

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# **19 EASTGATE STREET BURY ST EDMUNDS**

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For Terry Self

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John Duffy MA AIfA

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L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# 19 EASTGATE STREET BURY ST EDMUNDS

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Client: Terry Self

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Local Authority: St Edmundsbury Borough Council

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NGR: 585870, 264510

---

Planning App: SE/07/1953/FUL

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Author(s): J. Duffy

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Doc Ref: LPI 182E-AER-v1.2

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Site Code: BSE 371

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Date: July 11

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**L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# Abstract

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of 19 Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by John Duffy of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of the developer, Mr Terry Self.*

*The site is situated to the rear of a property along Eastgate Street, a major Medieval and Post Medieval thoroughfare for the town of Bury St Edmunds. The street fronting property is a 16<sup>th</sup> century, Grade II listed building, and the site is within an Area of Archaeological Importance as defined in the Local Plan. An area of known archaeological activity, with a probable tannery, was identified immediately to the west (BSE 292).*

*The objectives of the evaluation were to identify and characterise any preserved archaeological remains on the site and to assess the impact of the proposed development on any identified remains.*

*A single archaeological feature, a pit containing some poorly preserved wood remains, was identified below more than a metre of built up deposits possibly laid to level the ground adjacent to the river and minimise flooding.*

*The evaluation identified limited archaeological deposits which were located well below the depth of the groundworks associated with the redevelopment. Any archaeological deposits will remain preserved in situ and no further work is recommended.*

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by John Duffy of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Mr Terry Self, the landowner.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by John Duffy of L – P : Archaeology between 21<sup>st</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011.
- 1.3. The site is located to the rear of 19 Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 585870, 264510.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record is BSE 371.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the written scheme of investigation prepared by John Duffy of L – P : Archaeology (DUFFY 2011).

## 2. Site Background

### 2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken as a condition of the planning permission. The application reference is SE/07/1953/FUL.
- 2.1.2. The site is located to the rear of a Grade II listed building, 19 Eastgate Street, in an area previously occupied by a modern garage.
- 2.1.3. The site is located within the Bury St Edmunds Area of Archaeological Importance as defined within the Replacement St Edmundsbury Borough Local Plan (adopted 2006).
- 2.1.4. When considering an application, St Edmundsbury Borough Council is bound by local policies regarding archaeology and planning, Policy HE9. As such, the following condition was attached to the development.

No development shall take place within the whole site until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall have been submitted by the applicant to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To enable any remains of archaeological significance to be investigated and recorded in accordance with the provisions of Policy HC9 (Site and Features of Archaeological Importance) of the Replacement Local Plan.

- 2.1.1. Mr Terry Self, the landowner, and St Edmundsbury Borough Council have agreed the methodology for these works in a written scheme of investigation (DUFFY 2011). The written scheme of investigation was prepared based on the brief and specification provided by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, who advise St Edmundsbury Borough Council on archaeological matters.

### 2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex for the site records the superficial (drift) deposits as sand and gravel, and the solid deposits as chalk. This data is at relatively low resolution and does not give site specific data

([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).

2.2.2. During the evaluation the underlying geology was identified as clay.

### **2.3.TOPOGRAPHY**

2.3.1. The site is located to the rear of 19 Eastgate Street and on the south east bank of the River Lark. Eastgate Street extends to the east of Bury St Edmunds north of the ruined Abbey (FIGURES 1 AND 2).

2.3.2. The site is bounded to the west and east by adjacent property boundaries and to the south east by the rear garden of 19 Eastgate Street. To the north is the River Lark (FIGURE 2).

2.3.3. The site is flat, with an average height of 31m OD.

2.3.4. The previous building on site, a garage, had been demolished ahead of site work commencing. The structure was built on a concrete platform, measuring approximately 0.2m in depth, which was also removed prior to the archaeological tenching.

### **2.4.SITE CONDITIONS**

2.4.1. There is no evidence identified on historic maps that indicates development on the site ahead of the mid/late 20<sup>th</sup> century construction of the garage. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century a weir was constructed in the river immediately to the north and construction may have affected the current development site.

