

Site name: St. George's Street

Site ref: IAS 9802 HER ref: IPS 165 CIMS Accession No: IPSMG:R.2009.61

NGR: TM16034485 Extent: 120 sq m

Circumstances of excavation

Planning permission (I/0/63/81) was granted for an office development on two areas of surface car parking on the east side of St George's Street, to the north and south of the ex-Globe public house, for General Accident Assurance Company Ltd. Only the northern development area has been mapped here.

Site Constraints

Funding was only available for sample excavation of this large site and the area excavated lay on the northern part of the site, c.7 metres back from the pavement edge, to avoid any Victorian basements fronting the street. The post excavation analysis was hampered by the lack of pottery in many of the contexts.

Funding bodies

The excavation in 1983 was carried out by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit and funded by the Department of the Environment (Ancient Monuments Branch), Manpower Services Commission (Youth Opportunities Programme) and Suffolk County Council.

Stratigraphic sequence (by period)

1.15m of overburden was stripped by machine and features, cutting the surface of the natural, excavated by hand.

Middle Saxon: c. 700-850 (MS)

A depression (0041), c.20cm deep, with a deeper post-hole like depression at its western end, probably belongs to this period. It was cut by EMED pit 0042 and was dated by one sherd of Ipswich ware.

Only 32 sherds of Ipswich ware were recovered from the whole site indicating that it was peripheral to the MS settlement.

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

Four pits belonging to this period (0002, 0003, 0005, 0031) lay in the north-east corner of the site. Pit 0002 cut pit 0003 and both were only 10cm deep. Pits 0005 and 0031 were only partially excavated as they extended outside the excavated area. Pit 0002, with only one sherd of Thetford ware and pit 0005 with only two, could be later.

Three post holes (0022, 0026, 0036) could belong to this period but they contained only single sherds of Thetford ware. Posthole 0026 is more likely to be EMED by association with postholes 0018 and 0027.

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

One pit (0011), over 1.7m long, 90cm wide and 45cm deep belonged to this period. Tile recorded from this feature has not been identified but is likely to be either contamination from PMED feature 0008, which cuts it, or is residual RB.

Early Medieval: c.1000-1200 (EMED)

Five pits (0009, 0010, 0016, 0017, 0042), a ditch (0037), a foundation trench (0019) and three post holes (0018, 0027, 0028) belonged to this period.

Ditch 0037, 70-90cm wide and 30cm deep, ran for c.4m along the south side of the excavation. Any continuation eastwards was obscured by LMT pit 0021 which cut it. The ditch was at right angles to St George's Street and was presumably a tenement boundary.

The foundation trench 0019, 22cm wide and 16cm deep, ran roughly east-west for 4.4m. Its west end appears to be cut by EMED pit 0016 and the east end ran outside of the excavated area. Four bulges at intervals along its northern edge suggest postholes.

Pit 0009, 2.3m in diameter and 1.1m deep, cut pit 0010, and had one sherd of late 12th century coarse ware.

Pit 0010 was 20cm deep with a base sloping from east to west.

Pit 0017 which was square, c.2m across and 1.9m deep, cut pit 0016. The pottery associated included one London glazed ware sherd indicating a later 12th century date.

Pit 0016 was 3m long, 2m wide and 40cm deep. Pit 0042 was c.2.2m square and 90cm deep.

Post holes 0018, 0027 and 0028 lay in a north-south line which could represent a boundary also including posthole 0026, between 0018 and 0027, and a post hole in the line of undated slot 0004, to the north. This possible post line was at right angles to ditch 0037, and the line of undated posts (0039, 0038, 0043) which lay against the south side of the ditch.

Late Medieval: c.1200-1450 (LMED)

There were no contexts belonging to this period and similar abandonment of this area was found in excavations across the road (Everett and Gardner 2011).

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

One pit (0021), c.4m long, over 2m wide and 30cm deep, with a clay lining, belonged to this period. It cut pit EMED ditch 0037 and its south side lay outside of the excavation.

Post Medieval: c.1600-1900 (PMED)

A brick structure (0008), of probable 19th century date, cut the tops of pits 0009 and 0011, and a soak-away (0033) belonged to this period.

Undated

Four pits (0015, 0032, 0045, 0046), two possible foundation trenches (0004, 0029), one hearth (0047) and ten postholes were undated.

Pit 0032, 20cm deep, appeared to cut ELS pit 0031, and pit 0015 cut pit 0046 which cut MLS pit 0011. Pits 0015, 0032, and 0046 were only partially excavated as their north edges lay outside of the excavation.

Foundation trench 0004 was 2m long and had evidence of two post impression on its base. Trench 0029 was 1m long and extremely shallow.

Hearth 0047 was cut by EMED posthole 0018.

Seven of the postholes were scattered (0006, 0014, 0024, 0025, 0030, 0034, 0035) and three (0039, 0038, 0043) were in a line against the south side of ditch 0037.

Research potential

The research potential of this site is very low but should be considered alongside the larger site excavated in 2007-08 (Everett and Gardner 2011), as the primary evidence for the extra-mural occupation in St George's parish.

References

Everett, L, and Gardner, R., 2011 *NCP Car Park, St George's Street, Ipswich, IPS 502/IAS7017: Post Excavation Assessment Report* (SCCAS Report No. 2010/095).

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