

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/043

Land to Rear of 85 Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds BSE 363

A Tester
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HER Information

Planning Application No: Pre/planning

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Grid Reference: TL 8520 6412

Funding Body: Guildhall Street Dental Practice

Curatorial Officer: Dr. Abby Antrobus

Project Officer: Andrew Tester

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

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Disclaimer

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2. Brief and Specification

Summary

A field evaluation was carried out on land behind 85 Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds. A north-south trench uncovered a chalk surface which is likely to be medieval in date, that was later buried by material dispersed when the town bank was levelled. There was a possible ditched property boundary at the southern end of the trench into which a flint wall that was either medieval or early post-medieval was built. A possible well may have been of similar date. Other pits including a brick-lined cess pit may date from the early 19th century.

An east-west trench close to St Andrews Street exposed the edge of the town ditch and the continuation of the property boundary that marked the former course of the town wall. It also revealed a buried soil and some of the town bank which dated from the 12th century.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land behind 85 Guildhall Street on St Andrews St South, Bury St Edmunds. The work was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Abby Antrobus (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) in order to inform a decision on a planning application for the development of the site. This document is included as Appendix 2. Funding was provided by the developer, the Guildhall dental practice. The proposal was to develop the site of the car park and garden as part of the dental practice.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located at TL 8520 6412 and is on fairly level ground on the crown of the hill at 49m AOD above Bury St Edmunds. St Andrews Street marks the western edge of the medieval town, with this property falling just inside. A brown silt soil overlies solid chalk in this area.

3. Archaeological and historical background

Although there was a significant Anglo-Saxon settlement at Bury St Edmunds, which was probably centred on what is now the site of the ruined monastery, the shape of the town as we know it dates from the early period following the Norman Conquest when a grid of streets was laid out surrounding the new precinct of the Benedictine Abbey that was built around the tomb of St Edmund. The site to be developed occupies land that was associated with the medieval defences that were built by Abbot Samson in the 12th century. These were recorded by the monk Jocelyn de Brakelond, and consisted of a ditch, which has been traced along St Andrews Street with a wall on top of a bank. Guildhall Street was named after the municipal building that dates from the mid 13th century which lies close to the site and Guildhall Street would originally have provided access to the town wall.

St Andrews Street ran outside the line of the medieval town ditch, when it was known as Ditch Way, (Statham 1988). From the 16th century the ditch was filled in and St Andrews Street became much wider with the properties along Guildhall Street probably

extending to the line of the demolished town wall. The original line of the town wall can still be traced on the map because it has survived in long lengths as a property boundary. This is very clear on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Fig. 6). Figure 1 shows the three closest sites that have been recorded archaeologically in this area, which are BSE 361, BSE 179 and BSE 181. BSE 361 exposed a substantial portion of the town ditch confirming a depth of c.5m; it also exposed a buried soil layer that has been identified as an ancient plough soil, which was sealed beneath the upcast chalk from the excavation of the town ditch. At BSE 179 this layer produced Bronze Age pottery and burnt flint. The more extensive sampling of a similar deposit at BSE 181 also produced Bronze Age pottery but included both Roman and Saxon material. No clear evidence for the town ditch was found on any of these sites although a short length has been confirmed along Tayfen Road which is approximately half a mile from the present site, BSE 137 (Tester 1996). The site of the medieval Guildhall is also shown, (BSE 039).

4. Methodology

The evaluation was carried out in order to answer a series of questions, which were set out in the Brief and Specification and are listed below.

- establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ.
- 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.
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- assess whether there are any structural traces which may relate to a former town wall
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

In order to address these issues two trenches were excavated to evaluate the site; Trench 1 was positioned within the walled garden and ran across the projected line of earlier property boundaries and the second was through the car park at right angles to the projected line of the town wall and ditch. Following the initial machining, trench 1 was hand cleaned and features sampled by excavation. Trench 2 was excavated by machine to the base of the buried soil to expose the edge of the town ditch and the section recorded.

The site was recorded using a single context numbering system which is included as Appendix 1. A digital photographic archive of the site has been recorded at a minimum density of 72 x 72 dpi. Sections and plans were drawn at a scale of either; 1:20 or 1:50.



Figure 1. Site location, showing development area (red) and
HER entries mentioned in the text

