

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/194

The Old Cannon Brewery, Bury St Edmunds BSE 351

M. Muldowney
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HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/10/0850

Date of Fieldwork: 7th and 11th October 2010

Grid Reference: TL 854 647

Funding Body: Mr and Mrs Shallow

Curatorial Officer: Dr. Abby Antrobus

Project Officer: Mo Muldowney

Oasis Reference: Suffolkc1_84285

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Contents

Summary

Page

1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	1
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	3
6. Finds and environmental evidence	5
7. Discussion and conclusion	6
8. Archive deposition	7
9. Contributors and acknowledgements	7
Disclaimer	

List of Figures

1. Site location, showing development area (red)	2
2. Location of footings and section	4

List of Tables

1. Finds quantities	5
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List of Plates

1. Pit 0012 (right), truncated by south edge of pit 0008 (left), facing south-east
2. Pit 0013, showing striated/lensed fill 0003, facing north-east
3. General view of footings, facing north-west

List of Appendices

1. Brief and Specification
2. Context descriptions

Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Old Cannon Brewery, Bury St Edmunds. Three post-medieval pits were identified and a single residual sherd of medieval pottery recovered, which indicates that pre-post medieval remains may survive in or near the development area.

1. Introduction

Monitoring was carried out at The Old Cannon Brewery, Bury St Edmunds (Fig. 1) during groundworks ahead of a proposed extension to the kitchen at the rear of the property (SE/10/0850). The work was carried out on 7th and 11th October 2010 and was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Dr. Abby Antrobus of the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).

The Old Cannon Brewery is located on Cannon Street in Bury St Edmunds, fronting onto Pea Porridge Green at the convergence of Cannon Street and Church Row.

2. Geology and topography

The bedrock geology of the development area is recorded as chalk, overlain by sands and gravels and lies at a height of approximately 37m OD. The development area was bound on all sides by brick walls and the Brewery building itself, and the area to be monitored was brick-paved before work commenced. The ground surface sloped gently from the back of the plot down to the Cannon Street frontage, from east to west.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The Old Cannon Brewery is situated to the north of the town centre of Bury St Edmunds, but within the limits of the medieval town (BSE 341) as defined in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER). It also lies just west of Northgate Street, the main route out of town and the location of the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Boedericsworth (BSE 341).

Additionally there are three Listed Buildings nearby, including the Cannon Brewery itself (Grade II LB 466692), a terrace of early 19th century date (Grade II LB 466688) and a house with a 13th century timber-framed core (Grade II LB 466689) opposite.

There is clearly a high potential for the identification of archaeological remains dating from the medieval period onwards at the development area.

