

**The Great White Horse Hotel,
Tavern Street, Ipswich
IPS 637 (IAS 1303)**

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/176

Client: Citygate Developments Great White Horse Ltd

Author: Jezz Meredith

October 2011

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Project Officer: Jezz Meredith

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Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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Date: October 2011

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Date: 24th October 2011

Signed:

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Summary

As part of the refurbishment of the Great White Horse Hotel, three small foundation pits were dug and these were monitored archaeologically. The foundation pits revealed mixed deposits of probable 17th-century date as attested by the clay tobacco pipe assemblage recovered. The original version of the hotel (the 'Tavern' of Tavern Street) dated to the early 16th century, so these deposits probable represent make-up layers or dumping behind the original tavern. The site is within the Anglo-Saxon and medieval core of Ipswich but deposits and finds of these periods were not detected. As none of the pits were over 1m in depth it is probable that the earlier deposits were deeper still.

1. Introduction

The Great White Horse Hotel is positioned within the centre of Ipswich on the corner of Tavern Street and Northgate Street (Fig. 1). Internal modifications resulted in the need for three foundation pits to be monitored archaeologically (Fig. 2).

Planning permission was sought to refurbish and to make internal alterations to the hotel, transforming it into a retail outlet. This work included some minor ground disturbances for the construction of a new lift and the relocation of an internal cast iron column. Such interventions below ground level required archaeological monitoring as specified in a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade of SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The Great White Horse Hotel is situated within the Anglo-Saxon and medieval core of the town (Suffolk Historic Environmental Record reference IPS 413) and indeed Middle Saxon pottery has been found during a previous monitoring visit to the site (site reference IPS 300). Any ground interventions could therefore expose early archaeological deposits.

The hotel has a rich documented history dating from the early 1500s. This was indeed the original 'Tavern' that gave Tavern Street its name. The hotel depicted in Charles Dickens' *The Pickwick Papers*, with its meandering corridors and stairs, was supposedly based on the Great White Horse Hotel. Therefore post-medieval to early modern deposits would probably be encountered below ground level.

