

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

---

**IPS 503**

**New Junior School, St Joseph's College, Ipswich**

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006  
(Planning app. no. IP/06/00536)

Clare Good  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© September 2006

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport  
Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

---

SCCAS Report No. 2006/155  
Oasis Ref. Suffolkc1-17754

## Contents

List of Figures	1
List of Contributors	2
Acknowledgements	2
Summary	2
SMR information	2
Introduction	3
Methodology	3
Results	5
Conclusion	7

Appendix 1: Brief and specification

## List of Figures

1. Site Location	4
2. Location of site and records held on county SMR	4
3. Trench location	6
4. Development area shown on extract from 1880 OS map	6

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

## List of Contributors

Clare Good    Assistant Project Officer    Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service

## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by St Joseph's College and was monitored by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Division (SCCASC)).

Clare Good undertook and directed the project which was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

## Summary

*Ipswich*, New Junior School, St Joseph's College, Ipswich. (TM 1494 4312, IPS 503)  
An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new junior school at St Joseph's College, Ipswich, in order to characterise the nature of any surviving archaeological deposits. Three Bronze Age urns (IPS 070) have been discovered in the grounds of the school, within 200m of the development site. Six trenches were excavated over the development area, and were stripped to the level of the natural subsoil, however no archaeological evidence was revealed.

(C. Good, for SCCAS and St Joseph's College; 2006/155)

## SMR information

Planning application no.    IP/06/00536  
Date of fieldwork:        04/09/2006 – 05/09/2006  
Grid Reference:         TM 1494 4312  
Funding body:            St Joseph's College

## Introduction

An application has been made to build a new junior school at St Joseph's College in Ipswich. Planning consent was conditional on an archaeological evaluation being undertaken. The site is centred on TM 1494 4312 and is currently used as a tennis court and school playing fields.

The total area of development covers an area of c. 7000 square metres and lies at approximately 46m OD. The plot is gently sloping to the south east with an underlying drift geology of sand. It lies adjacent to Birkfield Drive to the north, with the school grounds surrounding it on all other sides.

This development is in reasonably close proximity to areas of known archaeology recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (Fig. 2). Three Bronze Age urns were discovered to the south east, within 200m of the development site. Urns are indicative of a burial site, and so could suggest settlement nearby or perhaps further burials. Consequently, it was deemed necessary to evaluate these plots in the first instance. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix I) was produced by Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) Conservation Division and the work was carried out by Clare Good of the SCCAS Field Team, funded by St Joseph's College, Ipswich.

## Methodology

Six trenches were excavated to the level of the natural subsoil in September 2006 using a wheeled JCB machine fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. They were located in an attempt to sample as much of the development area as possible, in locations were agreed by SCCAS Conservation Team (Fig. 3). A total of 177m in length was excavated representing a sample of approximately 5% of the total area, under constant supervision from the observing archaeologist.

Both the excavated topsoil and the exposed surface of the trenches were examined visually for finds and features. The location of the trenches within the development area was determined using a handheld GPS system. The site archive will be deposited in the County SMR at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

St Joseph's College, Ipswich, funded all archaeological work.

The site and subsequent results are recorded on OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code Suffolkc1-17754.



