

# Gippeswyk Hall, Ipswich IPS 703

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2012/171**

**Client: Red Rose Chain Theatre Group**

Author: Simon Picard

November 2012

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# Gippeswyk Hall, Ipswich IPS 703

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2012/171

Author: Simon Picard

Contributions By: n/a

Illustrator: Simon Picard

Editor: Jezz Meredith

Report Date: November 2012



## HER Information

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**Site Code:** IPS 703  
**Site Name:** Gippeswyk Hall, Ipswich  
**Report Number** 2012/171  
**Planning Application No:** IP/11/00675/FUL  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 17th October, 2012  
**Grid Reference:** TL 1523 4373  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-136917  
**Curatorial Officer:** Jess Tipper  
**Project Officer:** Simon Picard  
**Client/Funding Body:** Red Rose Chain Theatre Group  
**Client Reference:** n/a

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

### 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.

Prepared By: Simon Picard

Date: 6th November 2012

Approved By: \*\*\*\*\*

Position: \*\*\*\*\*

Date: \*\*\*\*\*

Signed: \*\*\*\*\*



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## Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at the rear of Gippeswyk Hall, Gippeswyk Avenue in Ipswich on the 17th October 2012, prior to the proposed development of a studio theatre extension for Red Rose Chain Theatre Group. A single trench was excavated in which no archaeological features were found. In addition no artefacts were recovered and no environmental samples were taken.



## **1. Introduction**

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An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of Gippeswyk Hall, Gippeswyk Avenue in Ipswich (Fig. 1) by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team. This work was in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Rhodri Gardner of the Suffolk County Council Field Team (Appendix 1), and was carried out in order to determine what levels of archaeological evidence may be present within the development area and to inform any mitigation strategies that may then be deemed necessary.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site is located within the rear garden of Gippeswyk Hall on a gradually sloping north facing valley side with the garden itself appearing to have been terraced. The geology of the area consists of Thames group silty clay with overlying river terrace deposit of sand and gravel (BGS 2012). On site the geology presented itself as mid brownish orange clayey sand with patches of mid grey clay.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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Gippeswyk Hall (IPS 679) dates from the early seventeenth century with the core of the house having been built around 1600 to 1630 with later additions being made in the nineteenth century to the south and west of the original building and a further extension onto the back of the building to the west being constructed in the twentieth century. First edition OS map of 1884 shows the development area to be within the garden of the Hall. Gippeswyk Hall is roughly a kilometre to the west of the medieval town of Ipswich (IPS 413). Within 50 metres to the west of the site (Fig.1) is an area of Roman occupation (IPS 052) whilst further away, 200m to the southeast, is an area of both Saxon and prehistoric occupation (IPS 057). An area of Iron Age occupation (IPS 083) has been recorded 500 metres to the south west.

## **4. Methodology**

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A single trench measuring 20 metres was excavated by a 3 tonne 360° mechanical digger equipped with a 1.5 metre wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was observed by an archaeologist and the upcast soil was examined visually for archaeological finds. The position of the trench was located using tape measures from