### **2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY**

2.5.1. The site is located along Eastgate Street which is the main eastbound road out of Bury St Edmunds in the Medieval and Post Medieval periods. The road extended from the core of the town from the Abbey precinct and crossed the River Lark.

2.5.2. During the Medieval and Post Medieval periods the town extended along Eastgate Street in a linear pattern with settlement consisting of buildings along the street frontage with associated yards to the rear.

2.5.3. The site is located to the rear of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed building of 19



Eastgate Street and historic maps show the property boundaries extended as far back as the river in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (WARREN'S MAP 1791). However, by the 19<sup>th</sup> century the property is reduced in length and the area adjacent to the river becomes open (PAYNE'S MAP 1834). This continued into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, in use as allotments, until the land was sold to the owners of the properties along Eastgate Street (SELF PERS COMM).

- 2.5.4. An evaluation and watching brief was undertaken on the adjacent property to the west in 2007 (BSE 292). The archaeological works identified several Post Medieval features including wall foundations, wells and several clay lined features. These clay lined features were identified as tanning pits indicating the site was in use as a tannery.

### 3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site.

3.2. The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- ◆ Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- ◆ To establish the potential of any surviving palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological deposits.

3.3. The objective of this report is to provide enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the Specification for Archaeological Evaluation (DUFFY 2011).
- 4.2. Two trenches were excavated measuring a total of 14m in length. Trench 1 was excavated in a north west to south east direction and Trench 2 was north to south in alignment (FIGURE 3).
- 4.3. Trench 2 was shortened from the original proposed length of 10m. The reason for the change was the trench extended beyond the area of proposed development and any underlying archaeological deposits would remain preserved *in situ*. This adjustment was made in agreement with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

## 5. Results

5.1. Results below are given for each trench. Not all context numbers referred to in the text are illustrated, but all are in the archive. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Depths are given in metres below ground level.

### 5.2. TRENCH 1

5.2.1. Trench 1 was excavated in a north west to south east direction within the footprint of the proposed buildings (FIGURE 3). The trench extended for 10m and was 1.8m wide. A concrete slab extended over the area of the trench and formed the base for the garage on the site. The slab was removed ahead of the trench being excavated.

5.2.2. A series of deposits were identified within the trench with an uppermost layer of rubble (001) forming the hardcore base for the concrete slab (FIGURE 4). Below this was a very dark brown grey silty clayey sand (002), which varied in thickness between 0.28m and 0.34m. This layer was a possible former topsoil covered when the rubble layer (001) and concrete slab was laid (FIGURE 4). No finds were recovered from these upper layers.

5.2.3. A thick layer of a mid to dark brown clayey sand (003) was recorded below layer (002) and extended the entire length and width of the trench (FIGURE 4). Its thickness varied between 0.68m to 0.77m and it contained finds of a Post Medieval date, including clay pipe stem fragments.

5.2.4. At the northern end of the trench layer (003) sealed a layer of orange clay and chalk (008) which did not extend to the southern limit of the trench (FIGURE 4). This in turn overlay a dark grey silty clay which measured between 0.24m and 0.38m in thickness and again did not extend to the southern limit of the trench (FIGURE 4).

5.2.5. Identified below the built up deposits, at the southern end of the trench, was a single feature [004] which extended beyond the trench edge to the south west (FIGURE 5). The feature was 1.5m wide, north west to south east, and extended 1.05m from the trench edge. The sides and base of the feature were difficult to

define.

5.2.6. The feature was filled by an upper layer of grey clay (005) with a maximum thickness of 0.12m (FIGURE 4). The fill contained four pieces of animal bone, a Post Medieval pottery sherd and several fragments of wood. Below this was a mid grey brown sandy clay (006) which appeared to form a lower fill of feature [004] (FIGURE 4). However, the fill contained no finds and was difficult to clearly define.



*Plate 1 - Feature [004]. 1m scale.*

5.2.7. Feature [004] cut the undisturbed natural dark yellow clay (017) which was identified across the length and width of the trench.