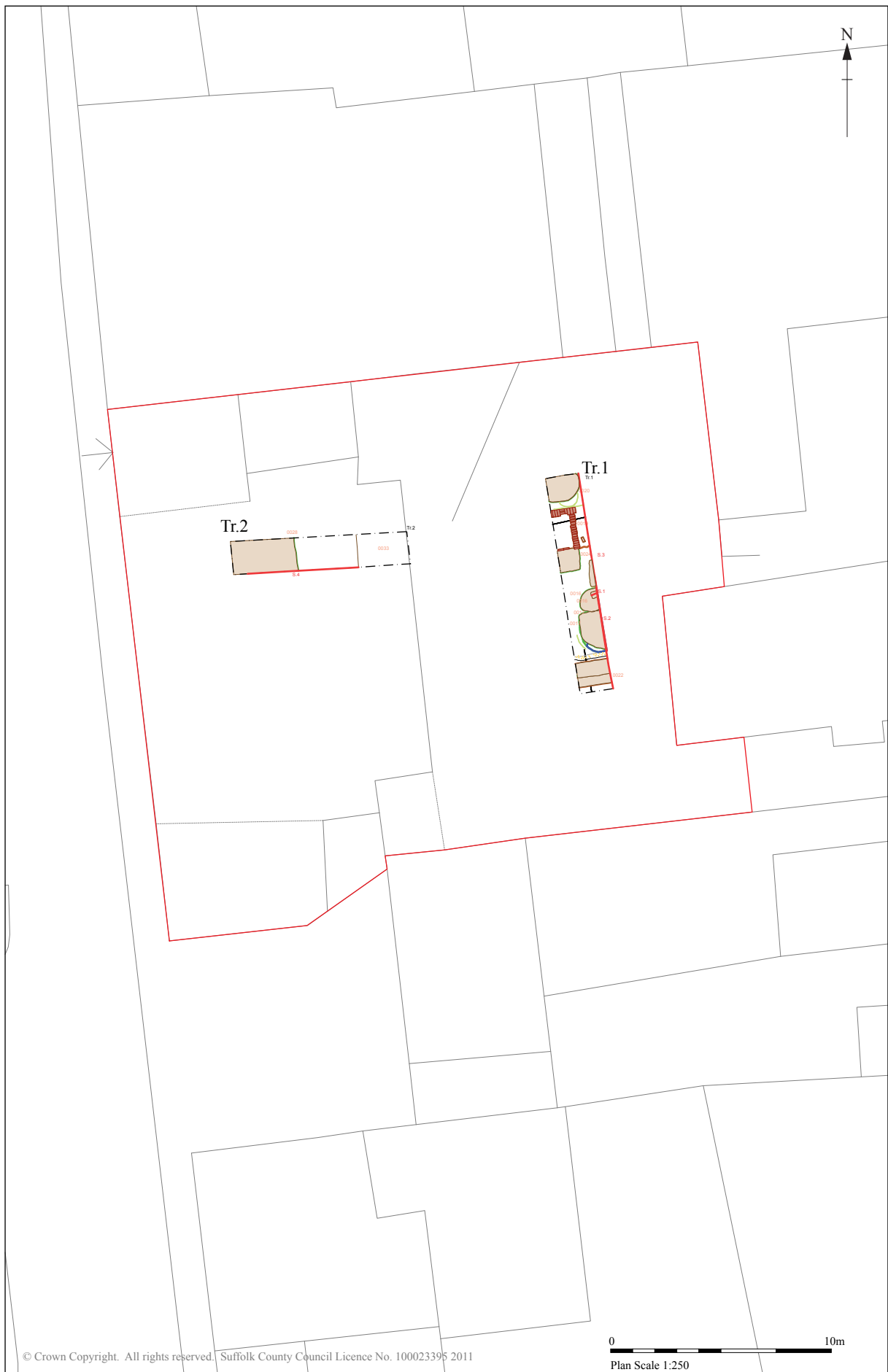


Figure 2. Trench location plan

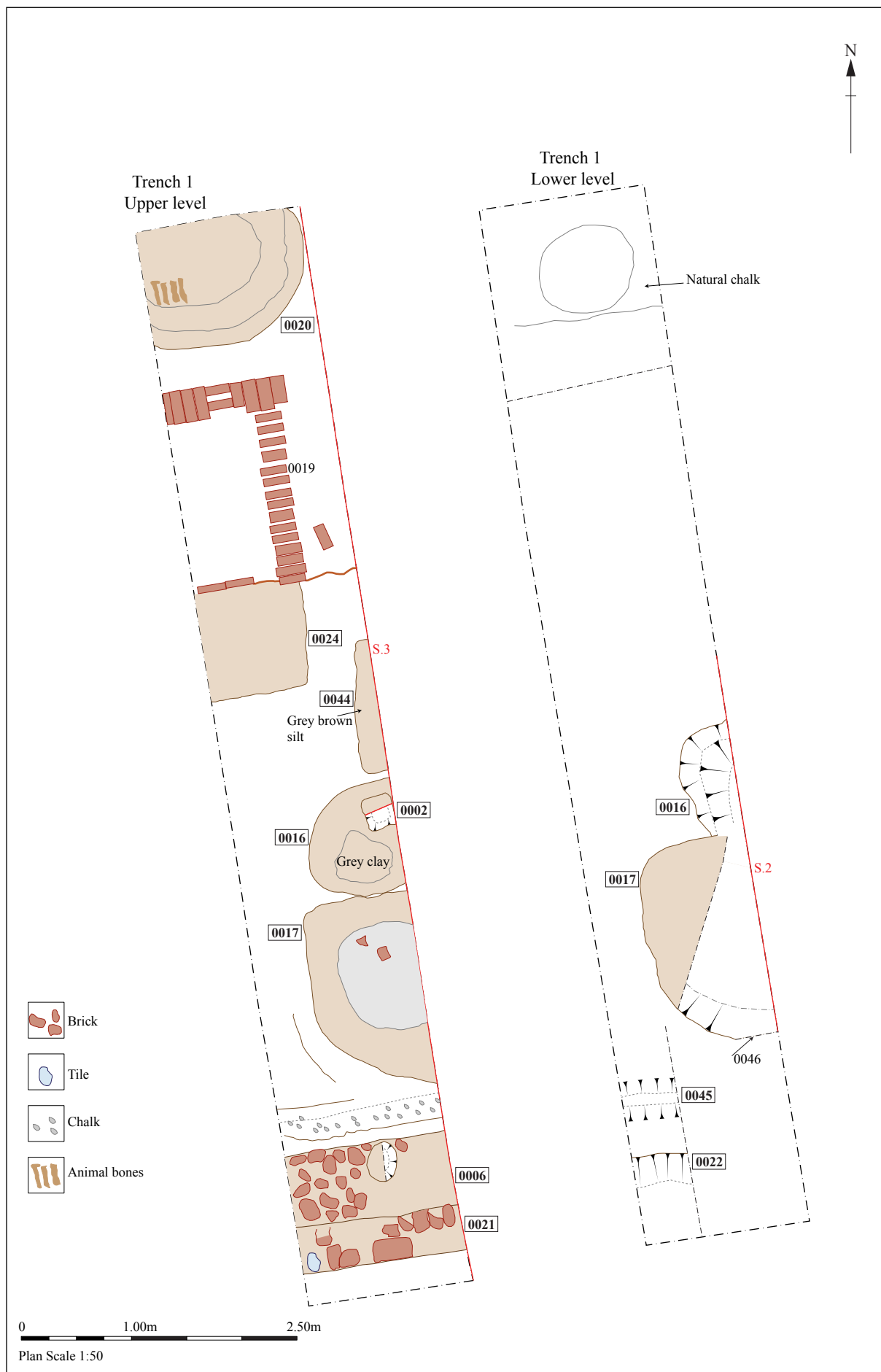


Figure 3. Trench 1 plan

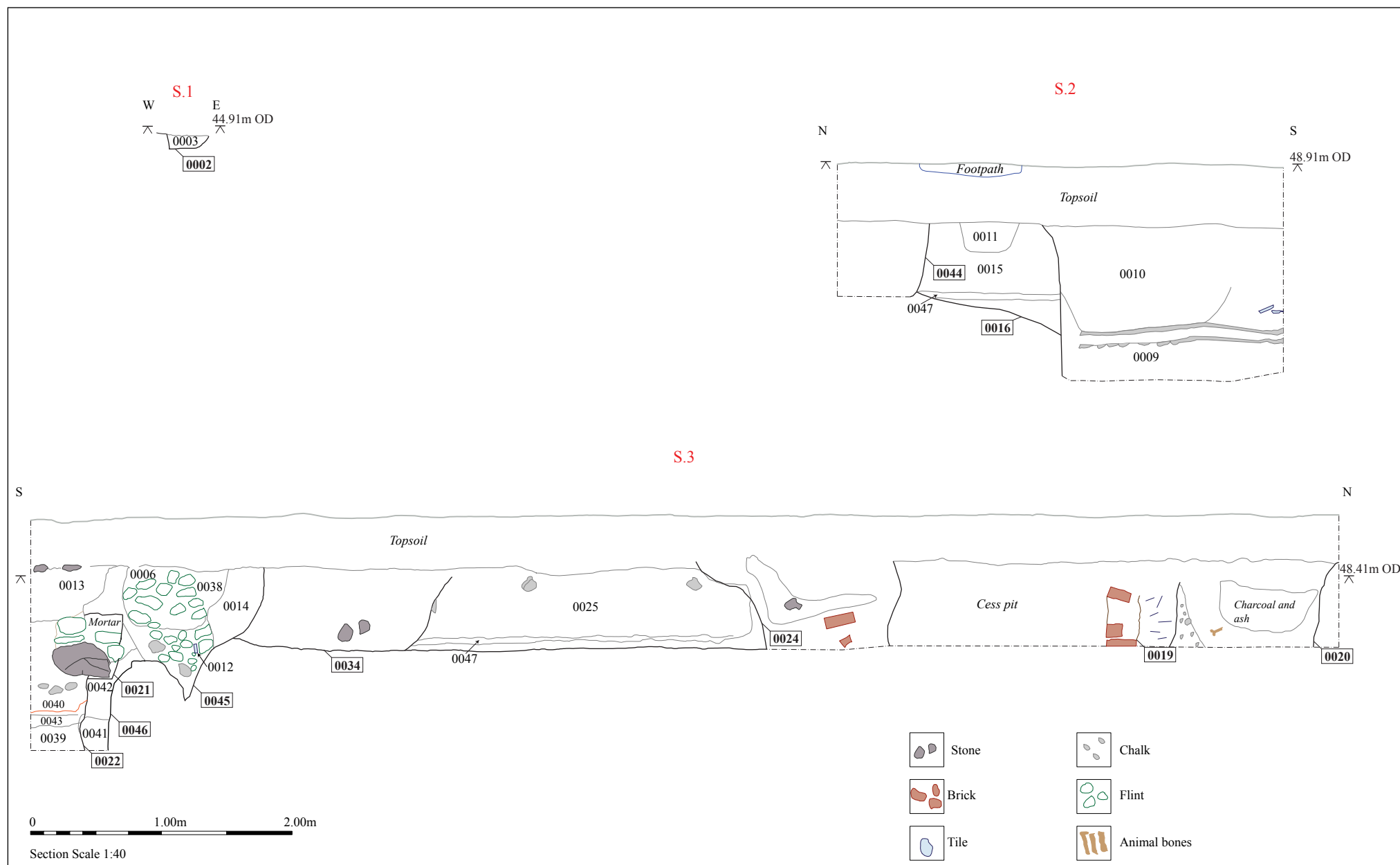


Figure 4. Trench 2, sections

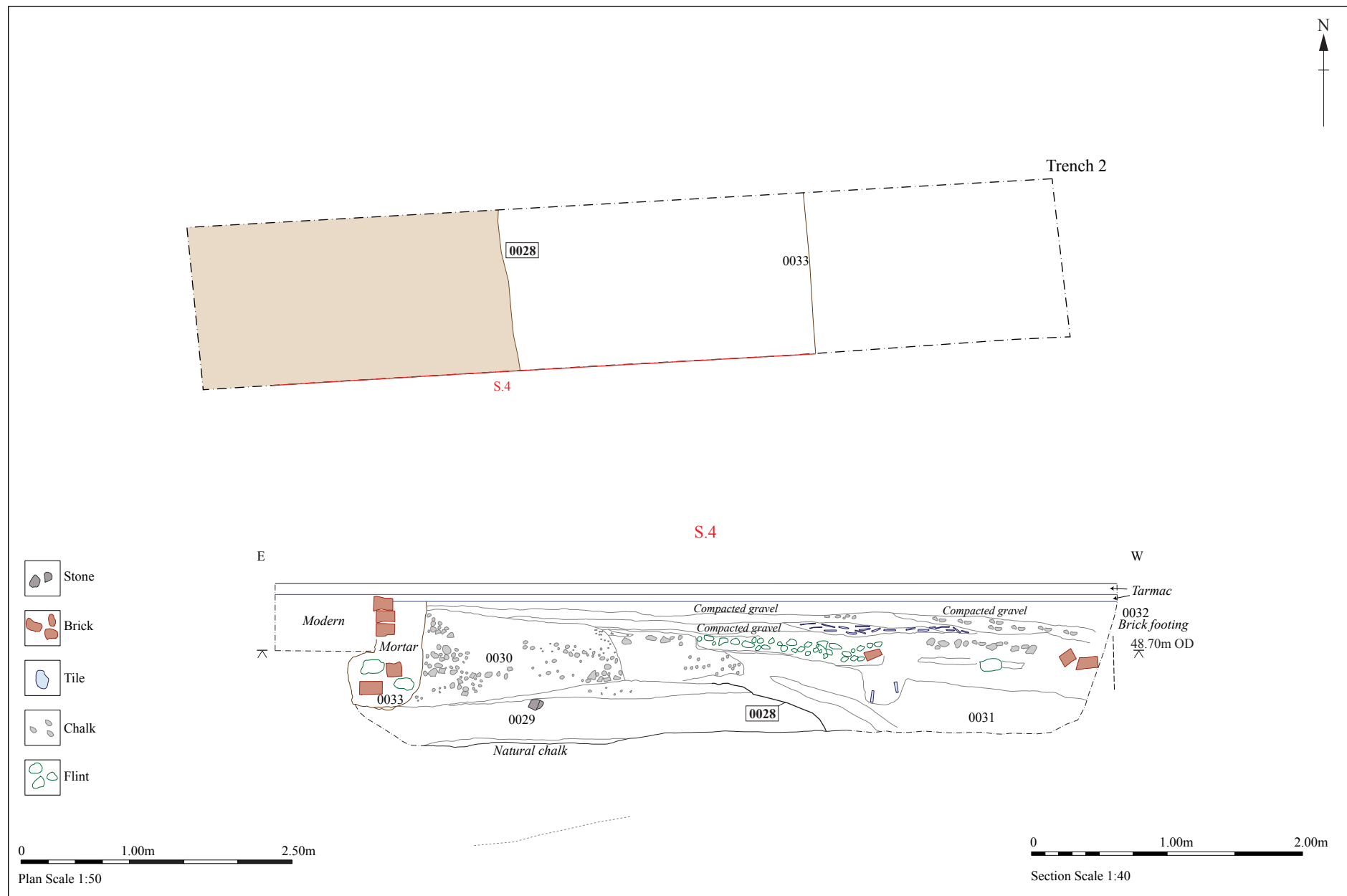


Figure 5. Trench 2, plan and section



Figure 6. 1886 map with site plan

5. Results

Introduction

The results will be presented by trench with a discussion at the end.

Trench 1

(Figure 3-4, Plates 1-3)

Trench 1 is described from north to south, appearing on Figure 3 in plan and in sections 2 and 3 on Figure 4. This trench was 10m in length and aligned north to south. At the north end of the trench were two large pits, 0020 and 0024, that were cut by a large brick-lined cess pit 0019. The fills of these pits was quite loose and there were sufficient glass and slate fragments visible to establish that these features are all likely to be early to mid 19th century in date. Following the recording of this end of the trench a deeper excavation was carried out by the machine at the north end of the trench prior to the back-filling; it exposed areas of clean chalk adjoining the remnants of pit 0020 but no earlier features were exposed. Pit 0024 cut a layer of chalk and silt 0025 (shown in section 3) on the west side of the trench, which was c.0.5m deep. This layer overlaid a thin deposit of crushed chalk, 0047, and brown silt. Layer 0025 was cut by feature 0034, that only appears in section; it did not penetrate the natural chalk, however. Two sherds of pottery, dated 12th to 14th centuries were recovered from layer 0025 during machining (context 0014).