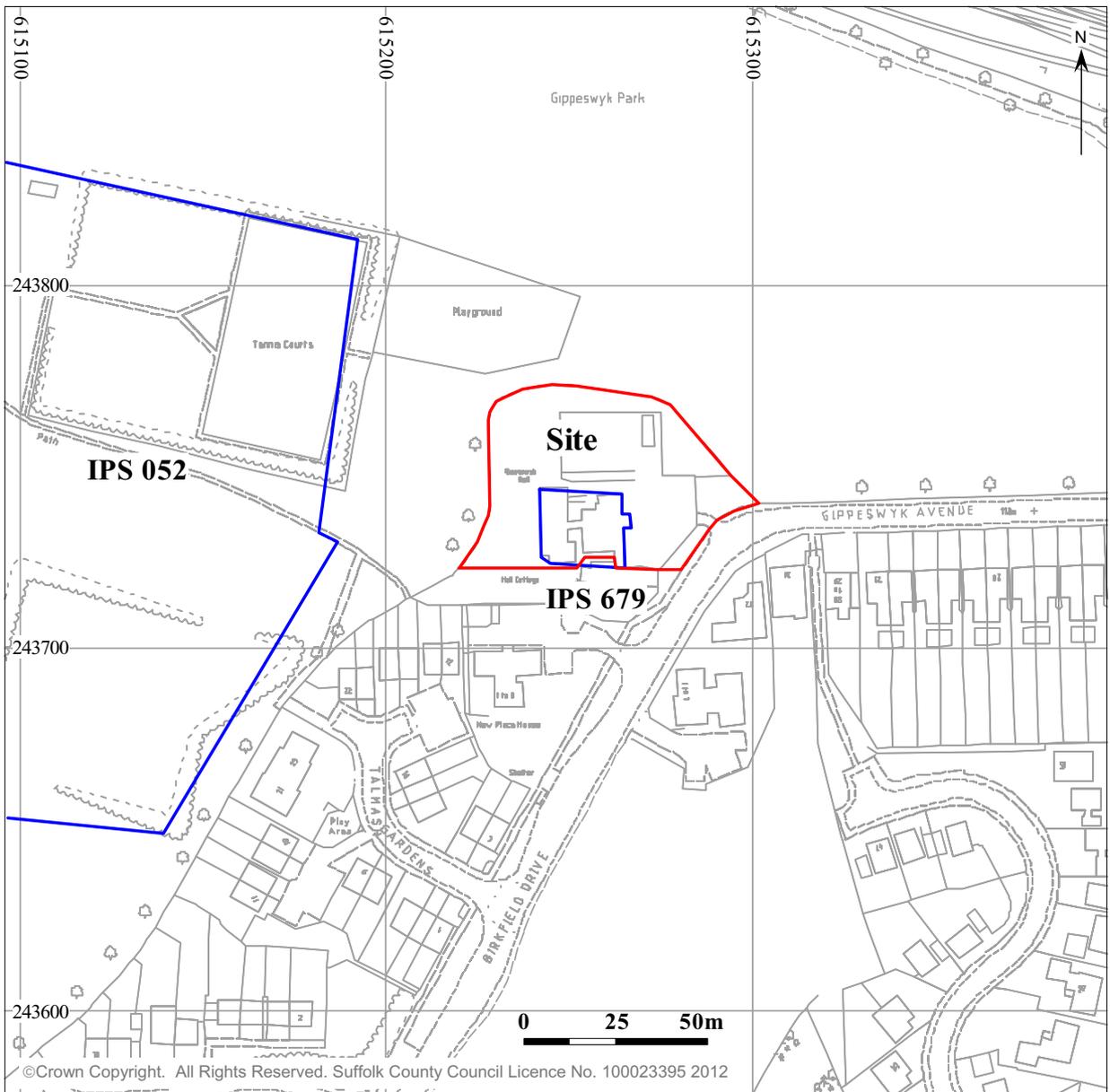
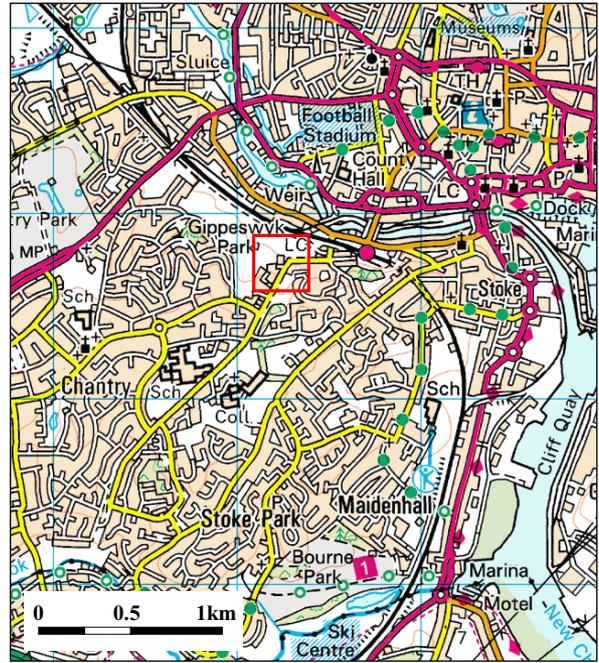


Figure 1. Location map

known points on buildings (Fig. 2) and the trench was planned at a scale of 1:50 (Fig. 3) while two specimen sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 (Fig. 4). A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital camera.