### 5.3. TRENCH 2

5.3.1. Trench 2 was excavated in an approximately north to south direction and

extended for 4m in length (FIGURE 3). It was agreed on site with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team Officer that the full extent of the trench need not be excavated. This was due to the depth of deposits and that the trench extended beyond the area of the proposed footings.

- 5.3.2. A build up of deposits similar to Trench 1 were identified in Trench 2 (FIGURE 4). An upper fill consisted of a mixed dark brown topsoil and rubble (009) which formed the base of the concrete slab on the site. Below this was a dark brown silty sandy clay (010) which was similar to the former topsoil in Trench 1 (002).
- 5.3.3. A thin layer of orange clayey sand (011), 0.08m in thickness, was visible below layer (010) at the southern limit of the trench but did not extend throughout the trench (FIGURE 4). A 0.38m thick dark brown grey clayey sand (012) was identified below layer (011) and below this was a 0.34m thick dark grey silty clay layer (013) above a thin layer of chalk (014). A thin chalk lens (018) was visible between layers (013) and (012) (FIGURE 4).
- 5.3.4. The lowest identified layer was a dark to mid grey silty clay (015) which extended the entire length and width of the trench and was 0.12m thick (FIGURE 4). This layer overlay the natural dark yellow clay (016).

## 6. Finds and Samples

6.1. Finds were collected by hand from excavated deposits.

| CONTEXT | CONTEXT TYPE | MATERIAL     | COUNT | DECORATION/NOTES        | PERIOD                               |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 003     | Layer        | Animal Bone  | 3     |                         | P-Med                                |
| 003     | Layer        | Shell        | 4     |                         | P-Med                                |
| 003     | Layer        | Clay Pipe    | 2     | Stem fragments          | P-Med                                |
| 005     | Feature Fill | Animal Bone  | 4     |                         | P-Med                                |
| 005     | Feature Fill | Pottery      | 1     | Yellow slip decoration. | 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> c |
| 005     | Feature Fill | Wood/Organic | 6     |                         | P-Med                                |

Table 1- Finds by context

6.2. The finds are very limited in number and interpretation is therefore difficult. The finds recovered from layer (003) appear similar to those in (005) and maybe be from later disturbance of this feature.

6.3. Several fragments of preserved wood were recovered from feature fill (005), though the condition of the fragments was poor. Due to this poor condition no discernible function can be ascertained. The wood fragments are all similar and may represent the remains of a single object deposited in the pit.

6.4. Initial appraisal of the sample taken from (005) indicates there is little recoverable evidence except further very small wood fragments.

## 7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1. A site on land to the rear of 19 Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds is proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment involves the construction of two townhouses.
- 7.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any scheduled monuments. The site is located to the rear of a Grade II listed building, 19 Eastgate Street.
- 7.3. The evaluation identified a single archaeological feature, a possible pit, sealed below a series of built up layers. Historic maps show little alteration to the line of the River Lark ahead of the construction of the weir in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although the construction of the weir may have led to some disturbance on both sides of the river there was no clear evidence for this in the evaluation.
- 7.4. The possible tanning site identified to the south west, within the boundary of the adjacent modern property, does not appear to extend into this site. However the evaluation undertaken on the current site is closer to the river and further from the street frontage.
- 7.5. Archaeological monitoring of a pipe trench (BSE 337), approximately 75m to the north, identified a mixed cream and grey clay (1.1m to 1.6m below ground level) over a peat rich clay (1.6m to 2.1m below ground level). These clay layers appear similar to those found in the base of the trenches on this site (TIPPER PERS COMM).
- 7.6. The previous structure on the site, a garage, has had little impact upon the archaeology of the site. This was due to the garage having no deep foundations as it was built on a concrete slab.
- 7.7. The proposed development on the site will have minimal impact on any preserved archaeological remains. The construction requires the drilling of piles which, due to the depth of any archaeological deposits, will be the only direct impact. Any associated trenching and services are not expected to extend beyond the depth of the built up deposits sealing the archaeological features.



