

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**19 BOLTON STREET, LAVENHAM,**

**SUDBURY, SUFFOLK CO10 9RG**

**NGR TM9181849382**

*On behalf of  
Ms S Lane & Mr R Notley*

**MARCH 2017**

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## ***SUMMARY***

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief project at 19 Bolton Street, Lavenham, Suffolk (NGR TM9181849382 centred). Ground reduction and excavation for ten foundation pads were devoid of any archaeological features and finds.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The development site was located at 19 Bolton Street on the east side of Lavenham NGR TM9181849382) at c. 50m AOD. The geology is fluvio-glacial gravel and silt deposits, overlying chalky till from the Anglian glaciation.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Babergh District Council granted planning permission for new dwelling (B/15/00888). Due to the potential for the work to disturb archaeological deposits a condition was attached to the permission. The Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS) advised on the need and reason for continuous archaeological recording during groundworks associated with the development.



Plate 1: SW facing view of the site.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The proposed development lay within the area of archaeological interest defined for the medieval town of Lavenham in the County Historic Environment Record. The first edition 1885 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map shows the area of development in the grounds of a building.

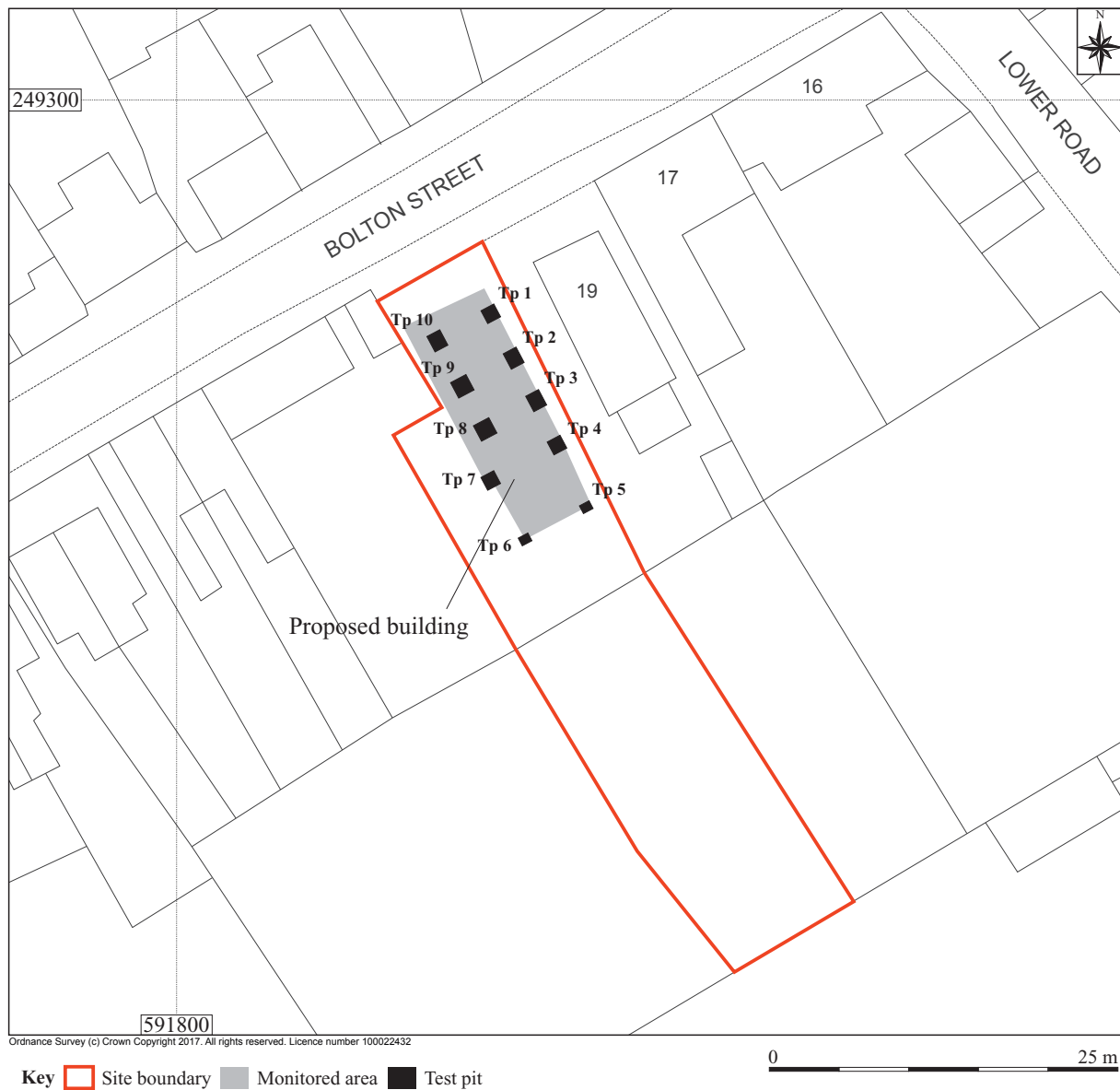
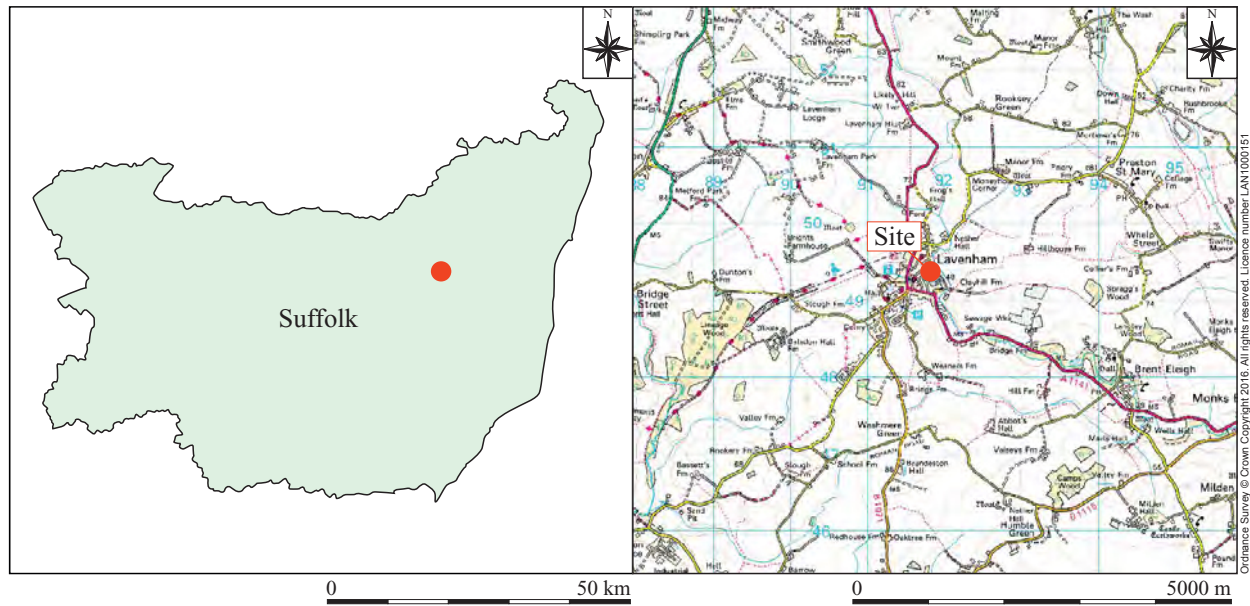