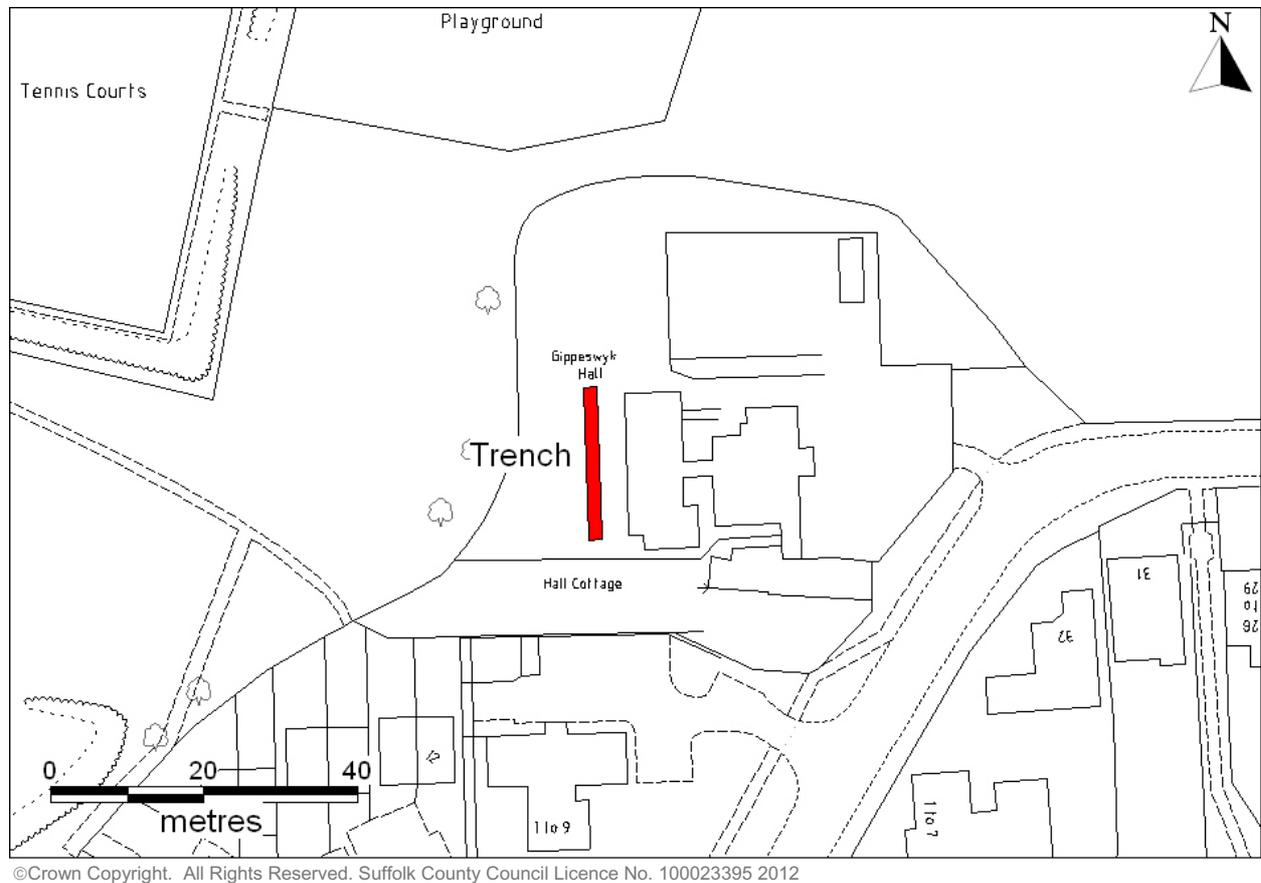


Figure 2. Trench plan

## 5. Results

The trench measured 20m long by 1.5m wide and 0.38m deep at the south end and 1.38m deep at the northern end, the trench being north-south orientated, with the natural geology being 1.5m lower at the northern end of the trench than at the southern end. Topsoil in the trench was dark brown clayey silt and was 0.18m thick at the south end of the trench getting thicker along the trench to be 0.41m thick at the north end. Below the topsoil was a layer of mid brown silty sand (0001) with some slate and ceramic building material (CBM) inclusions which was 0.12m thick at the south end and again got thicker along the trench to be 0.23m thick at the north end. At approximately 10m from the south end of the trench layers of make up material start to appear in the trench section. These start with a layer of mid brown clayey silty sand (0005) which had few inclusions and was 0.23m thick by the end of the trench. This deposit could also be

seen in the base of the trench on its western edge. Overlying this deposit was a layer 0.16m thick of mid brown silty sand (0004) with flecks of red CBM. Above this layer was a deposit (0003) consisting of dark brownish grey sandy silt and red brick rubble and broken tile, being 0.14m thick at the end of the trench. Over this deposit was a layer of mid greyish brown silty sand with slightly less red brick rubble (0002), the layer being 0.21m thick. These layers followed the slope of the natural geology to form a terrace and can be seen in plate 1. Four features were visible in the base of the trench but these contained CBM, slate and broken china and were interpreted to be modern.