## 8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 1 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 11 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 17 x Context sheets

8.2. The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x box artefacts as described in Section 6 (all materials).

8.3. The archive is to be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store.

# SOURCES CONSULTED

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC**

DUFFY J 2011 *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at 19 Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds*. L - P : Archaeology, unpublished report.

TESTER A 2008 *15-17 Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds BSE 292. A Report on the Archaeological Monitoring, 2007*. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, unpublished archive report No 2008/114.

## **CARTOGRAPHIC AND PICTORIAL**

1791 WARREN'S MAP

1834 PAYNE'S MAP

1886 OS MAP

1926 OS MAP

## **ELECTRONIC**

[www. heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk) (accessed on 27/06/11)

## **STATUTORY AND GUIDANCE**

STANDARD AND GUIDANCE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION Institute for Archaeologists 2008

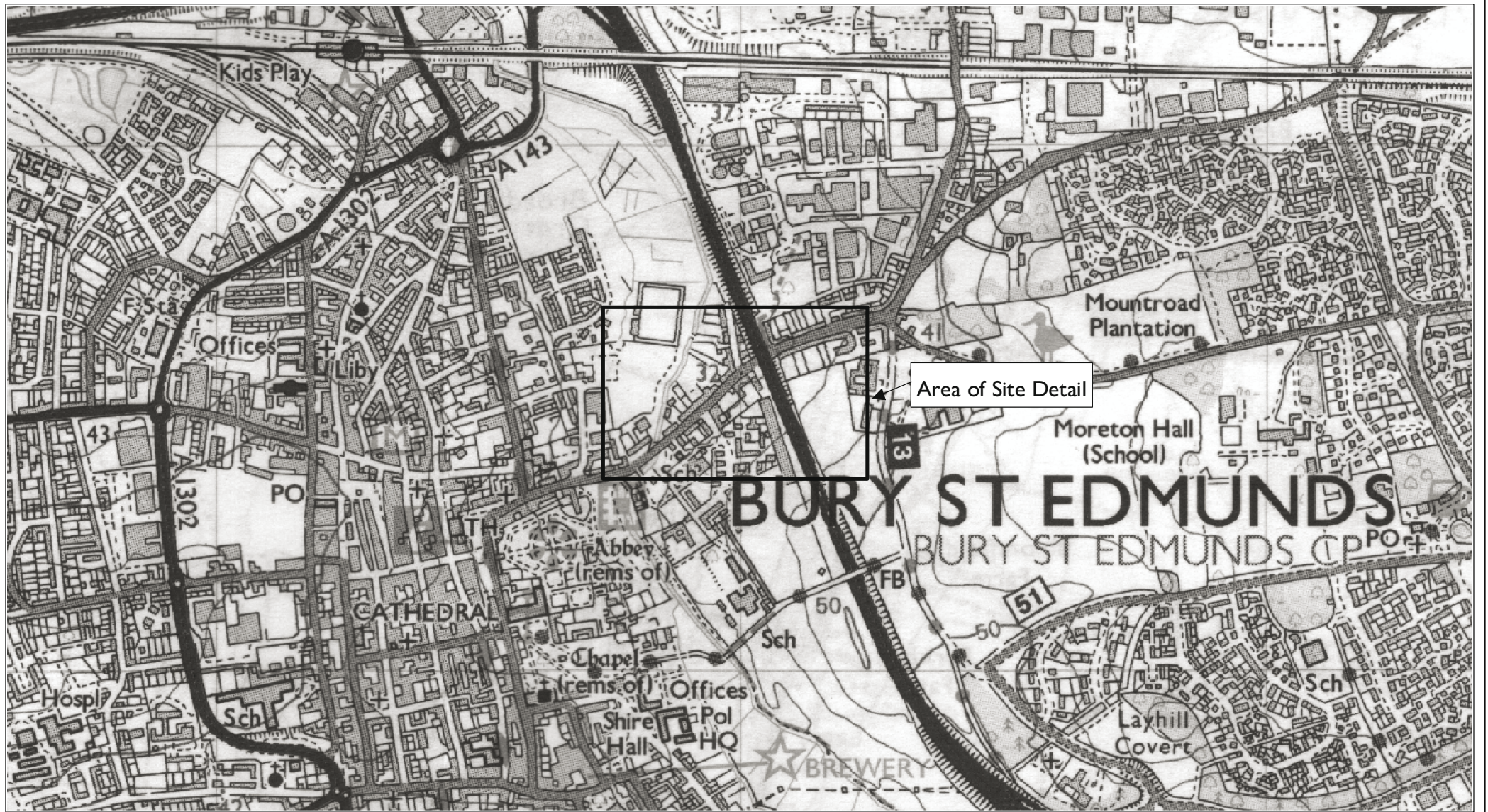
GURNEY D 2003. *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14.