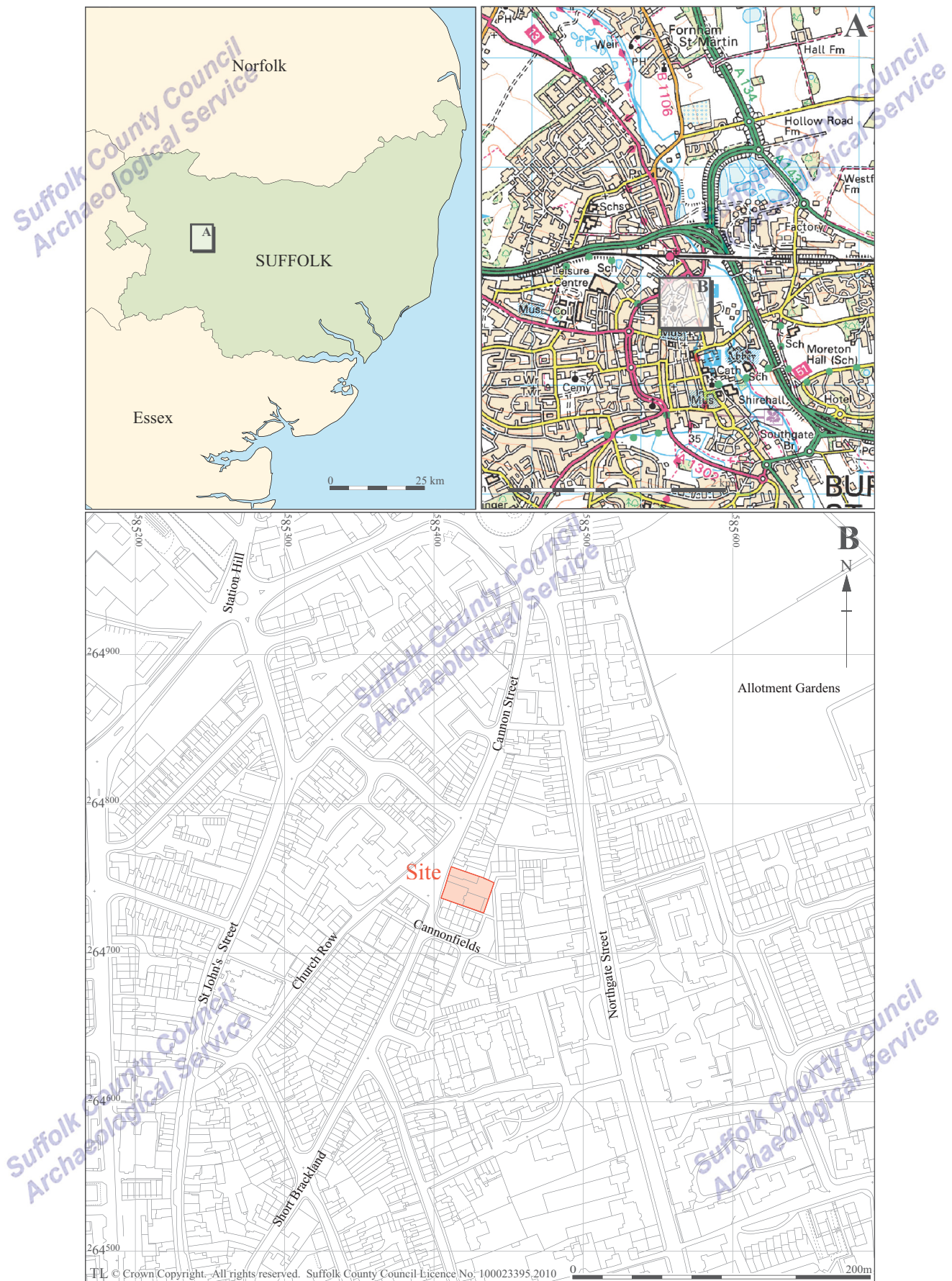


Figure 1. Site location, showing development area (red)

4. Methodology

Monitoring of the footings was continuous and was carried out during groundworks associated with reducing the present ground level and excavating footings. The work was carried out using a mini-digger with both a toothless ditching bucket and a 0.45m wide toothed bucket. All spoil and exposed surfaces were examined and any finds collected.

The development area was reduced to a maximum of 0.60m below the present ground surface and additional footings on the north and east sides were excavated by a further 0.80m.

A drawn record of the exposed deposits was created at a scale of 1:20 and all records were written on SCCAS *pro forma* sheets. A plan of the footings was produced at 1:100. A colour photographic record was taken using a high-resolution digital camera (314 dpi).

No metal-detecting was undertaken and no environmental samples were taken.

The site archive is stored in the SCCAS main store at Bury St Edmunds under HER no. BSE 351 and a digital copy of the report has been submitted to the Archaeological Data Service at: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

5. Results

Monitoring identified three pits in the footings, all of post-medieval date (Fig. 2). Full context descriptions are presented in Appendix 2.

No *in-situ* geology was seen in the development area, but some of the pit fills suggest that this was likely to be mid orange sands and gravels, as recorded by the British Geological Society (bgs.ac.uk).

Pit 0013 was located at the north-west end of the footings trench but was not clearly visible in plan. It was at least 1.70m wide by over 1.06m deep and had at least two fills. A fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from the lowest observable fill (0002).