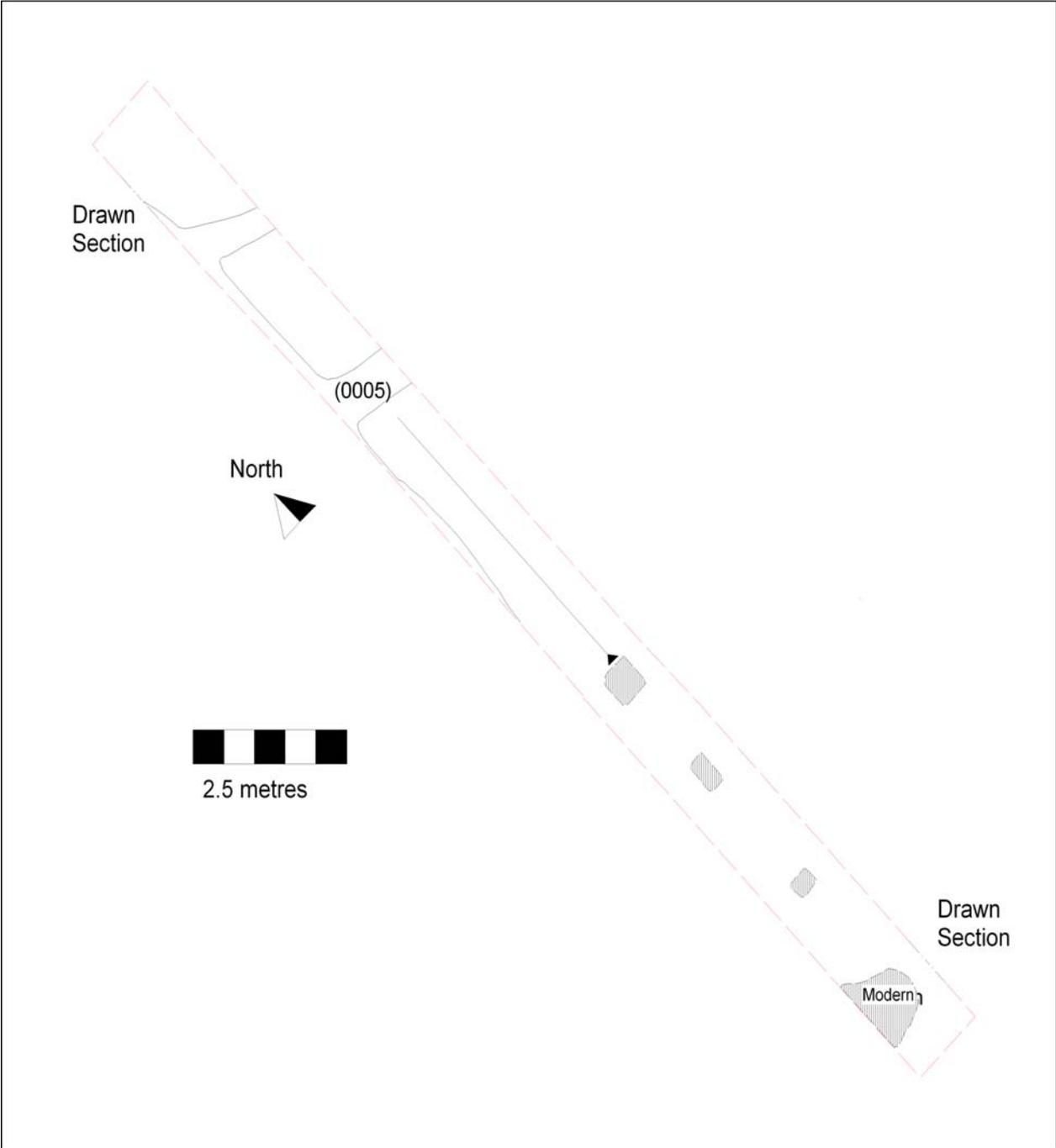


Figure 3. Detailed plan.

