

Archaeological Watching Brief Report on Land off

EASTGATE STREET BURY ST EDMUNDS

For Savills

Michael Bamforth BSc

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief Report on Land off

EASTGATE STREET BURY ST EDMUNDS

Client: Savills

Local Authority: St Edmondsbury Borough Council

NGR: TL 86148, 64513

Planning App: 06/01996/FUL

Author(s): M. Bamforth

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Abstract

This report documents the findings of a watching brief carried out during the excavation of geotechnical test pits on land off Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds.

Sixteen test pits were excavated and although a single modern rubbish pit was recorded, no archaeological remains were encountered. A full record was made of the natural deposits.

1. Introduction and Scope of Study

- 1.1. This report has been prepared by Michael Bamforth of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Savills.
- 1.2. The report considers works on land off Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds. The local authority is St Edmundsbury Borough Council who take archaeological advice from Suffolk County Council. The site is centered at National Grid Reference TL 86148, 64513 (SEE FIGURE 1).
- 1.3. In accordance with best practice and government guidance, the client requested this watching brief in order to be fully informed of any archaeological issues that may be encountered.
- 1.4. The works consisted of the excavation of 16 small geotechnical test pits.
- 1.5. All works were carried out between the 12th - 13th July 2007 and were monitored by Michael Bamforth of L – P : Archaeology.

2. Site Background

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1. The British Geological Survey Geoscience Data Index shows the site to be located on a mixture of boulder clay and moranic drift, with some glacial sand and gravel. The entire area is underlain by upper chalk..
- 2.2. The site is situated between a major road (the A14) and a housing development. The site is currently being used for arable farming.
- 2.3. The site is mostly flat, lying at around 40m AOD and sloping slightly from south to north with Shakers Lane on the eastern boundary being a slight holloway.

WORKS MONITORED

- 2.4. A total of 16 geotechnical test pits were excavated across the site, all of which were monitored. The pits measured approximately 2.10m in length by 0.75m wide.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.5. An archaeological deskbased assessment (DBA) has been produced by L – P : Archaeology for the surrounding area this should be referred to directly for any detailed information on the archaeological and historical background of the site (EVE 2005).
- 2.6. The DBA concludes that the site contains no known archaeological remains of national importance and that no Scheduled Ancient Monuments exist on or near the study site. However, the site has a favorable topographic location and so may have been attractive to settlers from the prehistoric period onwards. As the site appears to have been in use for agriculture since the medieval period, it is likely that any archaeological remains present will be well preserved.

3. Methodology

3.1. The main aims of the watching brief were:

3.1.1. To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.

3.1.2. To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.

3.1.3. To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.

3.1.4. To characterise the nature of the archaeological deposits encountered on site.

3.2. All of the pits were excavated by mechanical excavator by AF Howland Associates, under the observation of Michael Bamforth of L – P : Archaeology.

4. Results

4.1. Each of the 16 pits excavated measured approximately 2.10m x 0.75m and were between 1.80m and 3.50m deep. A plan showing the pit locations is reproduced in FIGURE 2 and sample sections in FIGURE 3.

4.2. A broadly similar sequence of natural deposits was recorded across the site. At the top of the sequence was a loose, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt topsoil (001) with occasional inclusions of angular pea gravel, flint and occasional fragments of CBM. This ploughsoil was under cultivation at the time of the investigations and had a maximum recorded thickness of 0.40m.



Plate 1 - Test pit 10, looking west

4.3. The ploughsoil covered a layer of colluvium or hillwash (002) that was thinnest in the high, south of the site (0.10m) and thickest in the low, north of the site (0.90m). This soft, mid orangey-brown, sandy silt had occasional inclusions of small to large angular and sub-rounded flint nodules.

4.4. In test pits 3, 6, 7, 10 and 12 the colluvium was underlain by a layer of loose, light yellowish-brown, fine sand with occasional inclusions of chalk and flint fragments (007) / (009). This deposit varied between 0.30m and 1.00m thick.

4.5. At the base of the sequence encountered was a firm, white chalk with occasional small to very large sub-rounded flint nodules (006). This chalk layer had a

maximum recorded thickness of 3.00m. The upper 0.50m – 1.00m of the chalk layer often had an off white, weathered appearance (003) / (008).

4.6.A modern rubbish pit was encountered in pit 16. This 0.70m deep feature [013] was filled with a black sandy silt (010), re-deposited natural chalk (011) and a mid brown silt (012). Modern rubbish including glass bottles, metal objects, pottery shards and CBM were seen throughout.