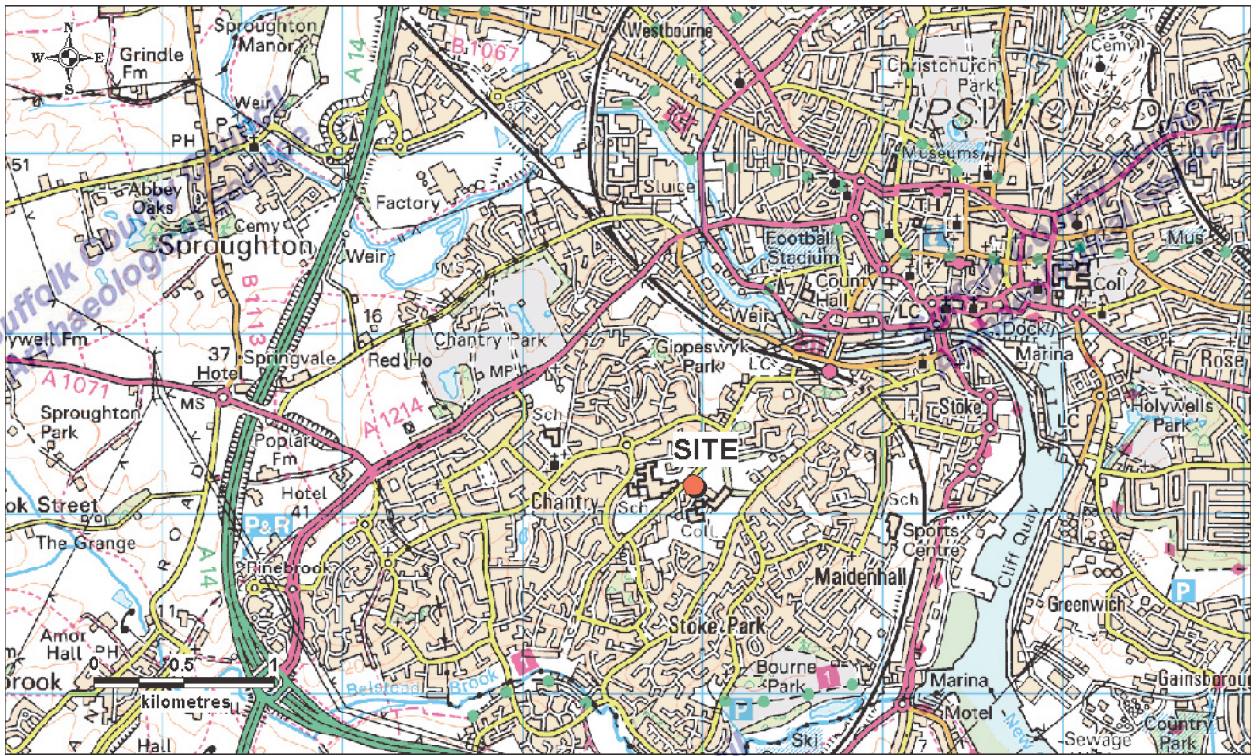


Figure 1: Site Location

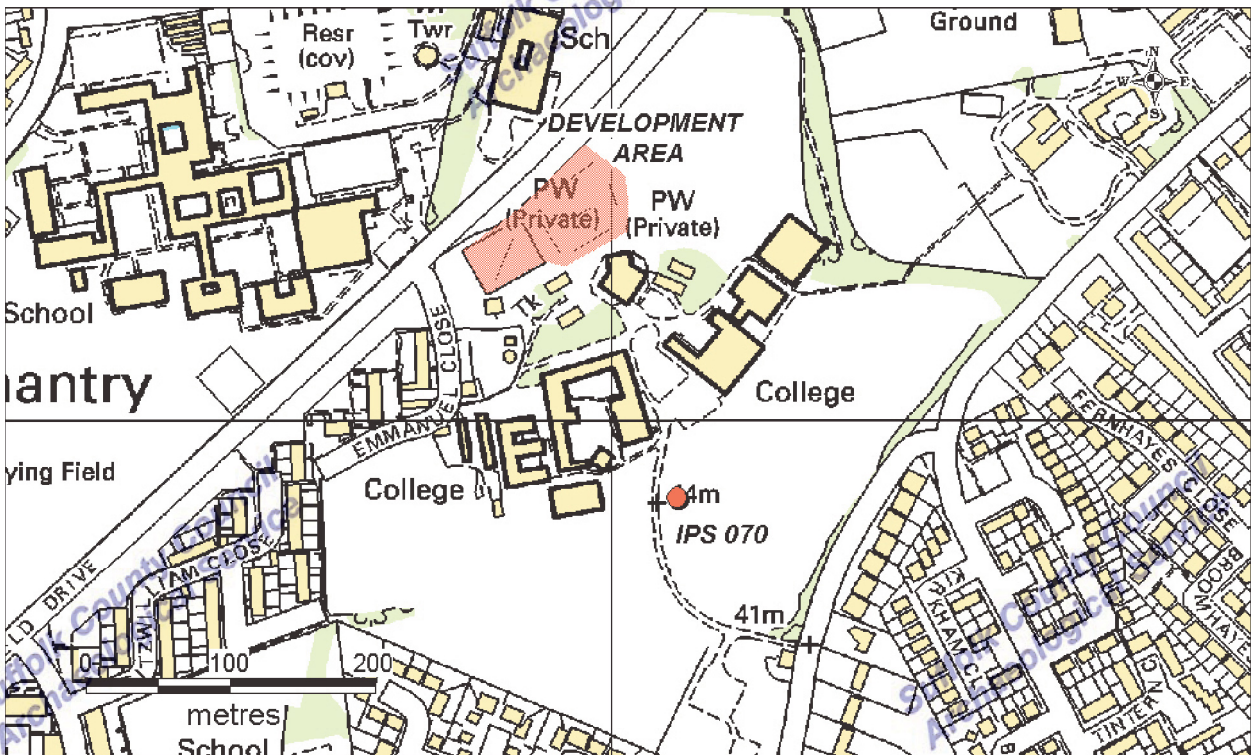


Figure 2: Location of site and records held on county SMR

## Results (Figure 3)

Topsoil 0001 was similar over trenches 1-5 and comprised a mid/dark brown humic sand. It was, on average, c.0.15 - 0.2m deep throughout.

