

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

WATERSIDE WORKS, BATH STREET, IPSWICH (SMR refs. IPS 578 / IAS 9318)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED
WITH A MIXED DEVELOPMENT
(Application Nos. IP/05/00819/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2007/106
(OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-27351)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork on the site of the former Waterside Works, Bath Street, Ipswich (NGR; TM 1619 4222), was undertaken during May and June 2006 but no archaeological features or artefacts of any period were identified though some evidence relating to early river edge deposits was recorded. The natural subsoil comprised clean pale yellow sand and occurred at a depth of c. 1.3m. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the references IPS 578 and IAS 9318. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the developer, Persimmon Homes Essex Limited.

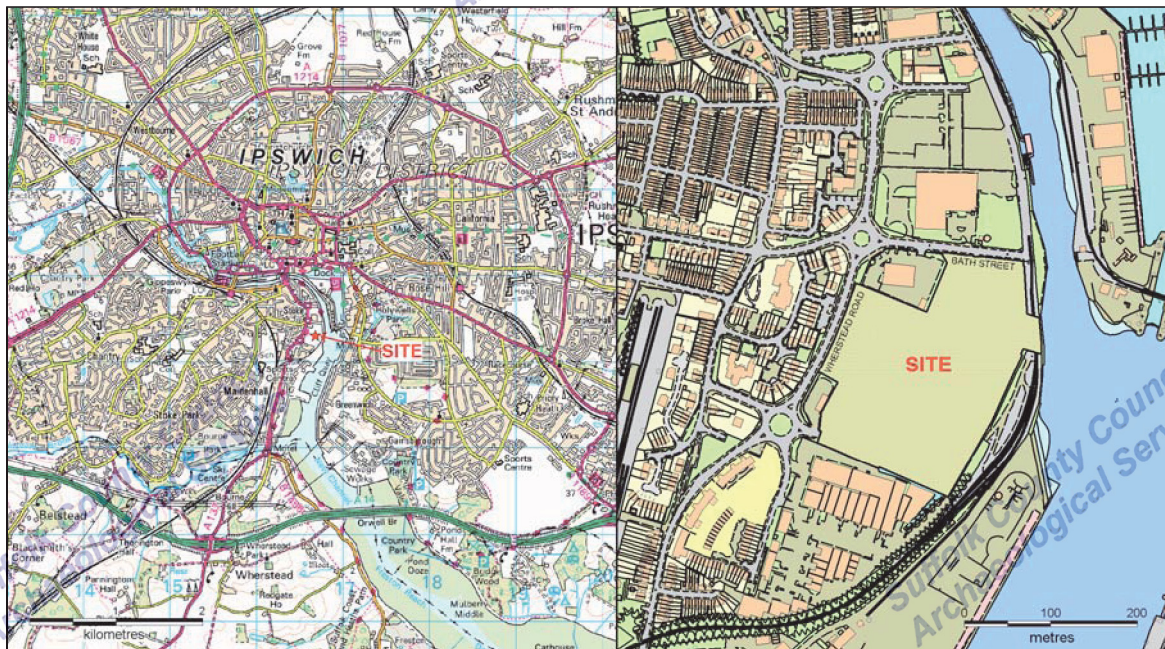


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the redevelopment of the former 'Waterside Works', Bath Street, Ipswich, was undertaken during May and June 2006 during site preparation works. The site is located adjacent the River Orwell on land to the south of the Ipswich town centre, well beyond the boundary of the Saxon and medieval settlement areas. Although there are no known archaeological sites within the redevelopment area interest in the site is due to it being located within an area of high archaeological potential on a terrace of the River Orwell.

The site preparation works involved probing for and removing any buried obstacles that could be a hindrance to the construction of the piled foundations proposed for the redevelopment of this site. Any buried obstacles discovered, such as footings and machine bases associated with the former engineering works, would need to be grubbed out. This work would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to destroy 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 work in order to provide a record of any archaeological features or deposits that may be revealed. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Mr K. Wade of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix).

Following the removal of buried obstacles the vast majority of the site was to be raised by over 1m through the importation of material in order to reduce the threat of flooding within this riverside site. All proposed structures are to be built on piled foundations.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1665 4329 (for a location plan see figure 1); the site lies at a height of approximately 4.0m OD. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 578 and on the Ipswich SMR under the reference IAS 9318. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the developer, Persimmon Homes Essex Limited.