Plate 2 – General view, looking east.

5. Summary and Conclusions

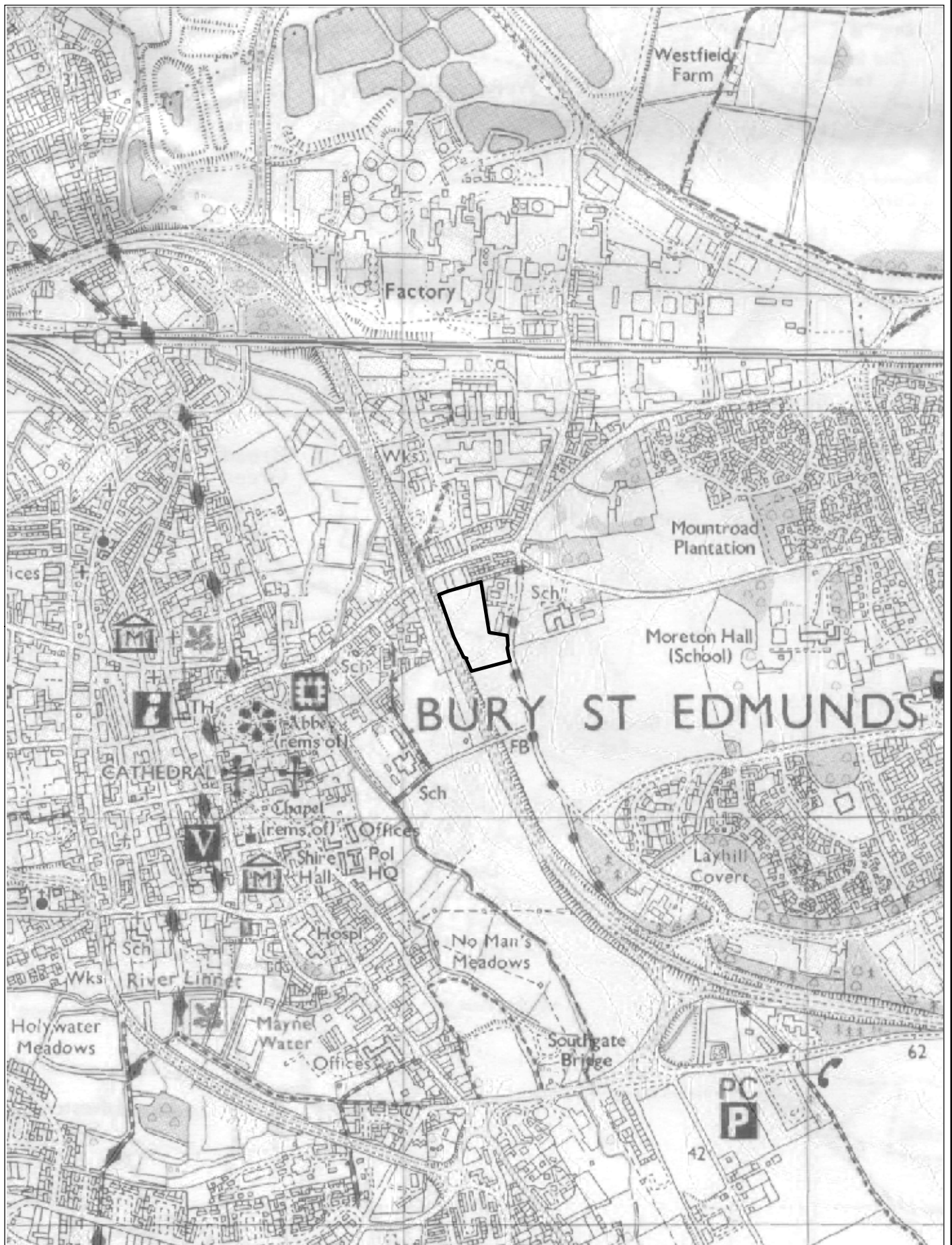
5.1.The excavation of 16 geotechnical test pits was archaeologically monitored.

5.2.A shallow modern rubbish pit was encountered in the south east of the site area.

5.3.No archaeological deposits were observed during the groundworks, but the sequence of natural deposits were observed and recorded.