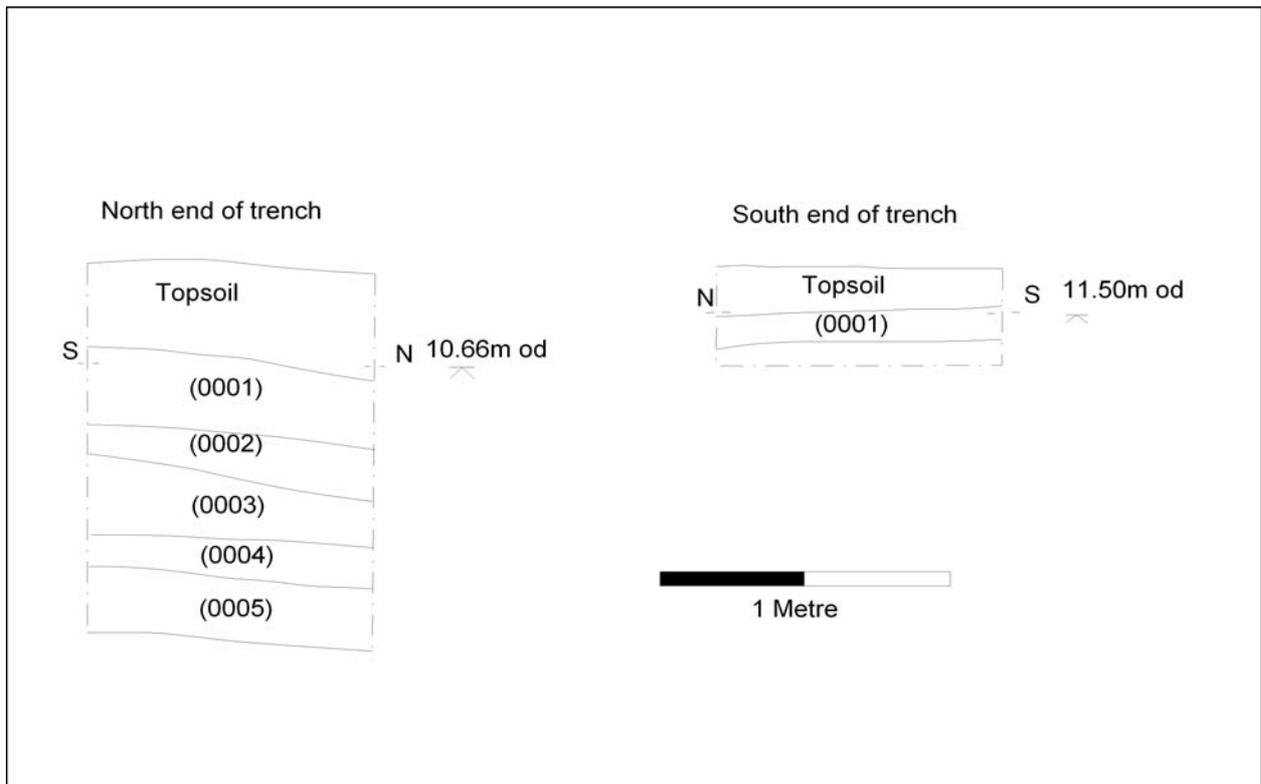


Figure 4. Detailed sections.

## 6. Discussion

Although no archaeological features were encountered in this evaluation the trench does show that this part of the development area has been subjected to extensive landscaping. Any evidence of the possible continuation of Roman activity at site IPS 052 or of any buildings or garden features relating to the earlier phase of occupation of the Hall may have been truncated by the creation of the garden terraces, which, given the modern inclusions within the layers that make up the terracing, must be assumed to be associated with the Victorian extension to the Hall.

## 7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

No evidence for archaeological deposits or any buildings associated with the seventeenth century hall were encountered in this evaluation so there is little justification for further archaeological work in the precise area of the trenching. However, it should be noted that part of the proposed development area lies under an existing building, which adjoins the nineteenth century extension to the hall, and may mask earlier buildings or associated archaeological deposits.



Plate 1. Northern end of trench, west facing, showing terracing.

## **8. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\  
Archive\Ipswich\IPS 703 Gippeswyk Hall Eval

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\  
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HQA-HQZ\HQP 51-53

## **9. Acknowledgements**

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The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Picard and directed by Rhodri Gardner. Project management was undertaken by Rhodri Gardner who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The report illustrations were created by Simon Picard and the report was edited by Jezz Meredith.

## 11. Bibliography

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Aitkens. P., 2011 *A Preliminary Assessment of the Architectural History of Gippeswyck Hall, (alias New Place), Ipswich St Mary Stoke, Suffolk*

BGS, 2012, Information obtained from [http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital\\_maps/data\\_625k.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digital_maps/data_625k.html) and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved





## **Gippeswyk Hall, Ipswich, Suffolk**

*Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trench*

***Written Scheme of Investigation***

**&**

***Safety Statement and Risk Assessment***

***Prepared by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service***

***July 2012***



## ***Document Control***

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Title: Gippeswyk Hall, Ipswich, Suffolk

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Issued by: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team

Author: Rhodri Gardner

Checked by: N/A

Issued to: Nicholas Jacob Architects; Jess Tipper (SCCAS Conservation Team)