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# FIGURES



FIGURE I // Site Location General



0

750m

PROJECT // I182E- 19 Eastgate Street

DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

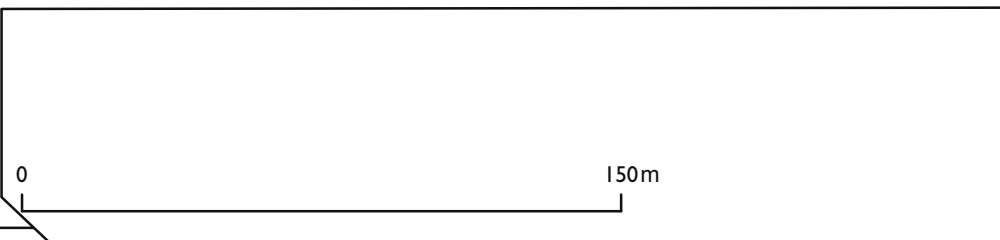
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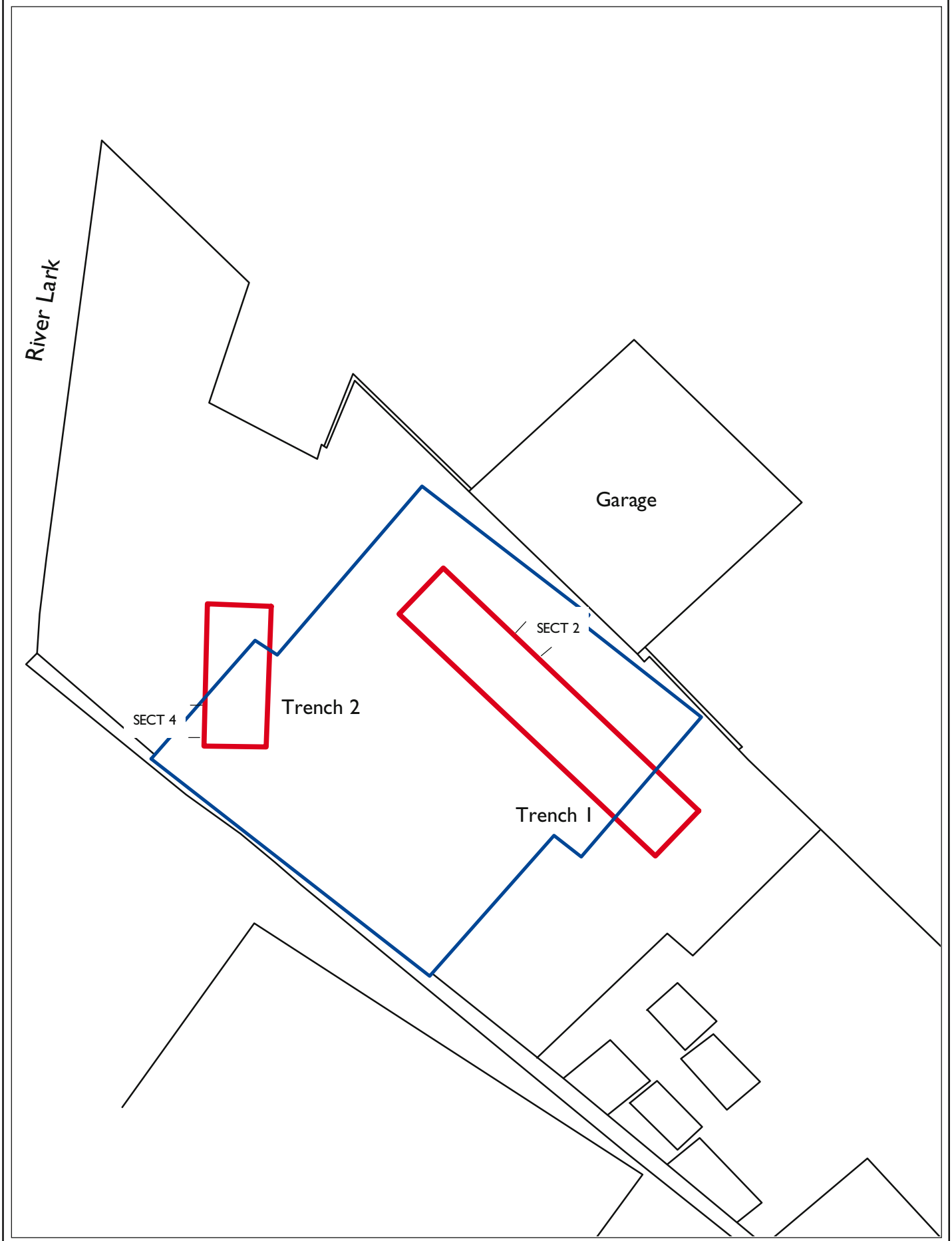
FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