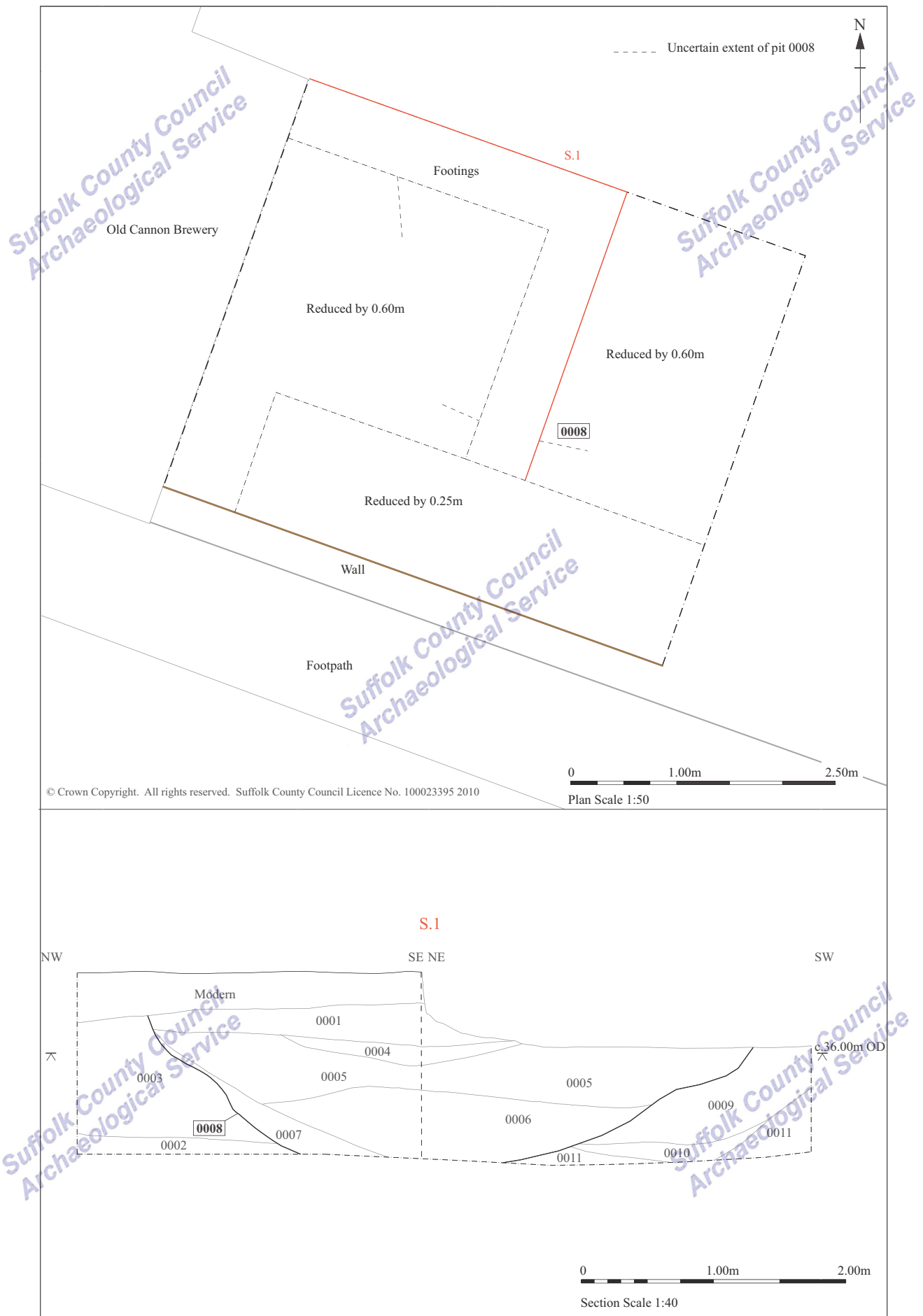


Figure 2. Location of footings and section

Pit 0012 was located at the south-east end of the footings and like pit 0013 was not clearly visible in plan. It was more than 2.34m wide and over 0.92m deep and had at least three fills. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the upper fill (0009) and a fragment of CBM and slag were recovered from fill 0011. Both pits 0012 and 0013 were truncated by pit 0008.

Pit 0008 was located at the corner of the footings and was probably circular in plan although this was not observable in plan. It was more than 2.50m wide by over 1.20m deep and had gently sloping, slightly uneven sides. Although the base was just below the lowest level of the footings, it was probably concave. A minimum of five fills were observed, which included a large deposit of quite clean bright orange sands and gravels (0006), which may be redeposited natural. Finds were recovered from the upper fill (0001) only and consisted of a single sherd of post-medieval pottery and a clay pipe stem fragment.