Subsoil 0002 was also similar over trenches 1-5 and consisted of a mid orange sand with very occasional stones. This was, on average, c.0.45 – 0.5m deep throughout.

All trenches were excavated down to the natural subsoil, which consisted of a pale yellow/orange sand with very occasional stones throughout and occasional clay patches. Towards the north, the natural appeared to be less stoney and consisting of a finer, softer sand.

0001, 0002 and indeed, the natural sand, all appeared to be very 'clean' and undisturbed, with exception of the obvious modern intrusions in trenches 2 and 4.

Visibility in all the trenches was reasonably good throughout the evaluation.

Trenches 1-5 were within the current school playing field.

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was 35m in length and aligned SW-NE. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.65m and there were no archaeological finds or features.

### Trench 2

Trench 2 was 23m in length and aligned SE-NW. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.75m and there were no archaeological finds or features. At 15m from the SE end, and for the remainder of the trench, modern disturbance was evident. Plastic sheeting and metalwork were seen within the feature and so this trench was deliberately shortened as the natural subsoil was completely disturbed.

### Trench 3

Trench 3 was 20m in length and aligned SW-NE. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.7m and there were no archaeological finds or features.

### Trench 4

Trench 4 was 40m in length and aligned SW-NE. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.7m and there were no archaeological finds or features. At 31.8m from the NE end, and for 2m after this, modern disturbance was evident. A large feature with brick, branches and a very dark grey fill was seen within the natural subsoil.

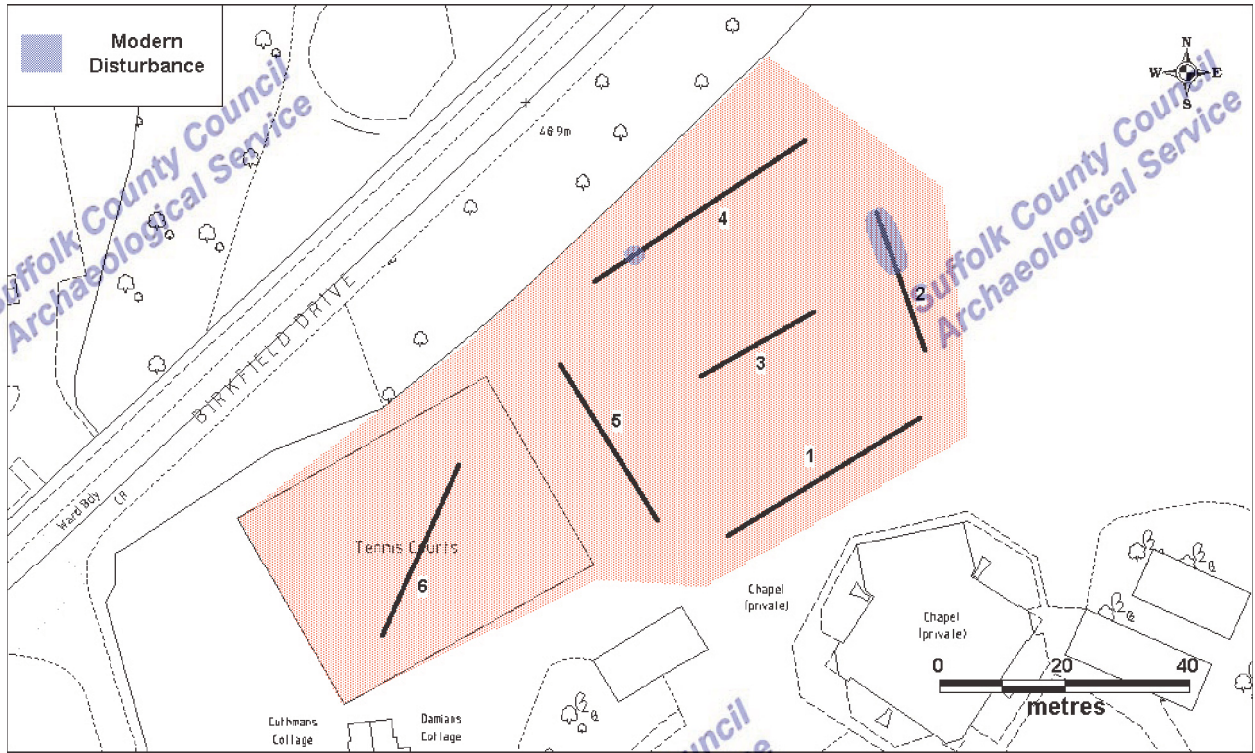
### Trench 5

Trench 5 was 29m in length and was aligned SE-NW. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.7m and there were no archaeological finds or features.