PROJECT // I182E- 19 Eastgate Street  
DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail and Suffolk HER sites  
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FIGURE 3 // Trench Locations



 Trench

 Outline of Proposed Buildings

0  10m



PROJECT // 1182E- 19 Eastgate Street

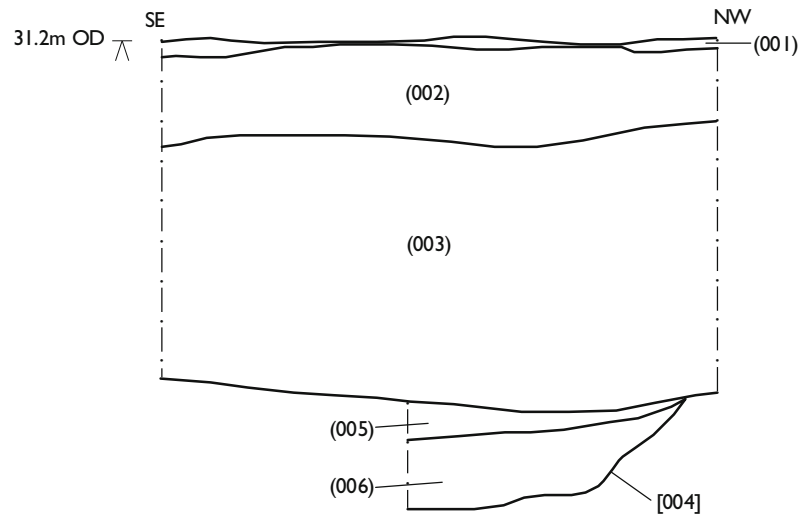
DESCRIPTION // Trench Locations

Courtesy of Terry Self and Kevin Cole

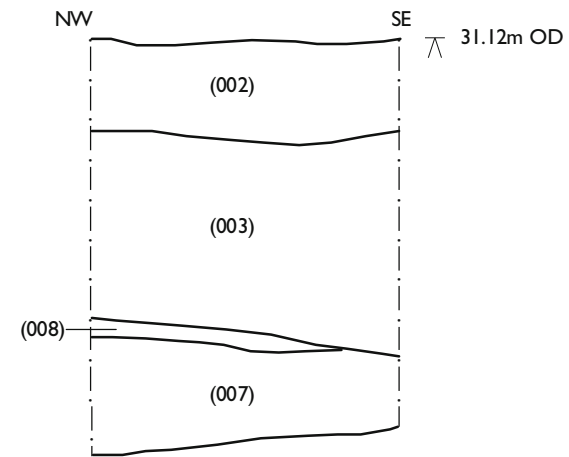
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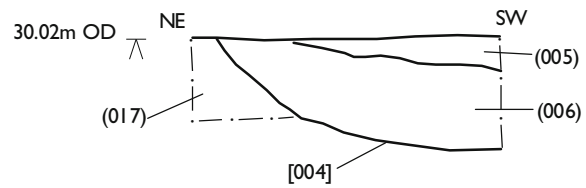
FIGURE 4 // Sections