There were no overlying deposits, such as topsoil or a post-medieval levelling layer as occasionally occurs in urban areas. The overlying deposits in this instance were of modern origin and consisted of building rubble and sharp sand onto which brick-paving was set.

6. Finds and Environmental Evidence

Andy Fawcett

6.1 Introduction

A total of six finds with a weight of 207g was collected from four pit fills, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery No.	Wt/g	CBM No.	Wt/g	Clay pipe No.	Wt/g	Slag No.	Wt/g	Spotdate
0001	1	9			1	2			18th to 20th C
0002					1	1			Post-medieval
0009	1	13							Late 12th to 14th C
0011			1	174			1	8	Post-medieval
Total	2	22	1	174	2	3	1	8	

Table 1. Finds quantities

6.2 Pottery

Two sherds of pottery (22g) were noted in pit fills 0001 and 0009. The first of these (9g) is a fragment of Transfer printed ware (TPE), which is dated from the 18th to 20th

century. The second is a general medieval coarseware (MCW) dated from the late 12th to 14th century (13g). This sherd is only slightly abraded and was part of a cooking pot base; it displays a small trace of sooting on its surface. The fabric is reduced with orange margins and is dominated by quartz and sparse (often large) black iron ore inclusions.

6.3 Ceramic building material

A single late brick fragment (LB), dated to the post-medieval period, was recorded in context 0011. The piece is considerably abraded, oxidised throughout and is in a medium sandy fabric with abundant fine calcite (msc). Due to its condition, no depth, width or length measurements were possible.

6.4 Clay pipe

Two post-medieval stem fragments of clay pipe were noted in fills 0001 and 0002 (3g).

6.5 Slag

A small and worn piece of non-metallurgical fuel ash slag (8g) was recorded in pit fill 0011.

6.6 Conclusion

This is a small collection of finds that are mostly dated to the post-medieval period. However pit fill 0009 contains a single sherd of medieval pottery, which may indicate nearby activity dated to this period.

7. Discussion and conclusion

The monitoring identified three large pits, all of which were post-medieval in date. The general lack of finds may suggest that they were sited some distance from domestic and indeed industrial activity, and may not have been back yard refuse pits. The character of the fills overall point to possible construction/demolition use or gravel extraction; fill 0003 (pit 0013) comprised a series of multiple interleaving silts and sands that looked like a mix of differing materials backfilled into the pit from the west and fills 0006 (pit 0008) and 0010 (pit 0012) were probably redeposited gravels upcast from nearby.

Despite the development area's location within the defined limits of the medieval town of Bury St Edmunds and the high potential for the identification of medieval remains, none were recovered. This may be because the post-medieval activity was so extensive and moderately deep. The pits were deeper than the footings at over 1.4m below the present yard surface. Medieval deposits may still be present on the development area however, as evidenced by the recovery of a single residual sherd of late 12th to 14th century, which showed little abrasion, but these may lie either deeper than, or in close proximity to, the present excavations.

A number of historic maps (Downing's 1740, Warren's 1791, Lenny's 1823 and Payne's 1834) of Bury St Edmunds exist and show the development area on Cannon Street as free from development, with the Brewery buildings not appearing until the late 19th century. This would tie in with the date of the deposits identified in the yard, but does not preclude the possibility that pre-17th century activity – including houses – was located here. Indeed, it is already documented that 13th century structures exist at this end of town (LB 466689).

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

T:\Arc\ALL_site\BSE\BSE 351 Old Cannon Brewery

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: H / 80 / 1

9. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The monitoring was carried out by Mo Muldowney from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team and the project was managed by Joanna Caruth.

Finds processing was carried out by Jonathan Van Jennians and Andy Fawcett produced the specialist finds report. The report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately 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 services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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Plates.