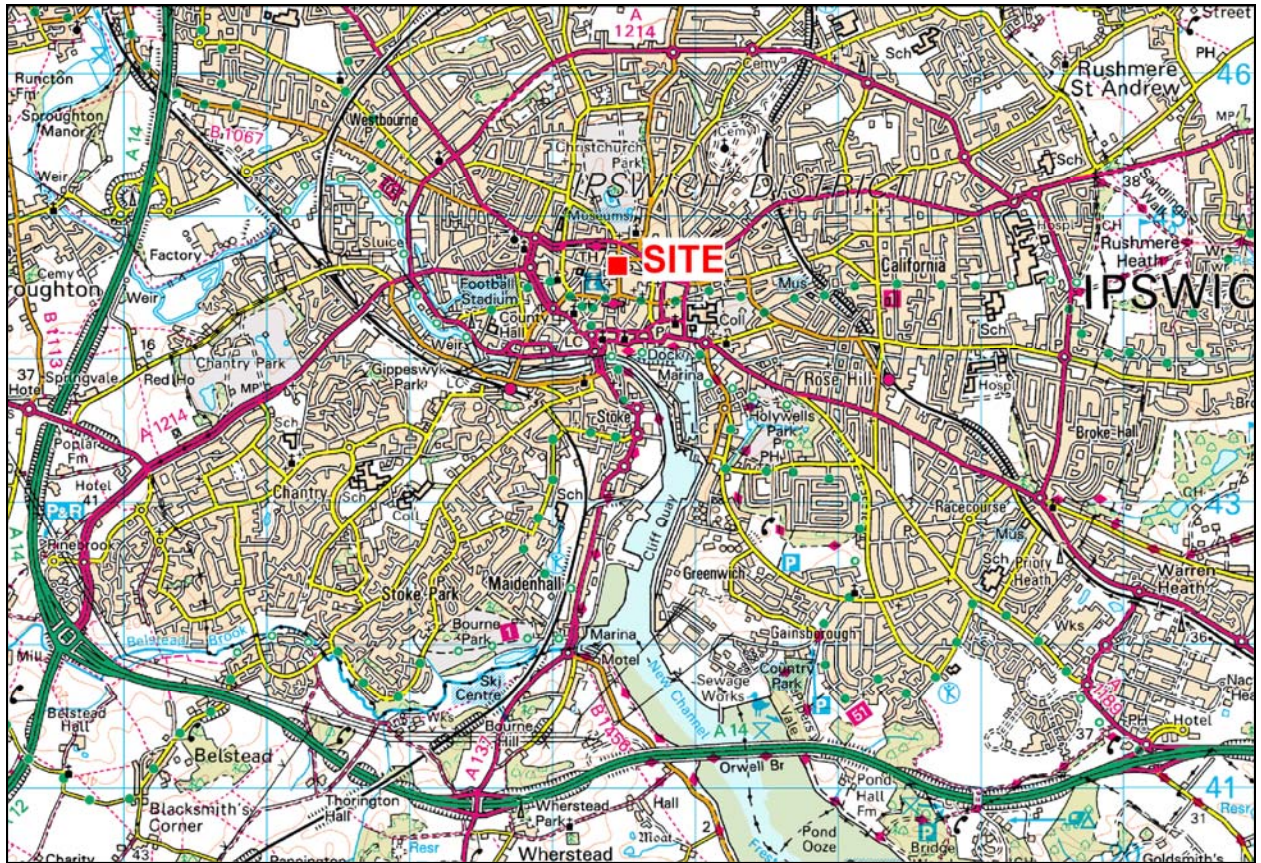


Figure 1. Location of the Great White Horse Hotel in Ipswich

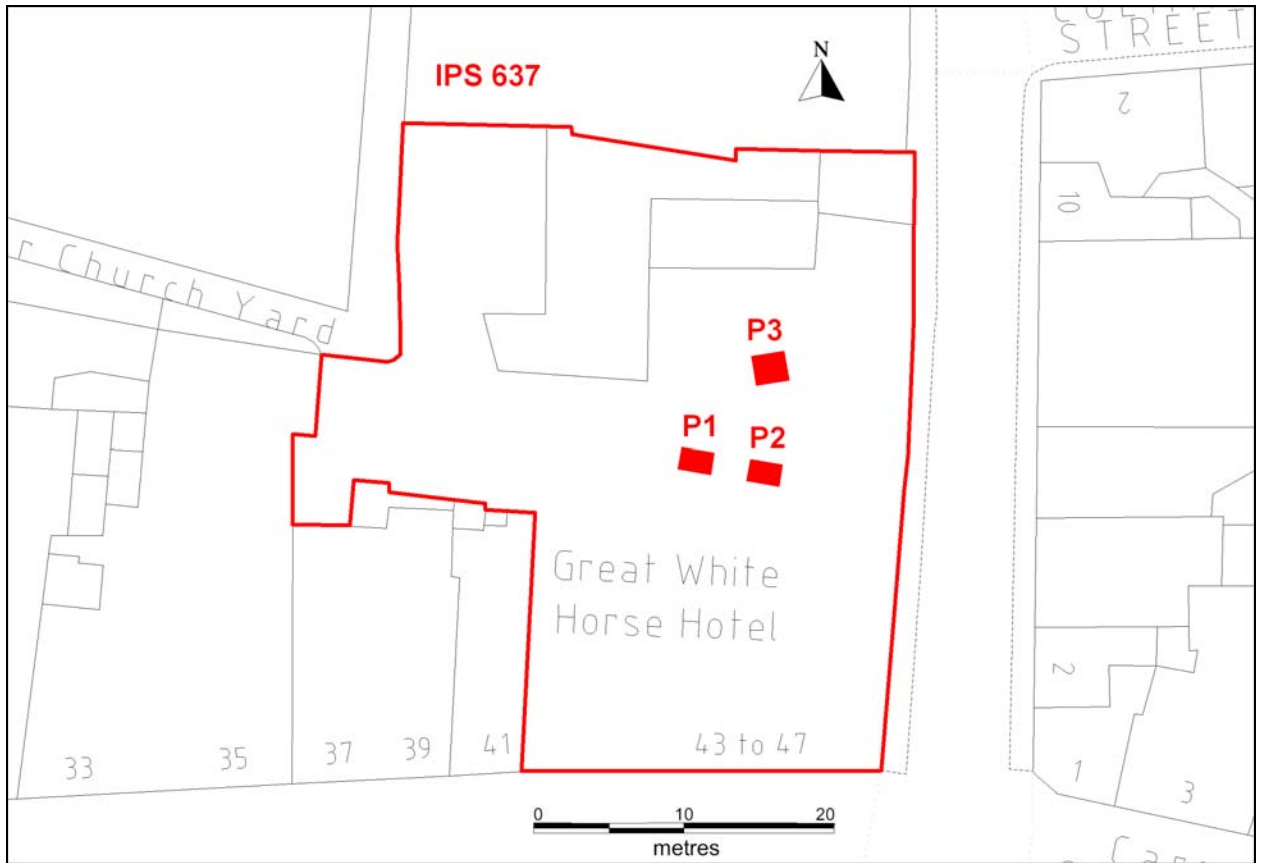


Figure 2. Plan of approximate locations of excavated pits (P1-3)

2. Methodology

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring issued by Keith Wade (Appendix 1). The proposed refurbishment of the building included the digging of three foundation pits (Pits 1-3), two for the support posts for a new platform lift and a further foundation pad to support a cast iron column that needed to be relocated (Fig. 2).

Monitoring visits were made on the 13th and 18th of January and on the 2nd of February 2011 to observe the foundation pits after excavation. Work had to be carried out under artificial light which made the recognition of different deposits difficult.

During the visits the pit edges and base were examined for potential archaeological deposits, features and finds. Records were made of depths of deposit, with each separate deposit given individual context numbers (within the range 0001 to 0010). A digital photographic record was made using flash, consisting of high-resolution .jpg images.

In all three cases the spoil from the excavated pits had already been removed from the site before it could be examined. The contractors had, however, retrieved finds from two of the pits during hand excavation. The finds were bagged, clearly labelled with their context number and were examined by the SCCAS Finds Team in Bury St Edmunds.

All elements of the archive have been labelled with the unique Suffolk Historic Environment Record code IPS 637. The site has also been given an Ipswich Archaeological Survey reference of IAS 1303. A digital record and copy of this report is held with the Archaeology Data Service, using the OASIS reference suffolkc1-112460.

3. Results

The three excavated pits (Pits 1-3) will be discussed in turn. See Figure 2 for their locations.

3.1 Pit 1

