

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

GRIMWADE MEMORIAL HALL, BACK HAMLET, IPSWICH (SMR refs. IPS 509 / IAS 8908)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED
WITH THE HALL'S CONVERSION TO RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS
(Application Nos. IP/03/00229/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/214
(OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-19496)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the conversion of the Grimwade Memorial Hall, Back Hamlet, Ipswich (NGR; TM 1710 4408), to residential apartments was undertaken during the summer of 2006. The hall is situated adjacent the known site of a medieval leper hospital in an area on the edge of medieval Ipswich. Some, but not all, groundworks were monitored but no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts of any period were identified. The natural subsoil comprised yellow sand and gravel which in all areas examined appeared to have been truncated. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 509 (IAS8908 on the Ipswich SMR). The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the developer, Penang Investment Corporation Limited.

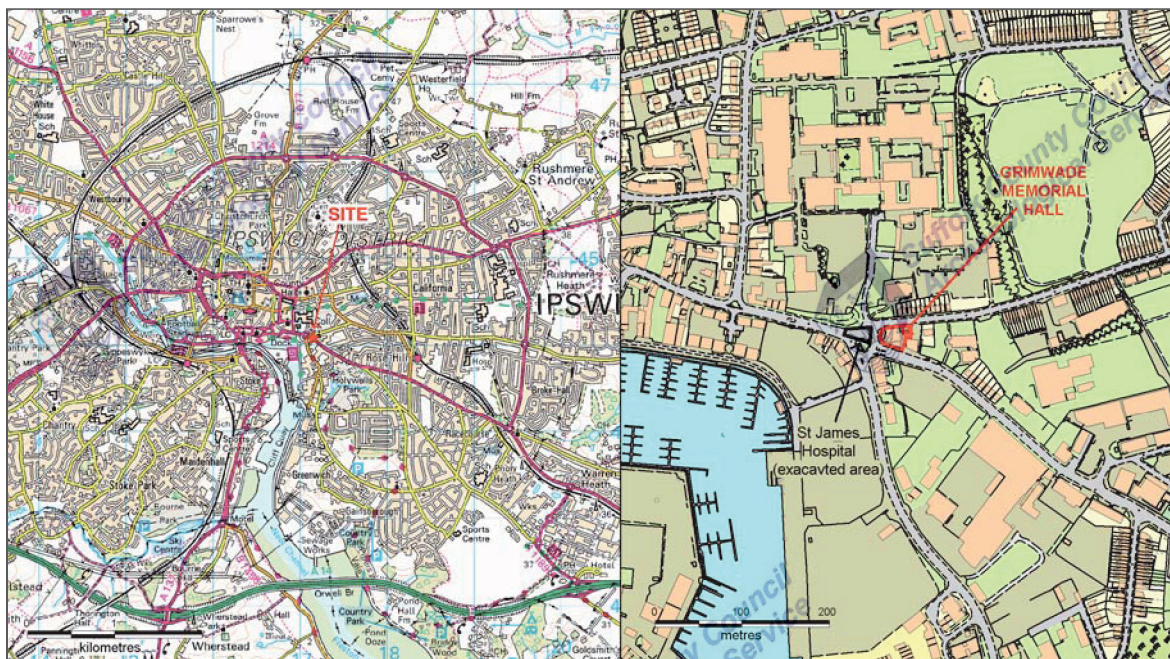


Figure 1: Location Plan

(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2006

Introduction

It had been proposed to create a series of residential apartments within the disused Grimwade Memorial Hall and in two separate blocks to be built in an area immediately east of the hall, after demolition of a group of adjoining structures. The planning application (no. IP/03/00229/FUL) was approved but with an archaeological condition calling for a systematic programme of archaeological works to be put in place. The hall is located to the southeast of Ipswich town centre, at the junction of Back Hamlet and Fore Hamlet.

The hall is semi-basemented and as such the original construction in 1869 is likely to have destroyed any archaeological deposits that may have existed within its footprint but in the area to the east where the proposed extensions are to be built there is a potential for archaeological deposits to survive.

