

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

FOUNDATION HOUSE No. 34, FOUNDATION STREET, IPSWICH (SMR ref. IPS 501)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE
CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXTENSION TO No. 34, FOUNDATION STREET, IPSWICH
(Application No. IP/06/00165/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/132
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-15890)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to Foundation House, No. 34, Foundation Street, Ipswich (NGR; TM 1655 4427), was undertaken during May and June 2006. A series of machine excavated holes excavated to the front of the building revealed a group of backfilled cellars probably associated with a series of presumably Victorian structures that formally fronted onto Foundation Street. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 501. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by SEH French Construction Limited, on behalf of the site's owner.

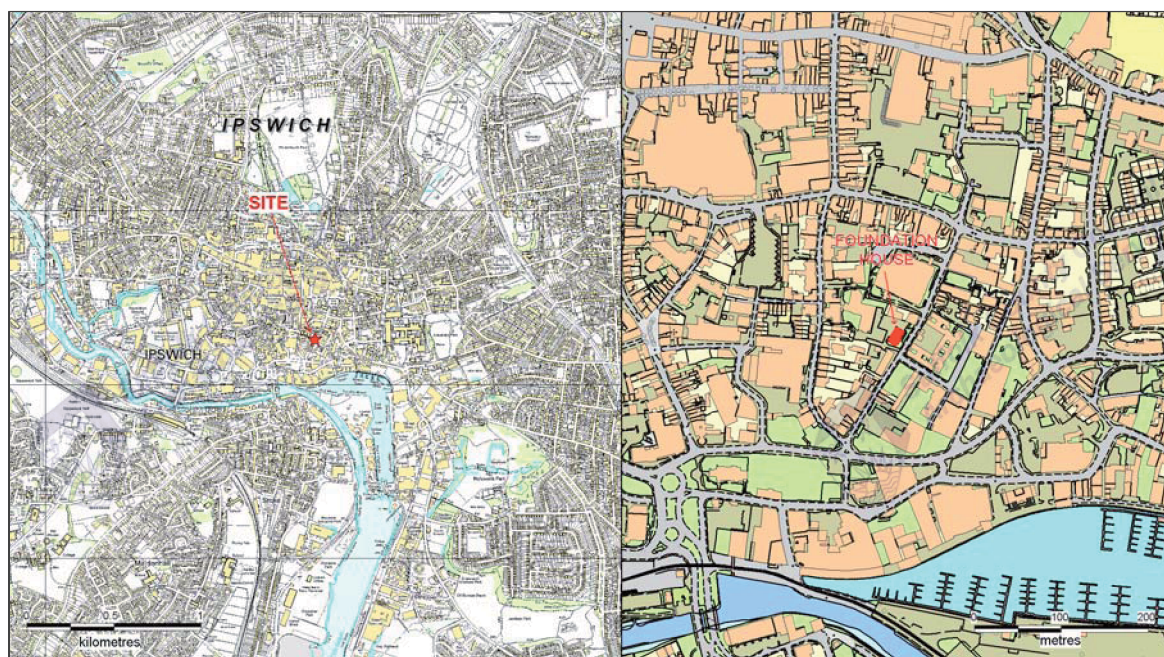


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with construction of an extension to Foundation House, No. 34, Foundation Street, Ipswich, was undertaken during May and June 2006. Interest in the site is due to its location within the Area of Archaeological Importance for Anglo-Saxon and medieval Ipswich, as defined in the Ipswich Local Plan.

The proposed extension is to be constructed to the front of the existing building on a foundation of ground beams supported by piles. This will involve limited ground disturbance but still has the potential to reveal and damage any archaeological deposits or features that may be present. Consequently an archaeological condition was placed upon the planning consent to allow for archaeological monitoring of the groundworks in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits revealed. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Keith Wade of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix I).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1655 4427; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 501. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by SEH French Construction Limited, on behalf of the owner.

Methodology

Excavations for the foundations of the extension were visually examined for archaeological deposits or cut features after they had been mechanically excavated by the building contractors. The revealed soil profile was recorded with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visits were quickly examined for archaeological artefacts. The location of the extension relative to the existing building is illustrated in figure 2.

Results

The site was visited on three occasions during the groundworks phase of the construction work to inspect the groundworks then underway. Namely the 31st May, 5th June and 20th June

2006. Initially a series of machine excavated holes were dug in order to clear any potential obstacles to the piles. These revealed that the entire footprint of the new extension was over a group of backfilled cellars constructed of red brick and lime mortar. Brick floors were encountered at a depth of c. 2m and these were broken through to reveal what appeared to be a dark silty sand. The cellars had been filled with primarily brick rubble and dark brown loam. No significant artefacts were recovered from the fill and it was not possible to fully investigate the deposits beneath the cellar floors, as it was unsafe to enter the excavations due to the unstable nature of the backfilling material. After breaking through the cellar floors it was believed that no further obstacles to the piles were present. Sleeves for the piles were placed in the holes which were then backfilled.