Figure 1: Site location

Similar archaeological work at 11 Bolton Street in 2012 only found unstratified worked flints perhaps of later prehistoric date.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To make a record of any significant archaeological remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains

In particular:

- To record any evidence on this site associated with the history of Lavenham particularly in the medieval and early post-medieval periods

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS), the archaeological advisors to the Babergh District Council.

### **3.2 Methodology**

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

The investigation involved ground reduction of topsoil and a hard standing surface, and the excavation for 10 foundation pads (See figs 1 and 2). This consisted of individual pits excavated to the foundation depth of the raised single dwelling. New services were connected to immediately adjacent existing services. An Archaeological Project Officer monitored this work to establish the presence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie any such remains.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to the history of Lavenham particularly in the medieval and early post-medieval periods.



Plate 2: NWN facing view of marked out pad locations.

#### 4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts, numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold indicate structural features.

The measurements of the pads were as follows:

- Pad 1: 1 x 1m and >0.80m deep.
- Pad 2: 1m wide, 1.20m long 1m and >0.80m deep.
- Pad 3: 1m wide, 1.20m long 1m and 1.20m deep.
- Pad 4: 1 x 1m and 1.40m deep.
- Pad 5: 0.60m wide, 7.50m long and 1.10m deep.
- Pad 6: 0.60m wide, 7.50m long and 1.29m deep.
- Pad 7: 1.20 x 1.20m and 1.25m deep.
- Pad 8: 1.20 x 1.20m and >0.80m deep.
- Pad 9: 1 x 1.20m and >0.80m deep.
- Pad 10: 1 x 1.20m and >0.80m deep.