## **Contents**

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Background

Project Details

Archaeological Method Statement

## **Figures**

1. Site location
2. Trench locations

# 1. Background

- 1.1 *The Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) have been asked by Nicholas Jacob Architects to prepare documentation for a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trench at the above site (Fig 1). This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covers that work only. Any further stages of archaeological work that might be required in relation to the proposed development would be subject to new documentation.*
- 1.2 *The site lies centred approximately on NGR TL 152 437.*
- 1.3 *The work is to be undertaken as a condition of planning application IP/11/00675/FUL, which has been made for the redevelopment of the site.*
- 1.4 *The archaeological investigation will be conducted in accordance with a Brief and Specification produced by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012).*
- 1.5 *The County Historic Environment Record shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological potential, close to an area of Roman activity (HER No IPS 052) which is centred just c. 50m to the west of the site.*
- 1.6 *The fieldwork and all reporting will be carried out by members of SCCAS Field Team under the supervision of a Project Officer (exact personnel TBA).*

## 1.1 Research aims

The general research aims of trial trench evaluations are as follows (see section 3.2 of the Brief for Archaeological Work):

- RA1: Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- RA2: Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- RA3: *Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.*
- RA4: *Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.*



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Figure 1. Site Location

## 2 Project details

<b>Site Name</b>	<i>Gippeswyk Hall, Gippeswyk Avenue</i>
<b>Site Location/Parish</b>	Ipswich
<b>Grid Reference</b>	TM 1524 4374
<b>Access</b>	Off Gippeswyk Avenue
<b>Planning No</b>	IP/11/00675
<b>HER code</b>	Not yet allocated
<b>OASIS Ref</b>	Not yet allocated
<b>SCCAS Job Code</b>	Not yet allocated
<b>Type:</b>	Trial trench evaluation
<b>Area</b>	Single trench
<b>Project start date</b>	TBA
<b>Duration</b>	c. 1 day
<b>Number of personnel on site</b>	Up to 2

### **Personnel and contact numbers**

<b>Contracts Manager</b>	Rhodri Gardner	01473 265879
<b>Project Officer (first point of on-site contact)</b>	TBA	
<b>Finds Dept</b>	Richenda Goffin	01284 352447
<b>Sub-contractors</b>	Holmes Plant and Construction	01473 890766
<b>Curatorial Officer</b>	Jess Tipper	01284 741225
<b>Consultant</b>	Nicholas Jacob Architects	01473 221150
<b>Developer</b>		
<b>Site landowner</b>		

### **Emergency contacts**

<b>Local Police</b>	<i>Ipswich</i>	01473 613500
<b>Local GP</b>		
<b>Location of nearest A&amp;E</b>	<i>Ipswich Hospital, Heath Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 5PD</i>	01473 712233
<b>Qualified First Aiders</b>	TBA	
<b>Base emergency no.</b>	N/A	

### **Hire details**

<b>Plant:</b>	N/A	
<b>Toilet Hire</b>	<i>Capel Plant Ltd</i>	01206 844004
<b>Tool hire:</b>	N/A	

**Other Contacts**

<b>Suffolk Fleet Maintenance</b>		<i>01359 270777</i>
<b>Suffolk Press Office</b>		<i>01473 264395</i>
<b>SCC EMS (Jezz Meredith )</b>		<i>01473 583288</i>
<b>SCC H&amp;S (Stuart Boulter)</b>		<i>01473 583290</i>

### **3 Archaeological method statement**

#### **3.1 Evaluation by trial trench**

- 3.1.1 The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by members of the SCCAS field team led by an experienced member of staff of Project Officer Grade. The excavation team will comprise up to 2 experienced excavators and surveyors from a pool of suitable staff at SCCAS. Fieldwork standards will be guided by 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England' EAA Occasional Papers 14.
- 3.1.2 Evaluation of the development area will employ a single trial trench positioned to sample the location of the proposed new construction. The proposed trench layout is shown in Figure 2.
- 3.1.3 The trench will measure 20m long by 1.8m wide.
- 3.1.4 The trenches have the same general goal of assessing whether archaeological deposits survive.
- 3.1.5 No service information was available at the time of writing. If services or similar restrictions are encountered during work on site then trench layout will be amended accordingly.
- 3.1.6 *General trial trench methodology*
- 3.1.7 All trenches will be cut using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. All overburden (topsoil and subsoil) will be removed stratigraphically until either the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits are encountered. Spoilheaps will be created adjacent to each trench and topsoil, subsoil and concrete/overburden will be kept separate for sequential backfilling.
- 3.1.8 Archaeological deposits and features will be sampled by hand excavation and trench bases and sections cleaned as necessary in order to satisfy the project aims.
- 3.1.9 Trenches requiring access by staff for hand excavation and recording will not exceed a depth of 1.2m. Any trench in which this depth is not sufficient to meet the archaeological requirements of the Brief and Specification will be brought to the attention of the client or their agent and the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA so that further requirements can be discussed (and costed).
- 3.1.10 Deeper excavation can be undertaken provided suitable trench support is used or, where practicable, the trench sides are stepped or battered.
- 3.1.11 A site plan, which will show all trench locations, feature positions and levels AOD will be recorded using an RTK GPS or TST, depending on the specific requirements of the project. A minimum of two sections per trench will be recorded at 1:20. Feature sections and plans will be recorded at 1:20 and trench and feature plans at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. Normal Field Team

conventions, compatible with the County HER, will be used during the site recording.