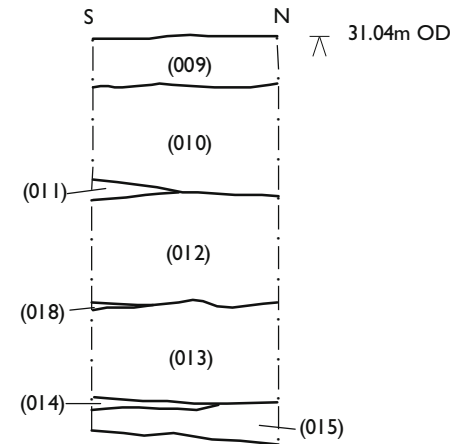
SECTION 1: TRENCH I AND FEATURE [004]



SECTION 2: TRENCH I



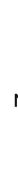
SECTION 3: FEATURE [004]



SECTION 4: TRENCH 2

0

2 m



PROJECT // 1182E- 19 Eastgate Street

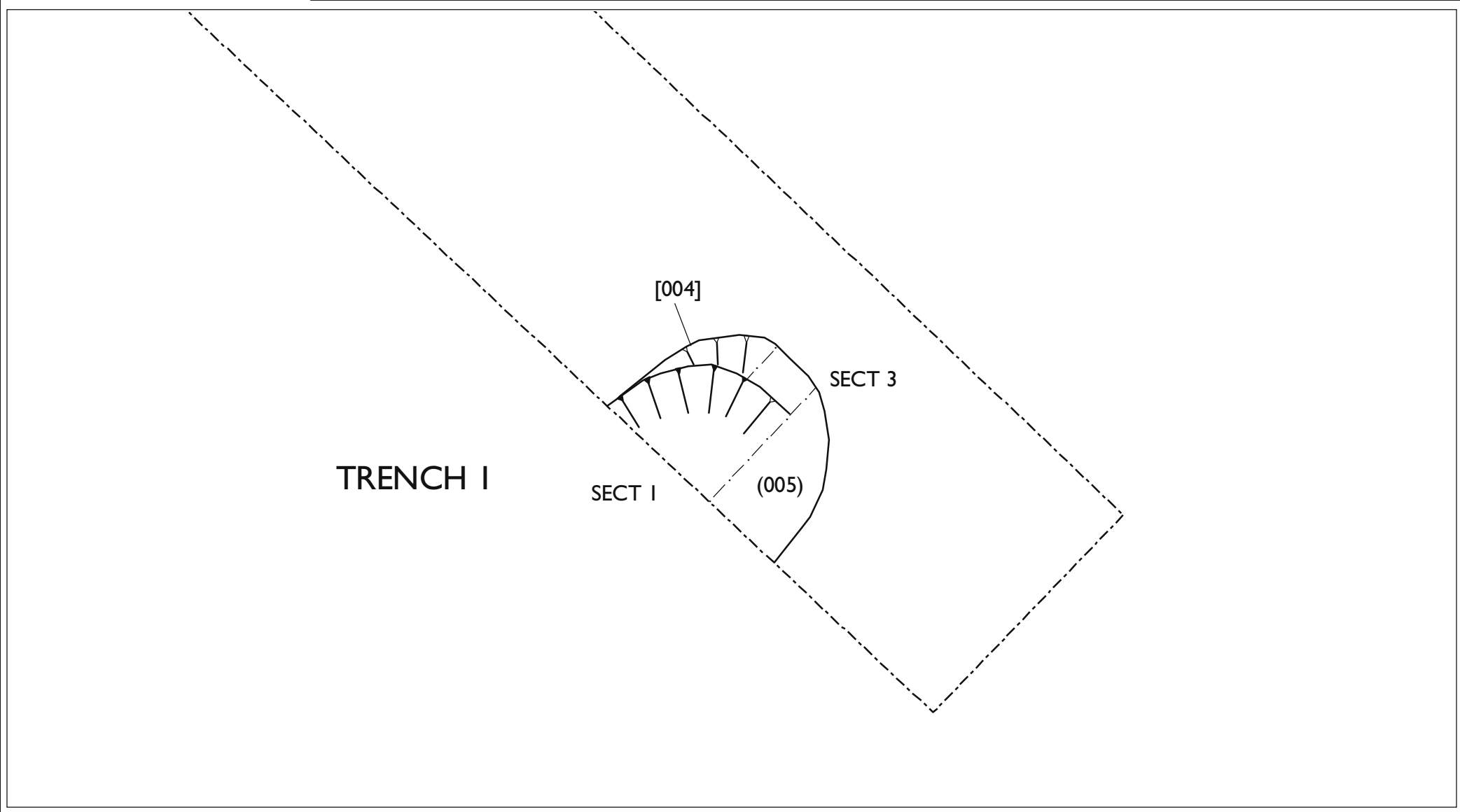
DESCRIPTION // Sections

DOC REF: LPI 182E-AER-v1

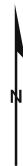
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FIGURE 5 // Plan of Feature [004]



0 2m



PROJECT // 1182E- 19 Eastgate Street

DESCRIPTION // Plan of Feature [004]

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# OASIS FORM

## APPENDIX I

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:

## England

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### Printable version

## OASIS ID: lparchae1-104745

#### Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | 19 Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds   |
| Short description of the project       | A two trench evaluation was undertaken ahead of the erection of two townhouses on land to the rear of 19 Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds. A single, heavily truncated, pit was identified below a series of built-up deposits. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 21-06-2011 End: 22-06-2011   |
| Previous/future work                   | No / Not known  |
| Any associated project reference codes | BSE 371 - HER event no.   |
| Any associated project reference codes | SE/07/1953/FUL - Planning Application No.   |
| Type of project                        | Field evaluation  |
| Site status                            | Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area  |
| Current Land use                       | Other 2 - In use as a building  |
| Monument type                          | PIT Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | CLAY PIPE Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval   |
| Methods & techniques                   | 'Sample Trenches'   |
| Development type                       | Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)   |
| Prompt                                 | Planning condition  |