A pit and possible well were exposed in the eastern side, and base, of the trench and are recorded in section 2. These were 0044 and 0017 respectively. Pit 0044 was c.1.5m wide and filled with a friable, grey brown silt fill; it is suggested that this feature is post medieval because the fill was unconsolidated although no finds were retrieved. Well 0017 was c.1.75m across and was partially excavated to a depth of c.0.6m below the base of the open trench. Two distinct fills were exposed, 0009 which was overlain by 0010 but separated by a sequence of chalky surfaces. The chalk bands may represent the former cap of the well which had slumped inward when the lower fills settled as organic matter rotted and the fills became consolidated. The fills of well 0017 have been dated overall to the early post-medieval period from a small amount of pottery brick and peg tile.

Between pits 0044 and well 017 was context 0015, which was a firm layer of fine silt and chalk that had accumulated over a burnt crushed surface of chalk. These layers are suggested to be a continuation of deposits 0025 and chalk surface 0047 from the western trench. Cut 0016 (section 2) is likely to be the edge of degraded chalk rather than representing a separate feature. Chalk surface 0047 was cut by a small early modern feature 0002.

At the south end of the trench an open ditch 0045 was replaced by two phase of wall, 0006 and 0021, and there was a large cut feature, 0048, that was not bottomed, against the south baulk of the site. In section 1 the cut of a ditch 0045 can be seen with a 'v' shaped gulley cut through feature 0034 into the natural chalk. It was c. 1m deep and at least 1m wide. Ditch 0045 was filled with the foundation layer, 0012, and lower course of wall 0006. This wall was built of medium sized flints in a mixture of orange/yellow mortar and was c.0.3m wide. Beneath the mortar was packed layer of flints with odd stone fragments in a fine silt layer, 0012 that was a foundation for the mortared wall above. Layer 0012 has been dated from the finds to the late medieval or early post-medieval periods (a possible posthole was excavated into the surface of the truncated wall but this was a relatively modern feature).

Built against the south side of wall 0006 was later wall 0021; this included natural stone and large ashlar blocks, which were probably robbed from the Abbey, and occasional post-medieval bricks; it was held together by a very solid mortar. This wall was built onto the edge of a large feature, 0048 that had been infilled in two distinct episodes. The earliest deposits were layers 0041 and 0042 that were composed of firm grey silt and chalk. They appear to have been cut on the south side by a later re-excavation of the 0048 feature, 0022 which comprised fills 0039, 0043 and 0036, a dark grey silty ash. All these layers were quite loose. Layer 0013 was a post demolition layer above the wall that was composed of brown silt.

Trench 2

(Fig. 5, Plate 4)

Trench 2 was c.6m in length and aligned east west across the projected line of the town wall and ditch. It was approximately 1.2m deep, which was to the top of the natural chalk. Towards the eastern end of the trench was a section of wall, 0033. Two phases

of wall were visible, the upper layer, which consisted of red bricks in mortar, the lower layer which contained a mixture of flint and brick. The walls sat on a surface of homogenous brown silt, 0029 and cut through a substantial build-up of chalk and silt, 0030. Approximately 2.4m from the face of the wall the cut of the town ditch, context 0028, can be seen slicing through the buried brown soil 0029. The cut is filled by a mixture of layers under context 0031. The lowest layers consisted of fine silt with chalk, above which were various mixed layers including bricks, tiles and spreads of flint. Above these layers was a series of surfaces with tiles flint and compacted gravel. These deposits were thicker at the western end of the trench indicating where the fills had slumped into the town ditch before it had consolidated. There were two surfaces of tarmac over the present car park. The western end of the trench ended on a recent brick footing, 0032 that was not fully exposed.



Plate 1. Layer 0015 and surface 0047 between pit 0044 and well 0017 facing west. The scale bars are at 0.5m intervals



Plate 2. Well 0017 facing west. The scale bars are 0.5m



Plate 3. Wall 0006 within ditch 0045 cut by wall 0021 facing east. The scale bars are at 0.5m.



Trench1. The north facing section, a buried soil is cut by the line of the town ditch.
The scale bars are at 0.5m.

6. The Find.

Introduction

Finds were collected from 6 contexts in Trench 1, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Animal bone		Slag		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0006			2	313						Late or early post- med
0009	1	18	10	973	8	36				1480-1550
0010	1	14	14	832	4	241			4 frags shell @ 23g	Late or post-med
0012			7	264	4	18			1 frag mortar@ 10g	Late or post-med
0013			10	675			2	144	4 frags clay pipe @ 24g	1650- 1725?
0014	2	14			1	2				12th-14th C
Total	4	46	43	3057	17	297	2	144		

Table 1 Finds quantities

Pottery Introduction

Four fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation (313g). The pottery has been fully quantified and catalogued (Appendix 3).

Medieval

A fragment of a medieval coarseware jar with a thickened flat-topped rim was recovered from layer 0014 (re-numbered 0016 in section 2 Trench 1). The jar is made in a Bury Sandy Fineware fabric and has a rim which dates to the 12th-Early 13th century. The sherd shows evidence of sooting and is not abraded. It is accompanied by a very abraded base sherd which shows some sooting. It is made from a medium sandy fabric with oxidised external margins and a reduced core. It is likely to be another fragment of medieval coarseware although the orange external margins suggest that it is slightly later in date.