3.1.12 The site will be recorded under an HER site code acquired from the Suffolk HER Office and archaeological contexts will be recorded using standard SCCAS Context Recording sheets and associated database.

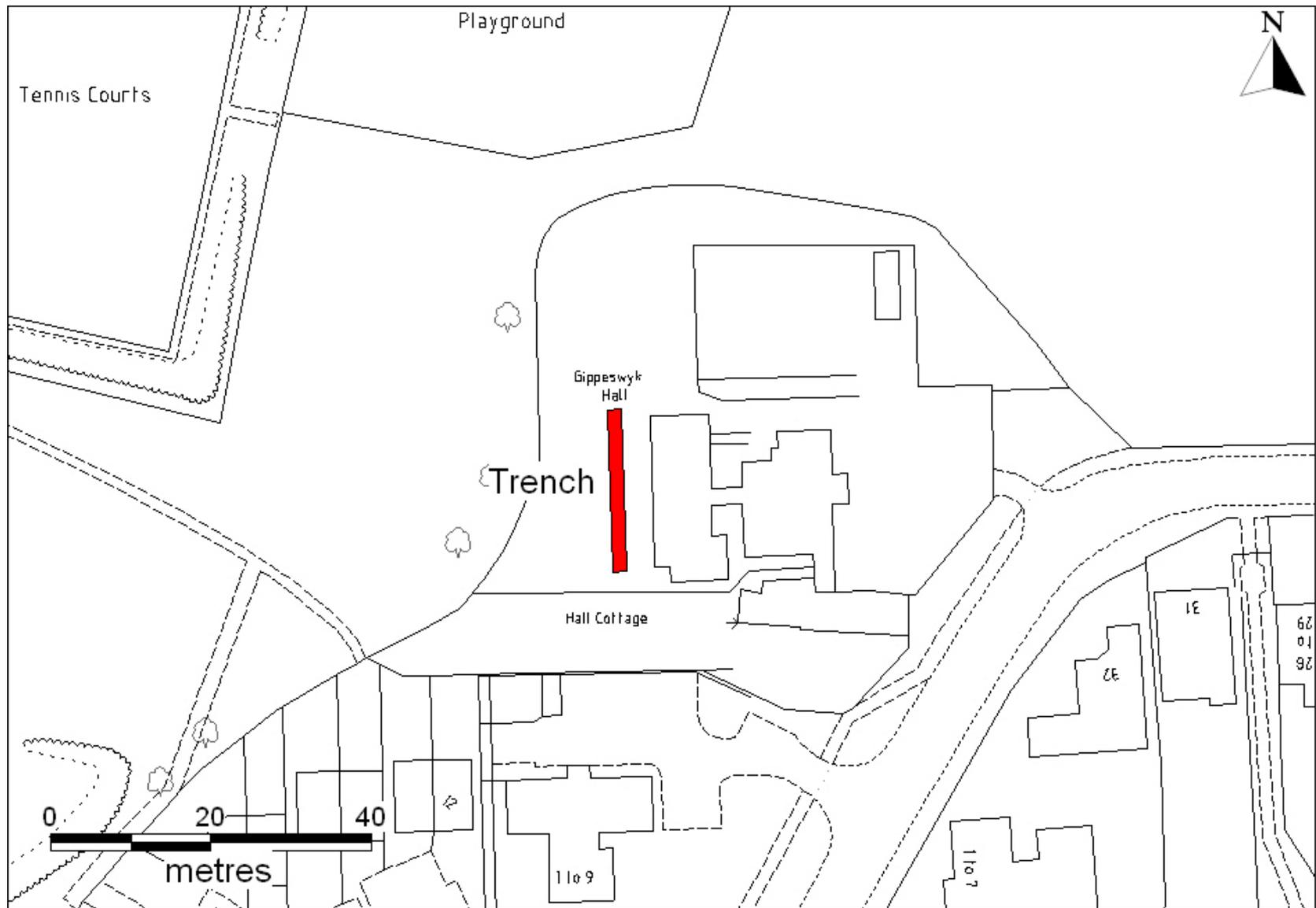
3.1.13 A digital photographic record will be made throughout the evaluation.

3.1.14 All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. Metal detector searches will take place throughout the evaluation, of both trenches and spoilheaps, by an experienced SCCAS metal-detectorist. Finds on site will be treated according to 'First Aid for Finds' and a conservator will be available for on-site consultation as required. Finds will be processed and receive an initial assessment during the fieldwork phase and this information will be fed back to site to inform work in progress.