This was the most westerly of the three pits observed and was dug for the post to support the lift platform (on site this was recorded as the 'west lift pit'). It had been excavated along the northern edge of an internal east to west wall. The pit was rectangular in plan, being c. 1m east to west and 0.8m north to south, and was 1m at its deepest point. Three separate deposits were encountered: 0002, 0003 and 0004.

At the top of the sequence was 0002, a concrete slab laid on hardcore that was c. 0.3m deep.

Under this was deposit 0003, which was a mixed dark brown silty loam deposit with frequent brick/tile crumbs and plaster fragments. This was excavated to a total depth of c. 0.7m below the top of the slab.

A narrow section of c. 1m depth from the top was dug down against the internal wall. The deposit encountered (0004) appeared to be full of hardcore and was therefore likely to be part of the footing for the internal brick wall.

All spoil had been removed from site and no finds were recovered.

3.2 Pit 2

Pit 2 was c. 2m to the east of Pit 1 and was referred to on site as the 'east lift pit'. This had also been excavated along the north edge of the internal east to west brick wall. This pit was c. 1.3m long (east to west) by 0.6m wide (north to south) and was 0.9m in depth. It contained two deposits: 0005 and 0006.

The concrete slab and hardcore base was given the context number 0005 and this was of 0.3m thickness.

Under this and to the base of the pit was a mixed dark brown loam (0006) with frequent fragments of brick/tile, particularly towards the base. This layer contained some clay and mortar lenses and possible spreads, but nothing that looked particularly. The contractors had collected a number of finds (clay tobacco pipes and a pottery sherd) during the excavation of deposit 0006 and these were retained for analysis.

3.3 Pit 3

This pit was located to the north of Pit 2 and was dug for the foundations of a structural pillar to support the ceiling. It was square in plan with sides of c.1.2m and had a depth of 0.6m. Contexts 0007 to 0010 were encountered in this pit.

The concrete slab was only of c.0.1m depth here and was given the number 0007.