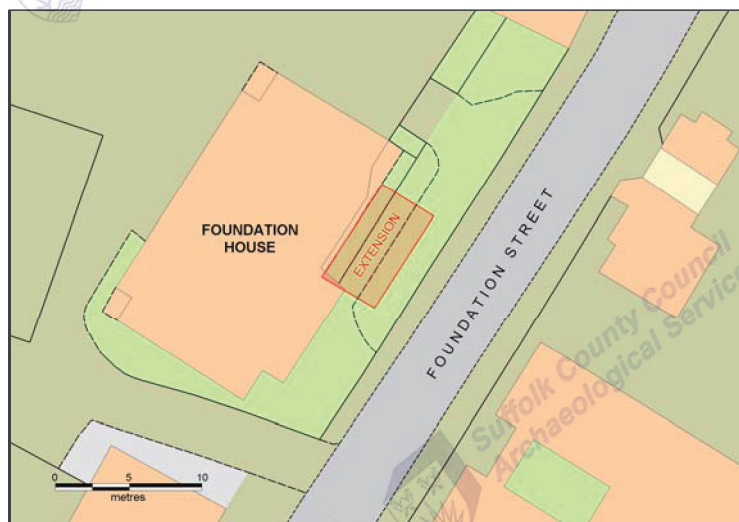


Figure 2: Location of Extension

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During the final brief visit on the 20th June 2006 the excavated ground beam trenches were examined but these were wholly within the fill of the cellars and only confirmed the cellars did indeed extend over the entire area of the extension.

The spoil was retained on site prior to the refilling of the excavations but this only comprised the backfill from the cellars and did not yield any informative artefacts.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the SMR reference IPS 501, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-15890.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features were noted as the entire area had been disturbed by earlier cellars. A quick examination of the early Ordnance Survey maps of this area reveals what appears to be a row of three terrace houses and a larger, more substantial building, all of which fronted right onto the edge of the street (figure 3). The cellars revealed by the ground works are undoubtedly associated with these structures and the fills are probably the rubble created during their demolition and topped up with topsoil. The structures are also marked on the 1st and 3rd Edition OS maps. It is not known when they were eventually demolished.

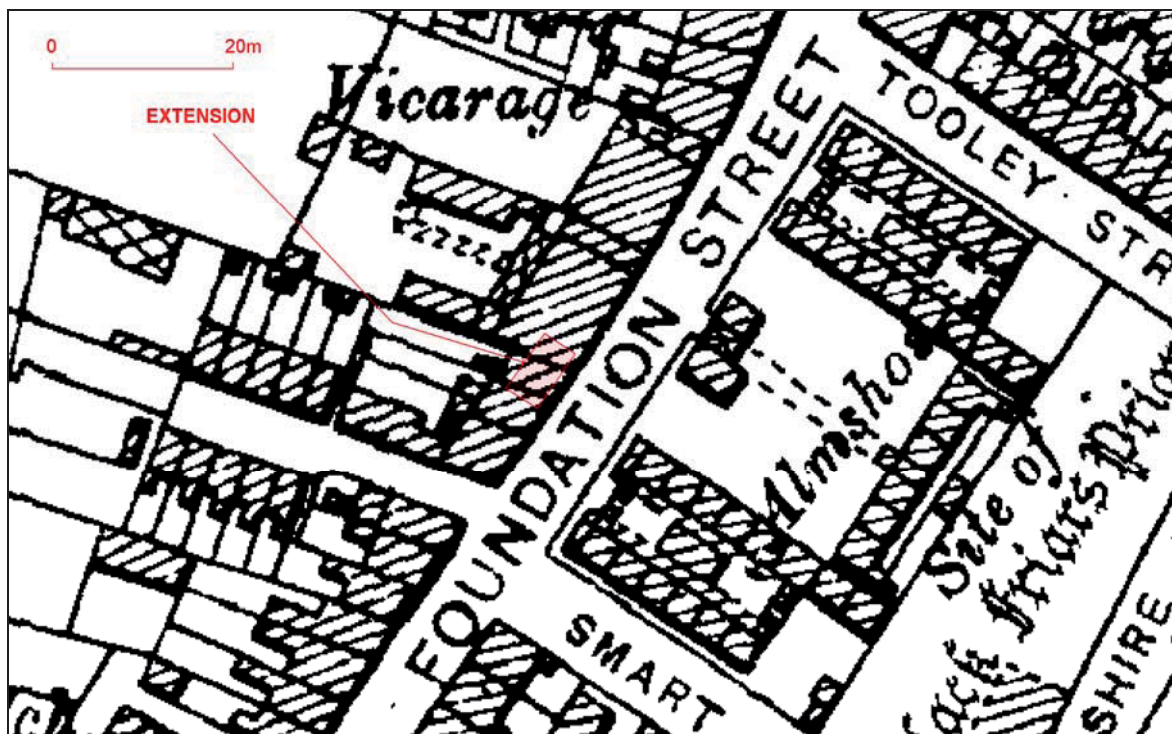


Figure 3: Second Edition Ordnance Survey (extract) c. 1900.
Site of extension marked in red.

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

FOUNDATION HOUSE, 34 FOUNDATION STREET, IPSWICH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend Foundation House, 34 Foundation Street, Ipswich, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (IP/06/00165/FUL). 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 for Anglo-Saxon and medieval Ipswich in the Ipswich Local Plan, and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As pile and beam foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches 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 post Roman occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of ground beam trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed by the archaeologist during and after excavation 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 at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench 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 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 Sites and Monuments Record.

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 Sites and Monuments 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 SMR 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 Sites and Monuments Record sheets should be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) 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 SMR. 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: 8 May 2006

Reference: /2006_Foundation House

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.