3.1.15 All finds will be brought back to the SCCAS Bury St Edmunds office at the end of each day for processing, preliminary conservation and packing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done at the Bury St Edmunds office, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in other parts of the country.

3.1.16 Bulk environmental soil samples (40 litres each) will be taken from suitable archaeological features and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from English Heritage's Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science on the need for specialist environmental sampling.

3.1.17 In the event of human remains being encountered on the site, guidelines from the Ministry of Justice will be followed. The evaluation will attempt to establish the extent, depth and date of burials whilst leaving remains *in situ*.



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Figure 2. Proposed trench

### **3.3 Post-excavation**

- 3.3.1 *The post-excavation work will be managed by Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff will be used, who are experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field. Members of the project team will be responsible for taking the project to archive and assessment levels.*
- 3.3.2 *The project's post-excavation management and site archive will be consistent with "Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)" (English Heritage, 2006).*
- 3.3.3 *All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. All site plans and sections will be copied to form a permanent archive on archivally stable material. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets. The photographic archive will be fully catalogued within the County SMR photographic index.*
- 3.3.4 *All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County SMR requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number.*
- 3.3.5 *Bulk finds will be fully quantified on a computerised database compatible with the County SMR. Quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by OP and context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.*
- 3.3.6 *Metal finds on site will be stored in accordance with ICON guidelines, initially recorded assessed for significance before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the excavation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts will be x-rayed and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to ICON standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.*
- 3.3.7 *Specialist reports will be done in-house or commissioned as necessary to meet the requisite standards at assessment level.*
- 3.3.8 *The site archive will meet the standards set by 'The Guideline for the preparation of site archives and assessments of all finds other than fired clay vessels' of the Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD700 - 1700 (1993).*
- 3.3.9 *The pottery will be recorded and archived to a standard consistent with the Draft Guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Research Group and Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery, SGRP (ed. M.G. Darling, 1994).*

- 3.3.10 Environmental samples will be processed and assessed to standards set by the Regional Environmental Archaeologist with a clear statement of potential for further analysis.*
- 3.3.11 Animal and human bone will be quantified and assessed to a standard acceptable to national and regional English Heritage specialists.*
- 3.3.12 An industrial waste assessment will cover all relevant material (i.e. fired clay finds as well as slag).*

## Appendix 2. Context List

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<b>Context No</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Description/interpretation</b>
0001	Layer	Mid brown silty sand, friable, occa small round stones, occa slate and cbm, throughout trench below topsoil, up to 0.3m thick. Levelling for grassed lawn.
0002	Layer	Mid greyish brown silty sand, friable, occa small round stones mod cbm and slate. From approx 9.5m from south end of trench, up to 0.2m thick under 0001. Make up layer for garden terracing.
0003	Layer	Mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt, friable mod to freq cbm, occa charcoal flecks, occa small round stones. From approx 10m from south end of trench, up to 0.3m thick under 0002. Make up for layer garden terracing.
0004	Layer	Mid brown silty sand, friable, v occa small round stones and cbm flecks. From approx 10m from south end of trench, up to 0.17m thick under 0003. Make up for garden terracing.
0005	Layer	Mid brown silty clayey sand firm with few inclusions. From approx 10m from south end of trench, up to 0.26m thick under 0004 and over natural. Start of terracing make up.



## Appendix 3. Oasis summary

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**OASIS ID: suffolkc1-136917**

### Project details

Project name	IPS 703 Gippeswyk Hall evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at the rear of Gippeswyk Hall, Gippeswyk Avenue in Ipswich on the 17th October 2012, prior to the proposed development of a studio theatre extension. A single trench was excavated in which no archaeological features were found. In addition no artefacts were recovered and no environmental samples were taken.
Project dates	Start: 17-10-2012 End: 17-10-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	IPS 703 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	IPS 703 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### Project location

Country	England
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Site location	SUFFOLK IPSWICH IPSWICH IPS 703 Gippeswyk Hall
Postcode	IP2 9AF
Study area	500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 1523 4373 52 0 52 04 46 N 000 19 05 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.00m Max: 14.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Jess Tipper
Project director/manager	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Simon Picard
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architect on behalf of client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Nicholas Jacob Architects

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Archive ID	IPS 703
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	AHDS
Digital Archive ID	IPS 703

Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	IPS 703
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Photograph","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

**Project bibliography 1**

	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
Title	IPS 703 Gippeswyk Hall
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Picard, S.
Other bibliographic details	2012/171
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	SCCAS





# Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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**[www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/)**