Interest in the site is due to its location immediately adjacent the Area of Archaeological Importance as defined in the Ipswich Local Plan for Saxon and medieval Ipswich. It is also adjacent the known site of St James Leper Hospital which was established during the medieval period and partially excavated in 1958 (SMR ref. IPS 154). Medieval finds have also been recovered from a site on the opposite side of Fore Hamlet (SMR ref. IPS 155).

The new apartment blocks were to be built on strip foundations which would involve only limited damage to 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 by the groundworks associated with this development. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Mr Keith Wade of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

This report details the archaeological monitoring which was undertaken between autumn 2005 and the summer 2006.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1710 4408; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 509 and is also recorded in the Ipswich SMR under the reference IAS 8908. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the developer, Penang Investment Corporation Limited.

Methodology

Site visits were made to inspect the various aspects of the development. It was intended to inspect all footings to visually examine for archaeological deposits or cut features. All large-scale earth moving in association with landscaping and the creation of level building plots was also to be examined. Generally this would be undertaken after excavation by the building contractors. Any revealed soil profiles were to be recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified being noted. Any features noted were to be recorded and an attempt made to recover datable artefacts from their fills. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during a monitoring visit were to be quickly examined for archaeological

artefacts. A photographic record would also be compiled using digital cameras and black and white film cameras.

Results

The site was visited on numerous occasions from the autumn 2005 through to summer 2006 to inspect the groundworks then underway. Particular areas inspected are illustrated in figure 2 below.