### Trench 6

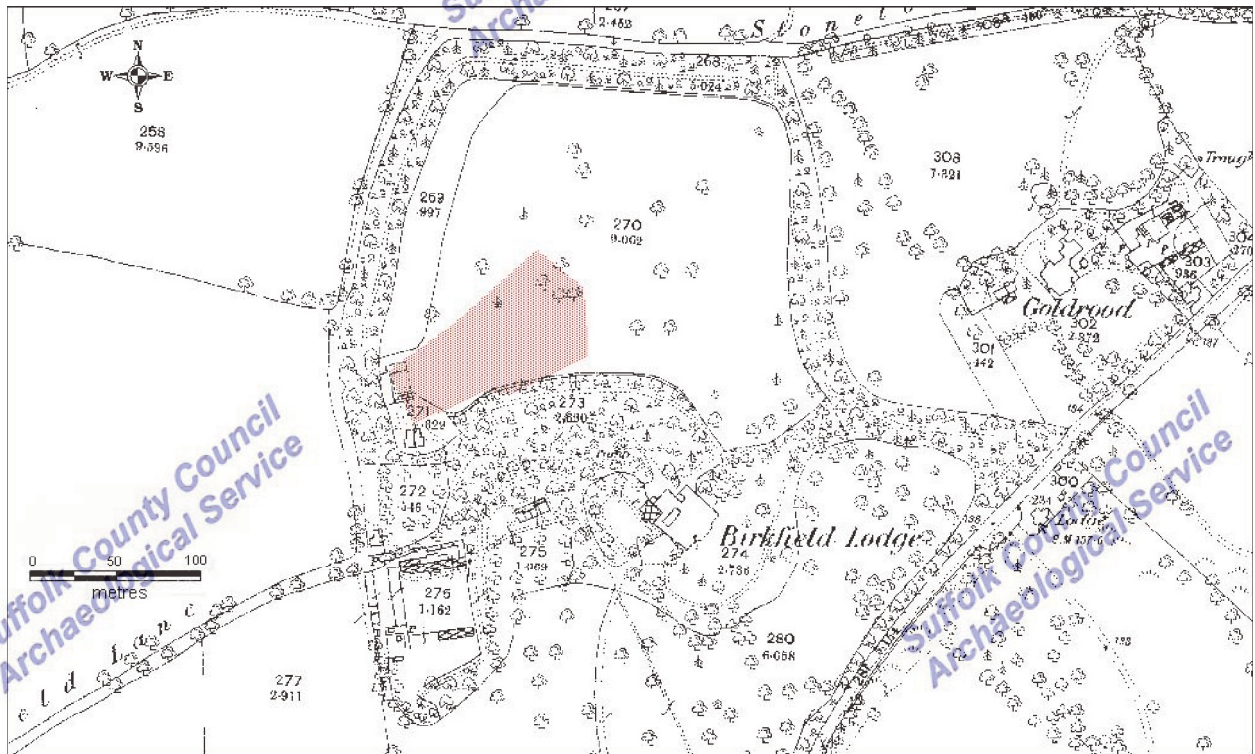
Trench 6 was placed through the current tennis courts. It was 30m in length and aligned SSW-NNE. It was excavated to a depth of between c.1m at the southern end, to c.0.7m at the northern end. Above the natural subsoil was made up ground consisting of brick rubble, asphalt, stones and rubbish. There was no topsoil or subsoil. Some disturbance was also evident within the natural; small dark grey patches of sand with modern rubbish such as plastic within were seen occasionally throughout the trench.





©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2006

Figure 3: Trench location



©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2006

Figure 4: Development area shown on extract from 1880 OS map

## Discussion

Figure 4 shows the development area in relation to Birkfield House, a Georgian building now part of the school complex. This suggests that the site has been part of an estate since at least 1880 and so is unlikely to have been subjected to any deep ploughing. The clean nature of the sub and topsoil also points to this; mixing usually brings finds and such like to the surface. So the site appears to have been relatively undisturbed in recent time, suggesting that any archaeology should be fairly in tact and the lack of any evidence therefore implies that little existed here. Although this evaluation offers only a small window into what may have been here, the lack of archaeological evidence suggests that activity in this area was very limited.

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

## Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service