Methodology

Site visits were made to inspect the site preparation works once they were underway. Any open excavations present during a site visit were examined for cut features and archaeological deposits which, if located, were to be sampled through hand excavation in order to assess their shape, depth and to recover datable artefacts. The revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. A small number of digital photographs were also taken. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visits were quickly examined for archaeological artefacts. The location of the monitored excavations are illustrated in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Monitoring Details

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Results

The site was visited on two occasions during May and June 2006 during which time three areas of deeper excavation were noted (see figure 2 above).

Within Areas 1 and 2 the remains of large concrete machine bases were being broken up and removed (see Plate I). A black organic rich soil/silt was revealed and dark blue-grey river silt could be seen on the spoil heap. Unfortunately it was not possible to closely examine the excavation due to health and safety concerns consequently it was not possible to record the stratigraphy or accurately assess depths.

Within Area 3 a large concrete machine base had been exposed and was awaiting breaking up. As no machines were in the vicinity it was possible to enter this excavation for a closer examination. The stratigraphy revealed in the side of the excavation consisted of a 0.2m thick layer of dark brown to black sand and concrete rubble, which was presumably related to the demolition of the former works. This in turn overlay a 0.9m thick deposit of clean dark sand and silt. This overlay a 0.2m thick layer of pale grey sand and silt which

overlay a deposit of clean pale yellow sand and gravel which continued to the base of the excavation at 1.9m from the ground surface and was interpreted as the natural subsoil (see Plate II). An intervention into this layer was present. It comprised a steep sided channel filled with a fine blue-grey silt. Its width and total depth could not be ascertained as its edges fell beyond the limit of the excavation. The fill was entirely homogenous and this feature was interpreted as a natural filled channel. No finds were recovered from within the excavation or the spoil that was heaped nearby.

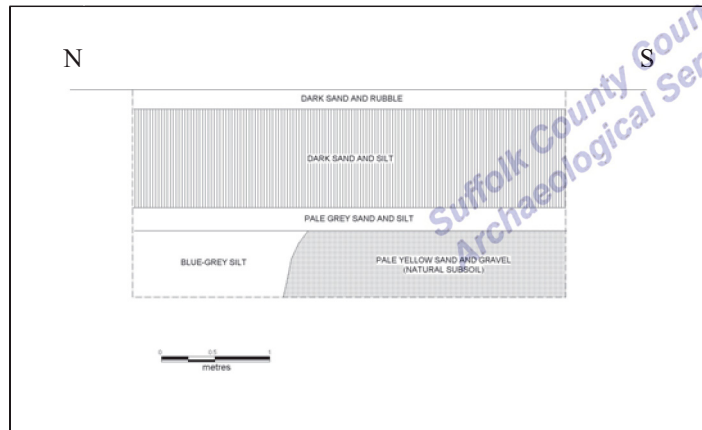


Figure 3: Section - Area 3

The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the existing reference IPS 578 (IAS 9318). The event is also recorded on the OASIS, online database under the reference; suffolkc1-27351.

Conclusion

Although only a very small proportion of the site was examined the complete lack of any archaeological deposits or features being identified during the monitoring is likely to be a result of a lack of significant activity or settlement in this area prior to development in the late post-medieval period. The low lying nature of the site perhaps discouraging any concentrated activity prior to the construction of flood defences. Although modern development has undoubtedly caused significant disturbance to earlier levels it is not of a level to have completely erased any earlier evidence as one would expect to have located occasional stray artefacts.

It is possibly that small pockets of localised activity could occur across the site in areas that were not disturbed by the preparation works although it is expected that these will be sealed and protected under the imported material used to raise the development area.

In the largest excavation examined (Area 3) undisturbed natural sand and gravel was located at c. 1.3m below the then existing ground level. No evidence for marsh deposits was seen although grey river silts was noted in the spoil from Area 1 suggesting that an area of salt marsh probably existed in the northern half of the site.



Plate I: work underway in Area 1 (25th May 2006)



Plate II: exposed stratigraphy in Area 3 (6th June 2006)

APPENDIX

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

WATERSIDE WORKS, BATH STREET, IPSWICH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for residential and commercial development at Waterside Works, Bath Street, Ipswich, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (IP/05/00819/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 outside of the area of archaeological interest defined for the medieval town of Ipswich in the Ipswich Local Plan but within the area of high archaeological potential on the terrace of the River Orwell.
- 1.3 The proposals will only cause limited damage to any surviving archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during ground disturbances by the building contractor. The area has already been badly damaged by mass foundations relating to the now demolished Waterside Works and piled foundations will be used in the new-build.

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 early occupation of the terrace gravels.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is:
 - a) grubbing of existing foundations
 - b) foundation trenches for ground beams
 - c) services trenches.

These activities 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: 19 May 2006

Reference: /Waterside Works, Bath Street

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.