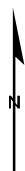
FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location



— Site

0 500 m



PROJECT // 0425E - Eastgate Street

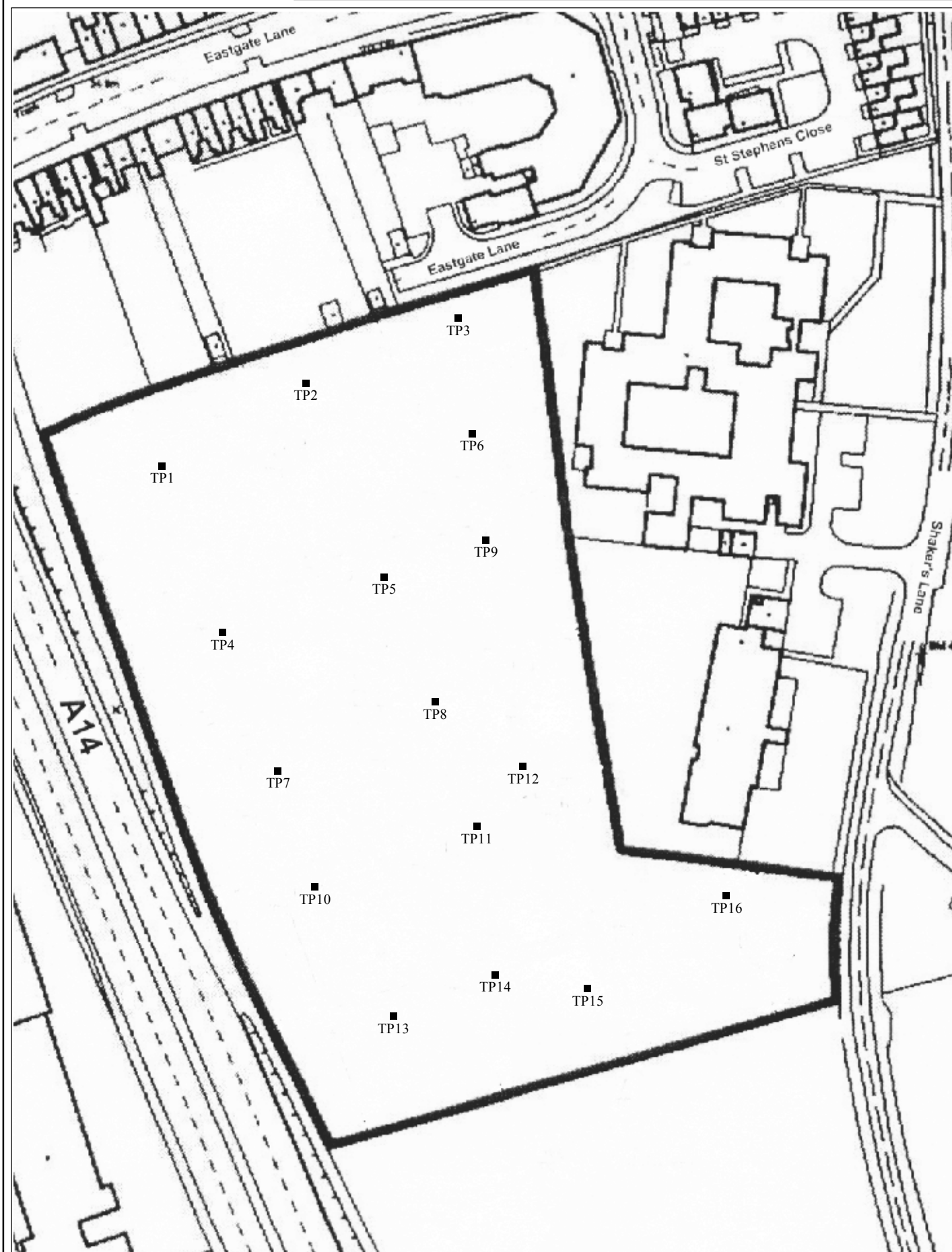
DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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FIGURE 2 // Test Pit Location



