necessary to review existing knowledge of the archaeology and history of the site and provide additional information on the potential quality and complexity of preserved below ground deposits and their depth below the present ground surface. New evidence will be procured by geophysical survey and localised test trenching.
- 1.3 The Complex area (Figure 1) lies entirely within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined in the Local Plan. It includes areas which are likely to contain evidence of the Saxon settlement which pre-dates the Abbey; areas of late Saxon urban settlement; land to the north of the Abbey wall (SAM Suffolk 2) is within the medieval Abbey Precinct; land outside the wall is within the medieval urban core; the entire area is within an area of heritage significance and is an important aspect of the setting of the historic site of the Abbey.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and study area is to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 A Project Design which details sources to be investigated and expected outcomes is to be discussed with the Conservation Team and confirmed in outline on paper.
- 1.7 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

#### 2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.

- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits. Define the location and level of such deposits.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to inform a robust assessment of the archaeological potential of the area and an outline assessment of its quality and depth.
- 2.6 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) 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.
- 2.7 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

### 3. **Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment**

- 3.1 Consult the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report. Record evidence for past land use.
- 3.3 Use published sources to establish a broad historic sequence for the area.

### 4 **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

- 4.1 Excavated test pits c.50 cm square to establish soil cover and archaeological deposit depths at selected locations, defined after discussion of desk-top evidence. An indicative layout is shown at Figure 2.
- 4.2 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.



4.3 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).

4.4 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. *"Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England"* English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.

4.5 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, 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. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.

4.6 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.

4.7 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

## 5. **Specification B: Geophysical Evaluation**

5.1 Where no other investigative technique is possible (e.g. in the areas of hard car parking) commission geophysical survey to investigate depths of disturbance and soil variation. This is assumed to involve radar transects. An indicative layout is shown at Figure 3.

## 6. **General Management**

6.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.

6.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).

6.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.

6.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

6.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## 7. Report Requirements

- 7.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 7.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 7.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 7.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established
- 7.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 7.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 7.9 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 7.10 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.
- 7.11 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: Robert Carr

Date: 6 November 2006

Reference: /Shire Hall Complex

CONSERVATION TEAM Archaeological Service SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL  
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