A small sherd of a medieval glazed ware dating to the Late 12th-14th century was present in the upper fill 0010 of the possible well 0017. It has a grey hard sandy fabric which is covered with an olive lead glaze, and is slightly abraded. It is similar to Grimston ware in appearance but has a different fabric. It was found with later ceramic building material in the deposit overlying a later sherd of pottery so is likely to be residual.

Late medieval-early post-medieval

Part of the handle of a German stoneware drinking vessel was identified in the lower fill 0009 of the possible well 0017. The slightly abraded sherd is from a small Raeren jug dating c1480-1550 (Hurst 196-197). Such drinking vessels were imported into southern and eastern England in very large quantities from the Rhineland during the first half of the sixteenth century.

Ceramic building material

Introduction

Forty-three fragments of ceramic building material were collected in total (3.057kg). The assemblage has been fully quantified by fabric and form which is held in archive. The majority consists of fragments of roofing tile, but a small quantity of brick was also present.

Medieval

A small amount of roof tile dating to 13th-15th century was present in the possible wellfills 0009 and 0010 (4 fragments @ 228g). The tiles are characterised either by

being made in an estuarine fabric or by having a reduced grey core, and also showing a degree of abrasion. The fragmentary remains of two abraded possible Early bricks were present in wellfill 0009 and fill 0013.

Late medieval - post-medieval

The remainder of the assemblage is made up of red-fired roofing tiles, mostly all of which are plain peg tiles, although one ridge tile fragment was identified. A range of fabrics was present, which cover the late medieval to post-medieval period. Medium and fine sandy fabrics with ferrous inclusions are the most frequently represented, but also fine and medium sandy with clay pellet inclusions which may date to the early part of the post-medieval period (c15th-16th century). Many of the tiles had mortar on broken edges, indicating that they had been re-used, and had perhaps been redeposited for consolidation purposes.

Most of this material was present in the two fills 0009 and 0010 of the possible well 0017. Other fragments of tile dating to the late medieval to post-medieval period were present in the silty layer 0012 underlying the earliest wall 0006, and layer 0013 above wall 0021.

The remains of a late medieval-early post-medieval brick in a fine silty fabric with clay pellets was found as part of wall 0006.

Conclusions

Most of the assemblage represents late medieval and early post-medieval plain roof tiles, some of which had been redeposited into a variety of pits, the well fill and other features. These tiles could have come from the roofs of other buildings in the vicinity or elsewhere in the town. A small quantity of the brick and tile was associated with structures, such as the wall 0006.

Mortar

A single fragment of off-white sandy mortar with one flat surface from structure 0012 has been slightly burnt.

Clay tobacco pipe

Four fragments of clay pipe were present in fill 0013. No complete bowls were present, but one of the stems has the remains of the lower part of the base of a bowl, the shape and size of which suggests that the pipe dates to the second half of the 17th to early 18th century.

Slag

Two joining fragments of vesicular slag were identified from fill 0013.

The small finds

The two small finds listed below have been catalogued in the database.

SF 1001 A fragment of an iron object was present in possible wellfill 0009. It is rectangular in shape, and may be part of a blade. It was found with a fragment of a Rhenish stoneware drinking jug dating from the late fifteenth to early 16th century.

SF 1002 A fragment of an iron implement was found in wellfill 0010. It is part of a whittle tanged handle, attached to a wide rectilinear flat piece of iron which may be part of a knife blade, with a raised area which may be the shoulder or bolster between the handle and the implement itself. It is possible that it could be a chisel or some other kind of tool. Further identification may be provided following radiography. Although it was found with a fragment of medieval pottery, it could date to the late medieval or early post-medieval period, as the ceramic building material recovered from this feature is of this date.

Shell

Four fragments of oyster shell were recovered from fill 0010.

Animal bone

Mike Feider

Introduction

Fourteen fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation, mostly from the fills of pit 0017.

Methodology

The remains from each context were scanned with each element identified to species where possible and as unidentified otherwise. The number of fragments and any

associated butchery, ageing, and taphonomic information were recorded in a Microsoft Access database which will accompany the site archive.

Preservation

The remains were in excellent condition, with only minor weathering of the surface and occasional modern breaks.

Summary

Only four of the fourteen bone fragments were identifiable to species. These included a coracoid and scapula of a domestic fowl from pitfill 0009, a cow metatarsal from pitfill 0010, and a sheep/goat metacarpal from 0012, the base of a wall.

Context	Feature Number	Chicken	Cow	S/g	Unidentified	Total
0009	0017	2			4	6
0010	0017		1		3	4
0012				1	2	3
0014					1	1
Total		2	1	1	10	14

Table 2. Count of species by context. S/g = sheep/goat.

Measurements could be taken on the cow metatarsal and sheep/goat metacarpal.

Butchery was recorded on a large mammal vertebra from context (0010). The bone was axially split from the ventral surface, possibly from splitting the carcass into halves.

Conclusion

The small size of the Guildhall Street assemblage limits the conclusions that can be made. The remains from the pit most likely represent food waste. The bones found in relation to 0012, the remains of a wall, were probably buried against it or deposited as part of the foundation fill.