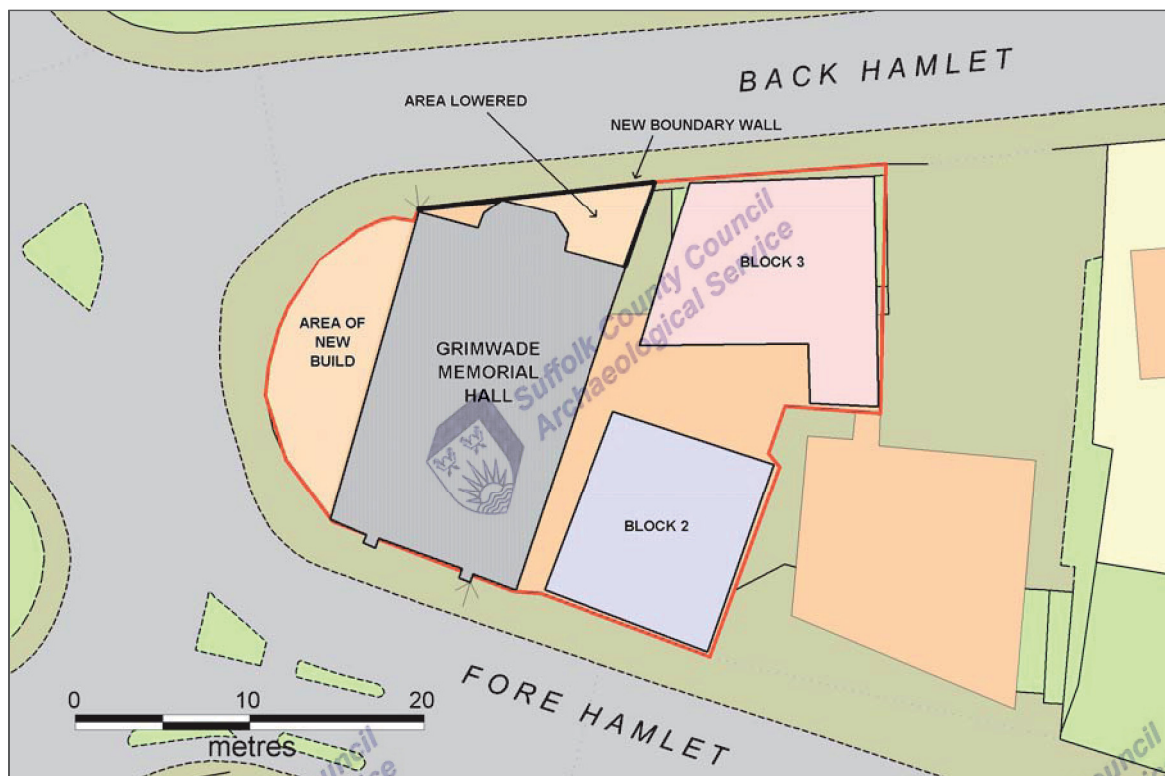


Figure 2: Plan of the Development

(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2006

The footings excavated for BLOCK 2 were examined after they had been excavated by the building contractors (see Plate I). It is likely the area originally sloped down from east to west but at the time of the visit it comprised a level terrace with the natural subsoil visible across the entire building's footprint. The trenches were cut to depth of *c.* 1.6m into the natural subsoil, which comprised dark orange sand and gravel, but no deposits or features were noted. The spoil was briefly examined but appeared to be entirely made up of sand and gravel and no artefacts were recovered.



Plate I: Footings for BLOCK 2
(view looking south)

Further occasional visits were made in response to calls from the on-site contractors to inspect the lowering of an area to the northeast of the hall and excavations for a boundary wall along the northern edge of the site (see figure 2). The area had been lowered by over 1m below the street level but only made-ground containing occasional sherds of 19th century pottery and other debris was seen.

There is no record for any visits to inspect the footings for BLOCK 3 or to examine the ground reduction and new build planned as a western extension of the Memorial Hall.

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference IPS 509. The event is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-19496.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or features were noted in any of the monitored excavations. All observed excavations were cleanly cut and had any archaeological features or deposits been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

There was evidence of the natural subsoil having been truncated on the eastern side of the hall, presumably when the structures that stood in this area were originally built.

Despite no archaeological deposits or features being noted in any of the examined areas it cannot be securely stated that no archaeological evidence has been lost due to fact that relatively large areas of extensive excavation, particularly the area to the west of the hall where there was the greatest chance of encountering early deposits, were not monitored.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team

18th October 2006

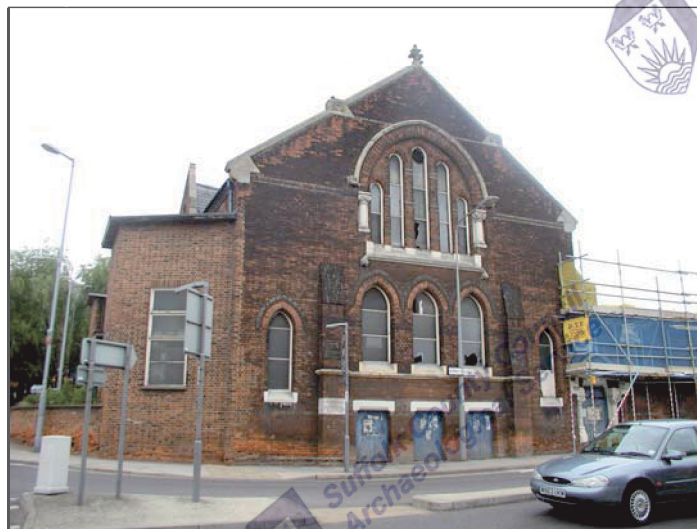


Plate II: South face of the hall during conversion

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

GRIMWADE MEMORIAL HALL, BACK HAMLET, IPSWICH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to convert and extend the Grimwade Memorial Hall, Back Hamlet, Ipswich, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (IP/03/00229/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 immediately adjacent to the Area of Archaeological Importance defined in the Ipswich Local Plan for Saxon and medieval Ipswich, and adjacent to the known site of St James Leper Hospital. Skeletons were found during the creation of the roundabout on the junction of Fore Street and Back Hamlet in 1958 (IPS 154) and medieval and later pottery is recorded from the other side of Fore Street in 1947 (IPS 155).
- 1.3 The existing building, most of which is to be retained and converted, is semi-basemented undoubtedly removing the majority of any archaeological deposits which were present. As strip foundations are proposed for the new build extensions 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 medieval occupation of the site, and in particular, evidence of the medieval Leper Hospital.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches for the two extension blocks and semi-circular annex block. These, and the upcast 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 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: 10 November 2005

Reference: /Ipswich-GrimwadeMemorial11

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.