| Position in the planning process       | After full determination (eg. As a condition)   |
| Project location                       |   |
| Country                                | England   |

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Site location                      | SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS BSE 371 -<br>Land to Rear of 19 Eastgate Street |
| Postcode                           | IP33 1AP   |
| Study area                         | 230.00 Square metres   |
| Site coordinates                   | TL 85870 64510 52.2468680809 0.723004987801 52 14 48 N 000 43<br>22 E Point            |
| Height OD /<br>Depth               | Min: 29.64m Max: 31.20m  |
| Project creators                   |  |
| Name of<br>Organisation            | L - P : Archaeology  |
| Project brief<br>originator        | Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory<br>body               |
| Project design<br>originator       | L - P : Archaeology  |
| Project<br>director/manager        | John Duffy   |
| Project supervisor                 | John Duffy   |
| Type of<br>sponsor/funding<br>body | Landowner  |
| Name of<br>sponsor/funding<br>body | Terry Self   |
| Project archives                   |  |
| Physical Archive<br>recipient      | Suffolk County Council   |
| Physical Archive<br>ID             | BSE 371  |
| Physical Contents                  | 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Wood'   |
| Digital Archive<br>recipient       | Suffolk County Council   |
| Digital Archive ID                 | BSE 371  |
| Digital Media<br>available         | 'GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'                     |
| Paper Archive<br>recipient         | Suffolk County Council   |
| Paper Archive ID                   | BSE 371  |
| Paper Media<br>available           | 'Context sheet','Map','Photograph','Plan','Section','Unpublished Text'                 |
| Project<br>bibliography 1          |  |
| Publication type                   | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)                                      |

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## **OASIS:**

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