Discussion

All of the finds were recovered from Trench 1. Apart from the ceramic building material, other datable finds are sparse, but there is a small amount of ceramic evidence for the fills of the possible well.

7. Interpretation and discussion.

The earliest feature in Trench 1 was chalk surface 0047. It was impossible to determine whether this was simply a yard surface or a floor inside a building although the latter is a definite possibility. This deposit appeared almost directly above natural chalk, which

leads to the suggestion that the buried topsoil that was preserved beneath the town bank in Trench 2 had been removed and that a firm surface had been created. The chalk was buried by layer 0015/0025 of grey silt and chalk. Most of this layer was removed by later cutting features but it is suggested that this deposit may have been material from the tail of the town bank that came onto the site later in the medieval period when the town wall and bank were demolished and the site opened up to St Andrews Street.

The evidence in plan and section suggests that there was a property boundary towards the south end of the trench. The earliest boundary was an open ditch, which was cut through the bank material; it was later packed with stones that were rammed together and a mortared wall, 0006, was built on this foundation. A similar sequence was observed at land behind 82 Guildhall Street (Tester 2010). The wall is not closely datable but it is suggested to be late medieval or early post-medieval. The probable property boundary line can be seen on the Ordnance Survey map of Bury from 1880 (Fig. 6). A cut feature separates the boundary as it stands from the chalk surface to the north but it is possible that this wall was part of a building.

The next feature chronologically is likely to be large pit or Well, 0017 that is dated to the late medieval or probably early post medieval period. Usually these features would be outside a building but this need not have been the case and there are examples of wells in buildings elsewhere in the town.

The start of the sequence to the south of wall 0006 could not be dated but a near vertical cut in the chalk may be evidence that the ground has been terraced back from Guildhall Street. This practice was also observed on land behind 82 Guildhall Street (Tester 2010). It is noticeable that the ground slopes quite steeply to the east from St Andrews Street and a pronounced terrace exists behind 85 Guildhall Street closer to that street frontage. The possible terracing to the south of wall 0006 was levelled at some point and wall 0021 built, probably early in the 19th century. All of the features towards the north of the trench were relatively modern. It was thought that brick-lined cess pit 0019 may have been built against a property boundary but although this may have been the case, no evidence for a boundary was identified.

The evidence from Trench 2 records the continuation of the town ditch with the lower course of the town bank still visible up against the line of the town wall which was retained as a property boundary (Fig.6). The top fills of the ditch reveal a sequence of hard surfaces that post-date the infilling of the ditch before a part of the street was absorbed by the expansion of the properties on Guildhall Street beyond the line of the wall.

8. Recommendations

The remains are not considered to be of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*. There is good evidence of medieval occupation with a possible floor which should be fully recorded if it is to be seriously damaged. The level of recording should depend on the details of the construction and the amount of damage caused. If the buried surfaces are exposed an open area excavation may be appropriate. If buried surfaces are exposed by footing trenches it may be possible to record the evidence by the close monitoring of the excavations. If the site is piled, and the ground beam trenches are above the deeper archaeological levels the monitoring of excavations may provide an adequate record of the site.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\Arc\ALL_site\BSE\BSE BSE 362 land behind 85 Guildhall Street. Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: Parish box

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Andrew Tester, John Simms and Adam Yates from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

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

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Appendix 1

BSE 363 Context List

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Category	Description
0002	0002	Posthole	Cut	Square. W side vertical.
0003	0002	Posthole	Fill	Grey brown silt
0004	0004	Pit	Cut	Re-numbered 0019
0005	0004	structure		Brick-lined cess pit. Bricks 2 1/4 - 4 wide, 8 1/2 long. Loose fill includes slate (not kept)
0006		Wall		Orange/yellow mortar with medium sized flints
0007	0008	Posthole	Fill	Grey/brown silt
0008	0008	Posthole	Cut	Possible posthole with wall surface
0009	0017	Pit	Fill	Fill of chalky
0010	0017	Pit	Fill	Upper fill of pitFill of chalky pit, green brown silt
0011		Pit	Fill	Fill of pit or well
0012		structure		Bottom of wall. Foundation?
0013			Fill	Upper mid/dark grey brown silty clay
0014			Layer	Chalk and silt layer
0015	0015	Deposit	Layer	Layer same as 0025 in east facing trench.
0016	0016	Layer	Layer	Possible cut (probably just weathering)
0017	0017	Pit	Cut	Circular cut, probably well but not bottomed
0018		Deposit	Layer	
0019				Cut and fill of brick-lined outhouse.
0020		Pit		Large pit, fairly loose fill.
0021		Wall		Half central wall, contains Abbey stones and bricks.
0022	0022	Pit	Cut	S end of trench. Re-cut within earlier big hole. Structure.
0023	0022	Pit	Fill	Various fills. Re-numbered Chalk fill at base with grey brown silt clue and root
0024		Pit	Fill	19th century dark silt and charcoal. renumbered
0025	0025	Layer	Layer	Grey silty/clay with charcoal flecks renumbered.
0026		Layer	Layer	Layer of chalk beneath 0025
0027		Layer	Layer	Red/brown silty beneath 0026
0028	0028	Ditch	Cut	Town ditch
0029		Buried Soil	Layer	Brown sandy silt, buried soil preserved beneath bank
0030		Layer	Layer	Bank upcut from ditch chalk and

