

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## No. 3, COYTES GARDENS, IPSWICH (IPS 458)

### A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE ERECTION OF FLATS

(Application No. IP/02/01290/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2004/90

*Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the erection of flats at No. 3, Coytes Gardens, Ipswich (NGR TM 1619 4446), was undertaken during May 2004 but no significant archaeological deposits were recorded. The site is situated within the Saxon core of the historic town of Ipswich but as piled foundations were used there was little opportunity to observe buried deposits. The natural subsoil, which consisted of yellow sand and gravel, was seen at a depth of c.1.1m below the road surface. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 458. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from Landlink Plc.*

## Introduction

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the erection of flats at No. 3, Coytes Gardens, Ipswich (NGR TM 1619 4446) was undertaken during May 2004. The site, which is situated within the Saxon core the historic town of Ipswich, was relatively small measuring only 7.8m by 17.5m. The proposed development was to have piled foundations with connecting ground beams and it was the excavation of trenches for the ground beams that afforded the best opportunity to observe buried archaeological deposits. A Brief and Specification detailing the monitoring work required was produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1619 4446; for a location plan see figure 1 overleaf. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from Landlink Plc.

## Methodology

The monitoring was undertaken through observation of the site after an initial strip and the ground beam trenches after they had been excavated by the contractors. The spoil was retained on an adjacent plot and this was examined for artefacts.

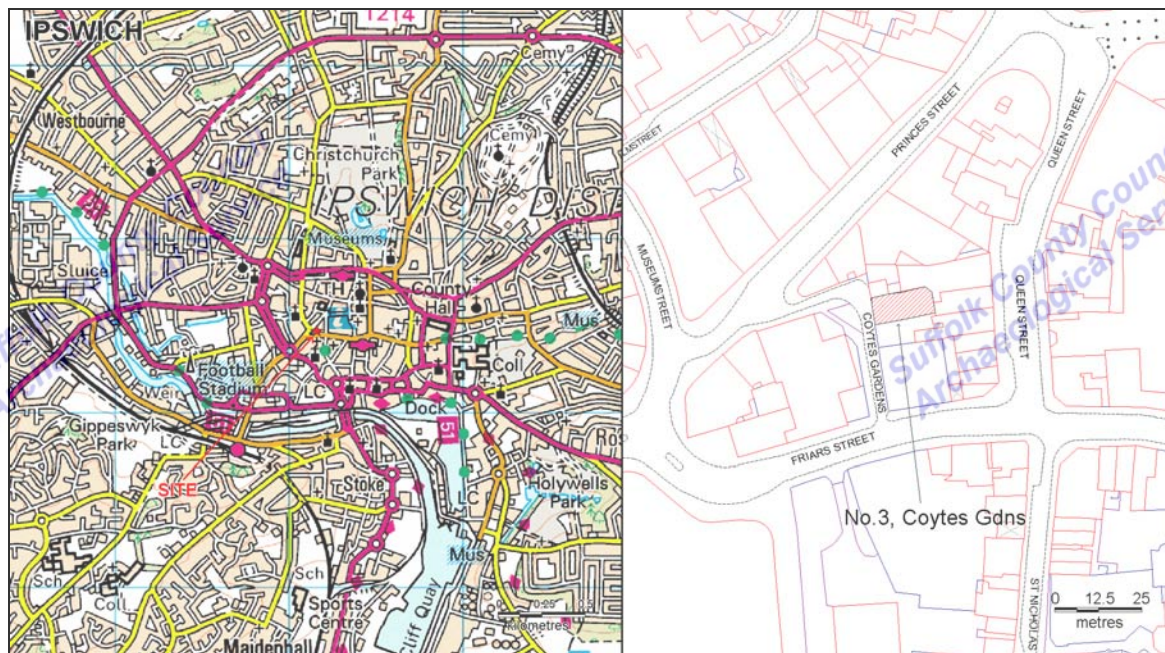


Figure 1: Location Plan

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## Results

The site was visited on various separate occasions during May in order to examine works then underway. The first visits were made to observe the site during and after the site had been cleared, lowered and levelled. The site originally sloped up gently from the road edge towards the back of the plot. In order to create a level site up to c.400mm of material was removed from the back edge reducing to a few centimetres along the street frontage although only post-medieval build-up was removed during this process.

Later visits were made to observe the ground beams. Four ground beams, running the width of the site, were excavated to a depth approximately 1.1m below the level of the roadway immediately adjacent the plot. These were excavated using a minidigger, fitted with a toothed bucket, before being finished off by hand. In three of the four beams only made-up ground was seen. This comprised a very dark loamy soil with little apparent layering and containing occasional fragments of brick, tile, animal bone and other miscellaneous debris, all suggesting a late post-medieval date. In a trench excavated for a ground beam adjacent to the street frontage the natural subsoil was seen at the very base (c.1.1m below the road surface). It consisted of yellow sands and gravel. The base of the trench only just reached the natural subsoil and had not cut into it by any degree. No cut features or deposits were visible although the base of the trench was not cleaned and it is possible that small features, such as stake or possibly postholes, could have been missed.

The resultant spoil was heaped on an adjacent empty plot. This was quickly examined and two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered but as they were relatively undiagnostic and unstratified they were not retained.

## Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits appear to have been damaged or destroyed by the development of this site.