Plate 1. Pit 0012 (right), truncated by south edge of pit 0008 (left), facing south-east



Plate 2. Pit 0013, showing striated/lensed fill 0003, facing north-east



Plate 3. General view of footings, facing north-west

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

OLD CANNON BREWERY, 86 CANNON STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK (SE/10/0850)

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by St Edmundsbury District Council (SE/10/0850/FUL) for the erection of an extension to the kitchen at the Old Cannon Brewery, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and for changes to fenestration (TL 854 647). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The proposal affects an area of archaeological interest within the medieval core of Bury St Edmunds (defined in the County Historic Environment Record). There is a house with a C13th core on the opposite side of Pease Porridge Green (LB 466689). The urban location and the proximity to recorded monuments means that there is potential for medieval remains in particular to be encountered at this location.
- 1.4 Aspects of the proposed works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any heritage assets of archaeological importance that exists. There is currently a step down into the kitchen, and the extension extends into a raised area: should the raised level represent intact historic deposits, archaeological mitigation will ensure the recording of any evidence which will be damaged or destroyed.
- 1.5 Assessment of the available information indicates that the area affected by the erection of the new storage building (c 4 x 3.2m) can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundwork.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.7 Following approval of the WSI, our office will advise the Local Planning Authority that an acceptable scheme of work is in place, and therefore we (will) have no objection to the work commencing. Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Forest Heath District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

- 1.8 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.9 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.10 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

2. Brief for Archaeological Recording

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the groundwork associated with the lowering of the ground surface and the creation of the foundations of the extension.
- 2.3 Any ground works (including removal of existing concrete), and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping in order to ensure no damage occurs to any archaeological heritage asset. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make

measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.4 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.5 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.6 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.7 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).

- 5.8 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.9 An unbound hardcopy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT and English Heritage for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.10 Following acceptance, a single copy of the assessment report should be submitted to both SCCAS/CT and English Heritage. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.11 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.12 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.13 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.14 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Abby Antrobus

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Reference: Bury St Edmunds/2010_0850

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

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

Appendix 2. Context descriptions

Context	Fill of	Filled by	Category	Type	Description			Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation	
0001	0008		Fill	Pit	Dark grey	Silty sand	Friable	Occasional small angular flint	0.32	Upper fill of pit 0008	
0002	0013		Fill	Pit	Dark grey	Silty clay	Friable		Very rare oyster shell, occasional very small angular flint, occasional charcoal flecks	0.16+	Lowest seen fill of pit 0013. Full extent not seen
0003	0013		Fill	Pit	Mid grey and mid orange	Silty clay and gravels	Friable	Occasional small angular flint	0.96	Upper and main fill of pit 0013. Fill banded and striated with distinct slope down from left to right (when facing section)	
0004	0008		Fill	Pit	Light yellowish brown	Sandy silt	Friable	Abundant finely crushed CBM with small patches of grey silty sand and rare small rounded chalk	0.16	Smallish deposit of finely crushed building material in pit 0008	
0005	0008		Fill	Pit	Mid yellowish grey	Silty sand	Friable	Occasional small patches of 0006, occasional small to medium rounded patches of 0006 and CBM fragments	0.42	Mid fill of pit 0008	
0006	0008		Fill	Pit	Mid orange	Sand	Loose	Rare medium sub-rounded flints	0.42	Probably redeposited natural (but note natural not seen)	
0007	0008		Fill	Pit	Mid yellowish grey	Silty sand	Friable	Occasional small angular flint, rare small sub-rounded chalk	0.22+	Slightly mixed sandy and silty fill clinging to the side of the cut	
0008			Cut	Pit	U-shaped			Gradual slope to sides, slightly uneven. Base not seen	2.50	1.20+	Cut of large pit with mixed fills. Potential for gravel extraction or at least construction or demolition in an urban area.
0009	0012		Fill	Pit	Dark grey	Sandy silt	Friable	Very rare chalk flecks	0.52	Upper surviving fill of pit 0012. Severely cut by pit 0008 to the north	
0010	0012		Fill	Pit				Full profile not seen	0.14	Same as 0006	
0011	0012		Fill	Pit	Dark grey	Silty sand	Friable	Rare charcoal flecks, rare small sub-angular flint and CBM	0.40	Lowest visible fill of pit 0012	
0012			Cut	Pit				Full profile not seen	2.34+	0.92+	Pit cut. None of the edges were visible but the line of fill 0009

Context	Fill of	Filled by	Category	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Interpretation
0013			Cut	Pit	Full profile not seen	1.70+	1.06+	may suggest it was u-shaped in profile Pit cut. Not visible at all in the footing area. Would imagine this was quite a large pit