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Category	Description
0031	0028	Ditch	Fill	Various fills of town ditch. Lower layer of chalky grey silt.
0032	0032	Foundation	Layer	Layers of surfacing over ditch and the remains of the bank. Chalk and compacted gravel.
0033		Wall	Cut	Two planes of wall cut into bank. Lower - flint and mortar with brick. Upper layer brick. Neither looks medieval.
0034	0034	Pit	Cut	Cut through layer 0025 and 0047 but does not penetrate natural chalk.
0035	0035	Ditch	Cut	renumbered
0036	0022	Pit	Fill	Grey brown sandy silt. Firm. Occ large rnd flints. Horiz clear.
0037	0037	Foundation tr	Cut	linear in plan E-W. runs parallel to [0035] (v close). Near vetical sides - poss with a pointed base (unusual)
				SAME AS 0045
0038		ditch?	Fill	Grey brown sandy silt. Firm. Mod chalk. Horiz diffuse.
0039	0022	Pit	Fill	Dark brown sandy silt. Firm. Mod chalk sm. Horiz unexcavated.
0040	0022	Pit	Fill	Mid reddy orange clay. Firm. No incl. horiz clear.
0041	0048	ditch?	Fill	Grey brown silt. Freq sm chalk. Loose. Horiz clear.
0042	0048	Ditch	Fill	Grey brown silt. Freq sm chalk. Loose. Horiz clear.
0043	0022	pit?	Fill	V dark brown silty ash. Loose. No incl. horiz clear.
0044	0044	Pit	cut and fill	Pit in section 2sampled but not excavated. Friable fill suggest late post medieval.
0045	0045	Ditch	Cut	Possible ditch cut beneath wall 0006, later infilled with packing for wall. SAME AS 0037
0046	0046	Pit	Cut	Vertical cut into chalk for large feature at south end of trench. Possibly terracing within adjoining property.
0047	0047	Surface	Layer	Layer of solid chalk partly
0048	0048	Pit	Cut	Large deep cut at south end of site.

Appendix 2

Brief and Specification

Economy, Skills and Environment
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND TO THE REAR OF 85 GUILDHALL STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS (ref. PRE DENTAL 2010)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 Planning permission is to be sought from St Edmundsbury Borough Council for the construction of a new dental surgery on land behind 85 Guildhall Street, facing onto St Andrew's Street (grid ref. TL 851 641). Existing out-buildings on the site will be demolished.
Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.
- 1.2 The planning authority will be advised by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service that planning consent should be conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out. This will ensure that the significance of any heritage asset on the site is recorded and understood before it is damaged or destroyed, in accordance with PPS5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3). This specification has been prepared prior to submission of the planning application so that designs for the building can consider the nature of the archaeology on the site.
- 1.3 The site (c. 0.05ha in area) lies behind number 85, which is on the west side of Guildhall Street, and will extend to St Andrew's Street on the east. The site is at c.49m OD. The soil is loam over chalk drift and chalk.
- 1.4 The development site is in an area of high archaeological importance, in the medieval core of Bury St Edmunds (Historic Environment Record no. BSE 241). It spans the medieval town defences (BSE 136/9), with the line of the town wall/bank fossilised in a modern boundary between car parking which forms the western side of the site and a garden which forms the eastern half. The garden is lower lying, and represents land that was terraced at the rear of plots on Guildhall Street, probably in the medieval period. Medieval occupation deposits have been found on other similarly situated sites (e.g. BSE 194, BSE 295, BSE 181). The land on the west side overlies the projected line of the town wall, bank and ditch, probably built over in the post-medieval period. A section of these defences was recorded in monitoring behind 82 Guildhall Street (BSE 295). As yet, the nature of the surviving defences on this site and the nature of occupation deposits towards Guildhall Street remain unknown. Any groundwork associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying archaeological remains and so the nature and levels of preservation of any archaeology needs assessing.
- 1.5 The garden and car park will be made available for evaluation.
- 1.6 In order to understand the significance of any archaeological remains, assess the impact of the proposed development on any heritage assets, and inform the nature and costings of any further mitigation strategy as well as the final building design, the following work is required:
 - linear trenched evaluation, excavated and recorded using a system appropriate for urban stratigraphy.

- 1.7 The results of the evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.
- 1.8 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 area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.9 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.10 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny, and approval, by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>).
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

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 the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Assess whether there are any structural traces which may relate to a former town wall

- 2.5 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.6 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (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.
- 2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed in untested areas and the final mitigation strategy defined accordingly.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification

- 3.1 20m of trial trenching is to be excavated to cover both areas of the site, where significant ground disturbance is proposed. The trench or trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. To assess the nature of the defences on this site, an east-west trench should be placed in the western side of the site right up to the current wall/fence which separates it from the garden on the east. Further trenching should sample deposits in the current garden area (eastern half of the site).
- 3.2 A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.50m wide must be used. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 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. Where complex sequences of deposits are encountered, however, a single context system is to be adopted. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Dr 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.
- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 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).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER), including historic maps.
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER 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.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

- 5.11 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 repository 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.
- 5.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive repository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 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 the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.17 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.18 Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.19 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 HER. 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.
- 5.20 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.
- 5.21 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Date: 22 November 2010

Reference: BSE/2010_Pre Dental

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.

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