Under this and to the base of the pit was deposit 0008. This was very mixed brown and orange brown sandy silt with frequent brick/tile, mortar and charcoal fragments. Large flint cobbles were encountered running east to west along the north side of the pit but no bonding or other evidence for purposeful structure was noted. Clay tobacco pipes and an animal bone were collected by the contractors from this deposit.

A segment of bonded red brick masonry was seen in the north-west corner of the pit (context 0010) and another section of brickwork was observed along the eastern edge of the pit (context 0009). Both were near the top of the sequence and are likely to be the base of footings, probably of fairly recent date.

4. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

4.1 Introduction

A total of fifty-nine finds with a weight of 336g was recovered by contractors from two contexts in separate test holes as displayed in Table 1.

Context	Pottery		Clay pipe		Animal bone		Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	
0006	1	14	42	223			Mid 16th- 17th C Mid-late 17th C
0008			15	95	1	4	
Total	1	14	57	318	1	4	

Table 1. Finds quantities

4.2 The Pottery

Post-medieval

A single body sherd of Frechen stoneware (GSW 4) was noted in fill 0006 (14g). The sherd is only slightly abraded and is dated from the 16th to 17th century.

4.3 Clay tobacco pipe

A total of fifty-seven fragments of clay tobacco pipe was recorded in contexts 0006 and 0008 (318g). The assemblage only displays slight abrasion and is principally made up of pipe stem pieces of varying sizes. However a number of complete/semi complete bowls are present in both contexts which could be assigned broad date ranges.

Context 0006, contains eleven bowls all of which display a line of rouletting below the rim. These are all comparable to Oswald types three and five (1975, 39; Fig 3, g) and as a whole are dated from 1580 to 1640. The Frechen stoneware sherd in the same fill is dated from the 16th to 17th century.

Three of the clay pipe bowls from context 0008 date to the second half of the 17th century (Oswald 1975, Fig 3, G No 6). The fourth bowl is taller and less bulbous and slightly later in date (c late 17th to early 18th century). The spur of this shows part of a

maker's mark in relief but this is indecipherable. A small fragment of animal bone was the only other find to be recorded in this context.

4.4 Faunal Remains

Animal bone

One piece of animal bone was retrieved from context 0008 (4g). It is a rib bone fragment from a large mammal.

4.5 Discussion of material evidence

This is a small finds assemblage dominated by clay tobacco pipe fragments, which along with the pottery are dated to the 17th century. It is interesting to note that the original version of the Great White Horse was constructed as a tavern in the early 16th century and the presence of clay tobacco pipes is therefore not unexpected.

5. Conclusions

Three small contractor excavated pits revealed no significant early structural remains (stone walls, floors etc) or evidence for Anglo-Saxon or medieval occupation. It is likely that the pits were not deep enough to encounter deposits of these periods.

Artefacts recovered by the contractors during the excavation of the pits included a moderate assemblage of clay tobacco pipes dating to the 17th century. The original tavern that stood on this site was founded in the early 16th century. The 17th century deposits probable represent make-up layers or dumping behind the original tavern.

6. Archive deposition

The archive is lodged with the SCCAS at its Ipswich office under the HER reference IPS 637 (IAS 1303). Digital photographs have been given the codes HLE 65-69. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-112460.

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Current Recording Projects\Ipswich\IPS 637 Gt White Horse mon.

7. Acknowledgements

Keith Wade produced the Brief and Specification. The project was managed by Dr Rhodri Gardner. The monitoring visits were carried out by Jez Meredith. Kieron Heard read the original draft of this report. Sam of Elliston Steady & Hawes (Building) Ltd provided access and assistance during the monitoring of the excavated pits.

8. Bibliography

Oswald, A., 1975, *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*, British Archaeological Report No 14

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

The Great White Horse Hotel, 45 Tavern Street, Ipswich

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for internal alterations to The Great White Horse Hotel, 45 Tavern Street, Ipswich has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (IP/10/00099). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of Archaeological Importance defined for Anglo-Saxon and medieval Ipswich in the *Ipswich Local Plan*.
- 1.3 Ground disturbance will consist of new pad foundations to support relocated cast iron columns and there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavations by the building contractor.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the Anglo-Saxon and later occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation for pad foundations. These, and the up-cast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.

- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be fully excavated and planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P L and Wiltshire, P E J, 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.8 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the

Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 27th July 2010

Reference: Great White Horse

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

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