■ Geotechnical Trial Pit

— Site Area

0 50 m



PROJECT // 0425E - Eastgate Street

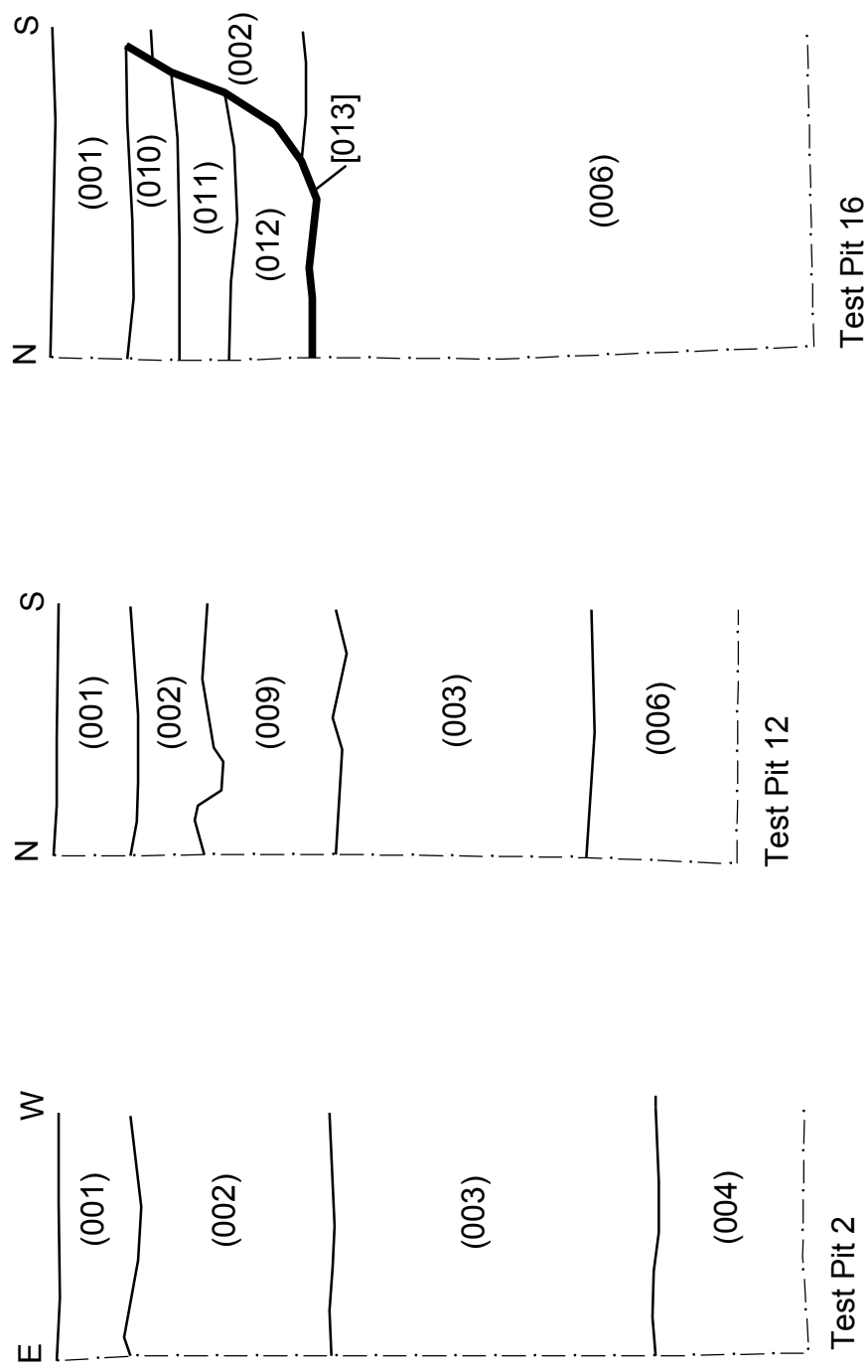
DESCRIPTION // Test Pit Location

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FIGURE 3 // Sections of Test Pits 2, 12 & 16



SOURCES CONSULTED

APPENDIX I

BIBLIOGRAPHIC

EVE S, 2005. *Desk Based assessment of Land off Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds*. L – P ; Archaeology, Unpublished Archive Report.

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APPENDIX 2

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OASIS ID: lparchae1-28911

Project details

Project name	Geotechnical Monitoring of Land at Eastgate Street, Bury St. Edmunds
Short description of the project	This report documents the findings of a watching brief carried out during the excavation of geotechnical test pits on land off Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds. Sixteen test pits were excavated and although a single modern rubbish pit was recorded, no archaeological remains were encountered. A full record was made of the natural deposits.
Project dates	Start: 12-07-2007 End: 13-07-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LP0425E - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS Vinefields
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 86148 64513 52.2468006646 0.727074363520 52 14 48 N 000 43 37 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Self (i.e. landowner, developer, etc.)
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Stuart Eve
Project supervisor	Michael Bamforth

Project bibliography

1

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