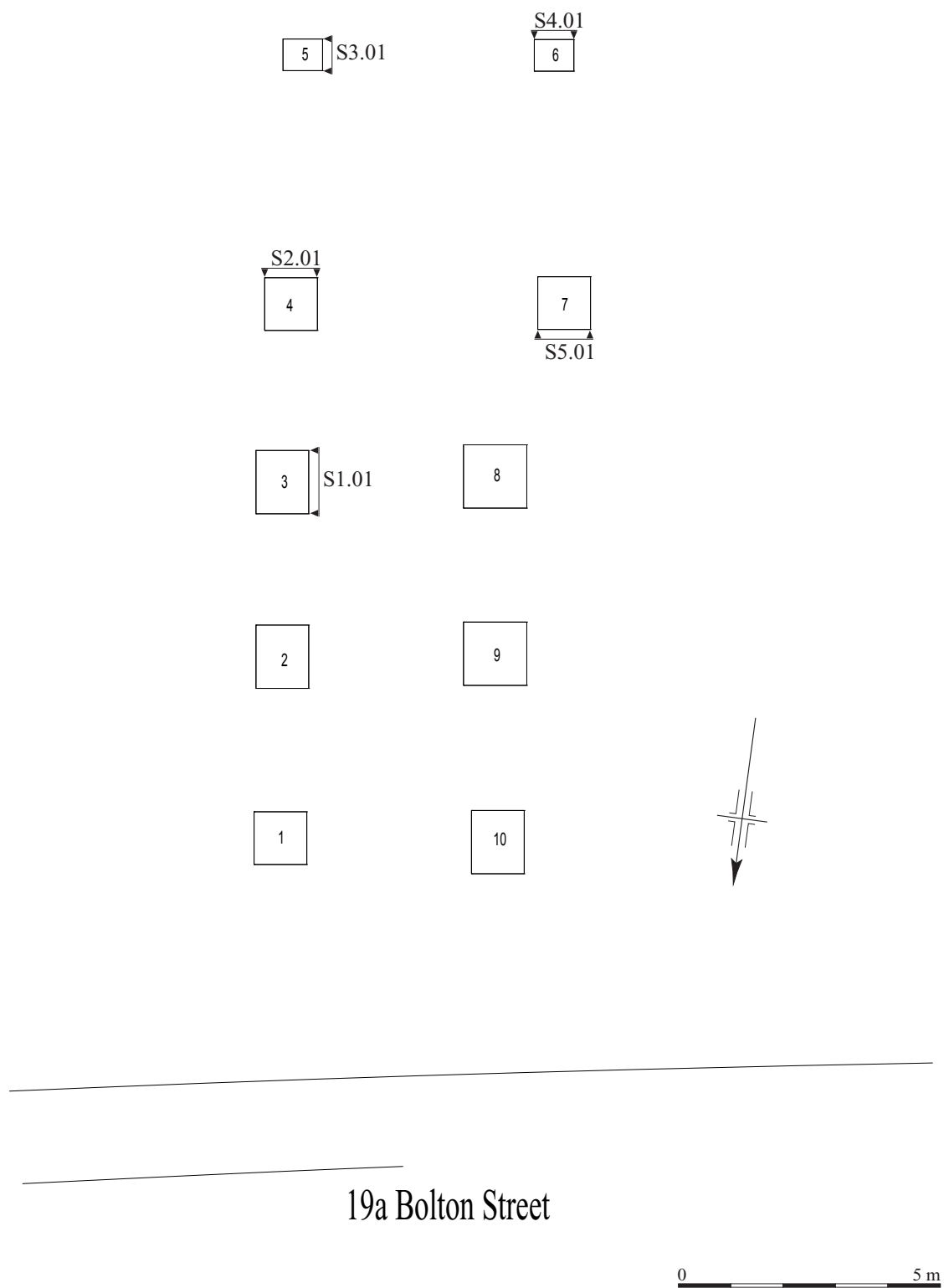


Figure 2: Plan of pad pits



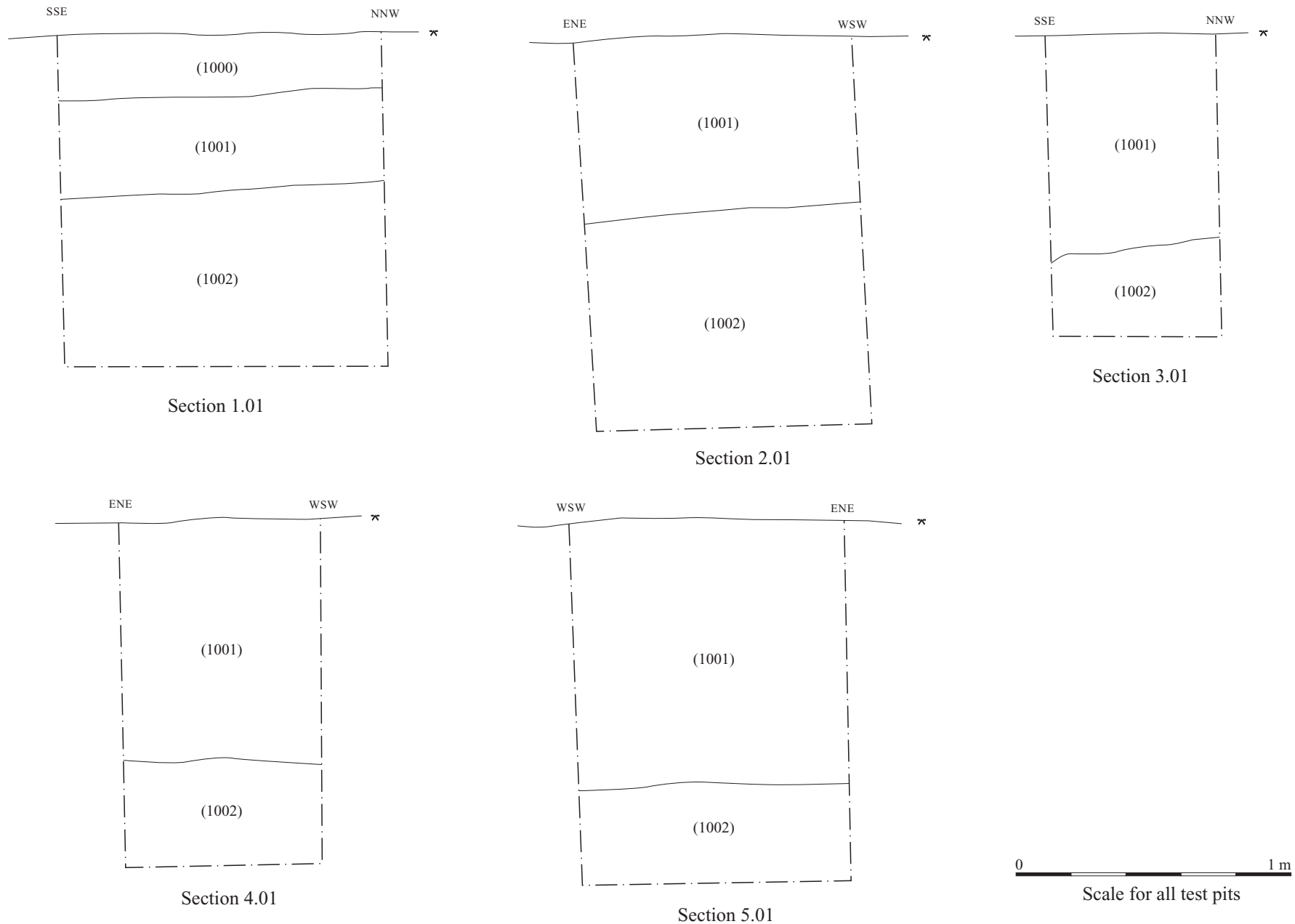


Figure 3: Section of the various pad pits



Plate 3. SWS facing view of pad 3.

Stratigraphical analysis of the features has indicated two distinguishable phases of activity:

- Phase 0: Geology
- Phase 1: Modern

The natural geology (1002) remained consistent throughout the site and comprised an alluvial light brown/red silty and sandy gravel. The natural was sealed by a modern made ground (1001) with a maximum thickness of 0.98m across the site. This was likely derived the construction of the former 1950s building on the site. In pad 3 the made ground was in turn sealed by demolition layer (1000) with a depth of 0.21m. This demolition layer formed part of the present construction.

## **5 FINDS**

No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

All pads were devoid of any archaeological features.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

### **Archive Contents**

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Stores with the accession number LVM 118

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*