

Site Name: 8-10 Arcade Street

Formatted: Footer distance from edge: 0.89 cm

Site ref: IAS 1804 HER ref: IPS 196 CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.45
 NGR: TM16164460 Extent: 58 sq m

Circumstances of the Excavation

Redevelopment for a new Crown Court at 8-10 Arcade Street and to the rear of 8 Lion Street led to a small excavation in 1979.

Site Constraints

The developers would only permit excavation outside the development footprint, in an open area to the east, and immediately behind 8 Lion Street. The trench was c. 7m wide at the north, reducing to c.3m at the south. 1.7m of overburden was removed by machine at the southern end of the site, where pitting was dense, creating safety issues for the hand excavation. As a result not all features were fully excavated and the extent of some remains open to interpretation. During the post excavation analysis, some sections could not be reconciled with the plans and some features appear not to have been planned. This affects a few later features only and did not compromise the record of earlier features or the flotation columns taken through pits 0012 and 0040.

Funding bodies

English Heritage.

Stratigraphic Sequence (by period)

Middle Saxon: c.700-850 (MS)

No features of this period were found but 62 sherds of Ipswich ware were found in later features plus a *sceatta* (0001/1804N) lost c 760 found in EMED pit 0012.

Early Late Saxon: c. 850-900 (ELS)

Four pits (0013, 0023, 0044, 0056) and traces of a post and slot building (0058) belonged to this period. Pit 0056 was cut by MLS pits 0040 and 0014, 0044 was cut by MLS pit 0045 and Pit 0013 cut the filling of pit 0023.

Context	Date	Dimensions	Description
Building 0058	ELS		Two parallel slots (0018/0051 and 0031/0054), and postholes: 0050, 0052, 0055. Slot 0018/0051 was cut by MLS pits 0040 and 0045.

Middle Late Saxon: c.900-1000 (MLS)

Five pits (0006, 0014, 0040, 0042, 0045) and a line of post (0059) belonged to this period. Pit 0014 was cut by 0040, whilst pit 0045 cuts 0044 (ELS) and was cut by pit 0006. Pit 0042 was cut by EMED pit 0038. The post line 0059 was associated with one St Neot's Ware sherd only.

Early Medieval: c.1000-1200 (EMED)

Three large pits (0012, 0038, 0048) and the remnant of three further smaller features (0010 which was not planned, 0019, 0053) belong to this period. Pit 0038 cut pit 0012. Four areas of burnt residues (0026, 0029, 0032, 0033) either indicate hearths or a wider layer of burnt material which has subsided locally into the top fills of earlier pits. 0026 is associated with EMED pottery. 0029 lies above MLS pit 0014. 0032 and 0033 lie above EMED pits 0012 and 0038. 0029, 0032 and 0033 appear to be cut by LMED pits.

Pit 0005, although EMED on ceramic evidence appears to contain flint rubble and pin tile and must be later.

Late Medieval: c.1200-1450 (LMED)

Two pits (0002, 0008) and a ditch (0004) running east to west, at the south end of the site, belong to this period. .

Late Medieval Transitional: c.1450-1600 (LMT)

Remnants of a flint and mortar wall (0057) and three parallel wall footings (0007, 0025, 0049) belong to this period, the latter with residual traces of a flint and mortar wall. Pit 0005 could belong to this period.

Research Potential

Large quantities of slag were found in MLS pits 0006 and 0040 and EMED pit 0012 which merit assessment.

Keith Wade 2013