

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

85 – 87 FORE STREET, IPSWICH

**IAS 6106
IPS 585**

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007



Rhodri Gardner
Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© September 2007

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
St Edmund House, County Hall, Ipswich, IP4 1LZ.

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List of Contributors

All Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS hereafter) unless otherwise stated.

Rhodri Gardner Senior Project Officer
Richenda Goffin Finds Manager

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by V A Marriot Ltd., and was monitored by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team.

The project was directed by Rhodri Gardner and managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report. Rhodri Gardner carried out the evaluation.

Summary

Ipswich, 85-87 Fore Street (TM 1684 4418; IAS 6106, IPS 585)

A trial trench was carried out at the above site in advance of a proposal to construct student accommodation. The southern part of the site was found to have seen heavy truncation due to 19th cellaring along the Fore Street frontage. Significant, but slightly less substantial truncation was encountered in much of the rest of the site, with the exception of an area approximately 12m deep along the northern frontage. Here relatively shallow coherent medieval soil-like deposits were identified at c. 4.2 AOD (less than 1m below existing ground level). Given that evidence for Saxon occupation was recorded in an earlier excavation in 1990 it is presumed that similar well-preserved remains may lay in this part of the site sealed beneath the medieval deposits. Excavation of an area along the northern frontage was therefore recommended, in the event that construction mitigation is not sufficient to ensure the preservation of these deposits.

(Rhodri Gardner, SCCAS for V A Marriot Ltd., report no: 2007/179)

SMR information

Planning application no.	Pre-planning
Date of fieldwork:	11 th to 12 th of September 2007
Grid Reference:	TM 1684 4418
Funding body:	V A Marriot Ltd.

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1 Introduction

A Planning Application is to be submitted seeking consent for the erection of student accommodation at the site of 85-87 Fore Street, Ipswich. The site is centred on approximately NGR TM 1684 4418 and comprises c. 814m².

It lies on quite steeply sloping ground, with the prevailing ground level at 5.15m AOD at its northern boundary and 4.07m AOD at its southern end. The site is bounded to the north by the narrow thoroughfare of St Clement's Church Lane (with the churchyard immediately beyond); to the east by adjacent residential properties; to the south by Fore Street and to the west by the Lord Nelson Public House.

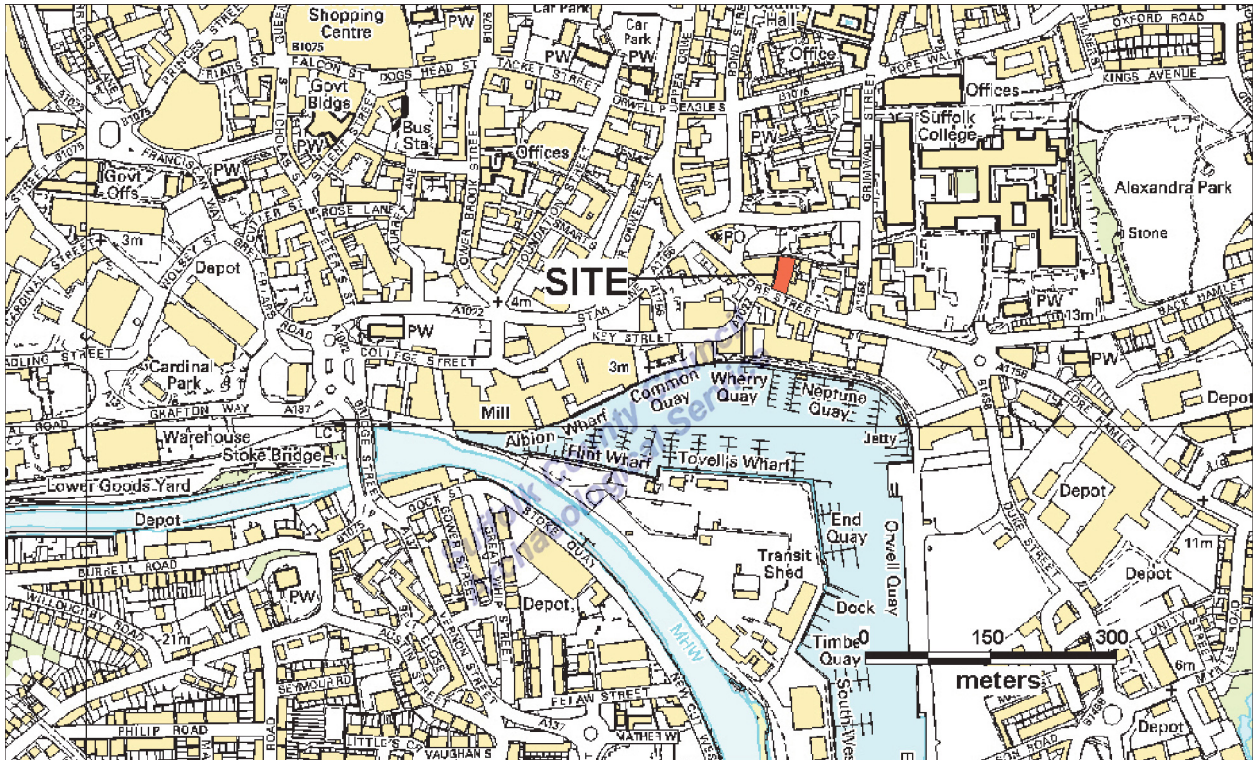


Figure 1. Site location

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The site lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance, as defined for Anglo-Saxon and medieval Ipswich in the Ipswich Local Plan. The proposed development (as it is understood at present) is also likely to involve significant ground disturbance (in the form of piling) with the potential to destroy archaeological deposits. As such, there was an initial requirement for an archaeological evaluation by trial trench, as outlined in a Brief and Specification produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (dated 21/08/07). The SCCAS Field Team was subsequently commissioned to carry out the work by the client, V A Marriot Ltd.

The site has been subject to previous investigation, when a small excavation covering an area of c. 10m by 8m was carried out in 1990 (unpublished site files in County SMR). This revealed Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains, with the Saxon period being represented by important evidence for a building/domestic occupation. Evaluation was clearly required in this case to establish the depth and extent of similar potentially significant deposits and also to determine the extent of truncation caused by cellaring and other disturbance.

2 Methodology

Trial trenching was carried out on the 11th of September 2007. The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator (minidigger) fitted with a 1.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was carried out under close mechanical supervision until the top of the first undisturbed archaeological deposit or natural subsoil was revealed. Hand cleaning of the upstanding sections and base of the trench was carried out where necessary in order to clarify the nature of the deposits and identify incised features. The trenches were located by triangulation from existing site boundaries and level information was extrapolated by traverse from the OS benchmark present on St Clement's Church.

The site covers approximately 814m² and the Specification required that some 5% of the area be evaluated by trenching. Three trenches were opened, with a total area of c. 94m², comfortably in excess of the 5% requirement.

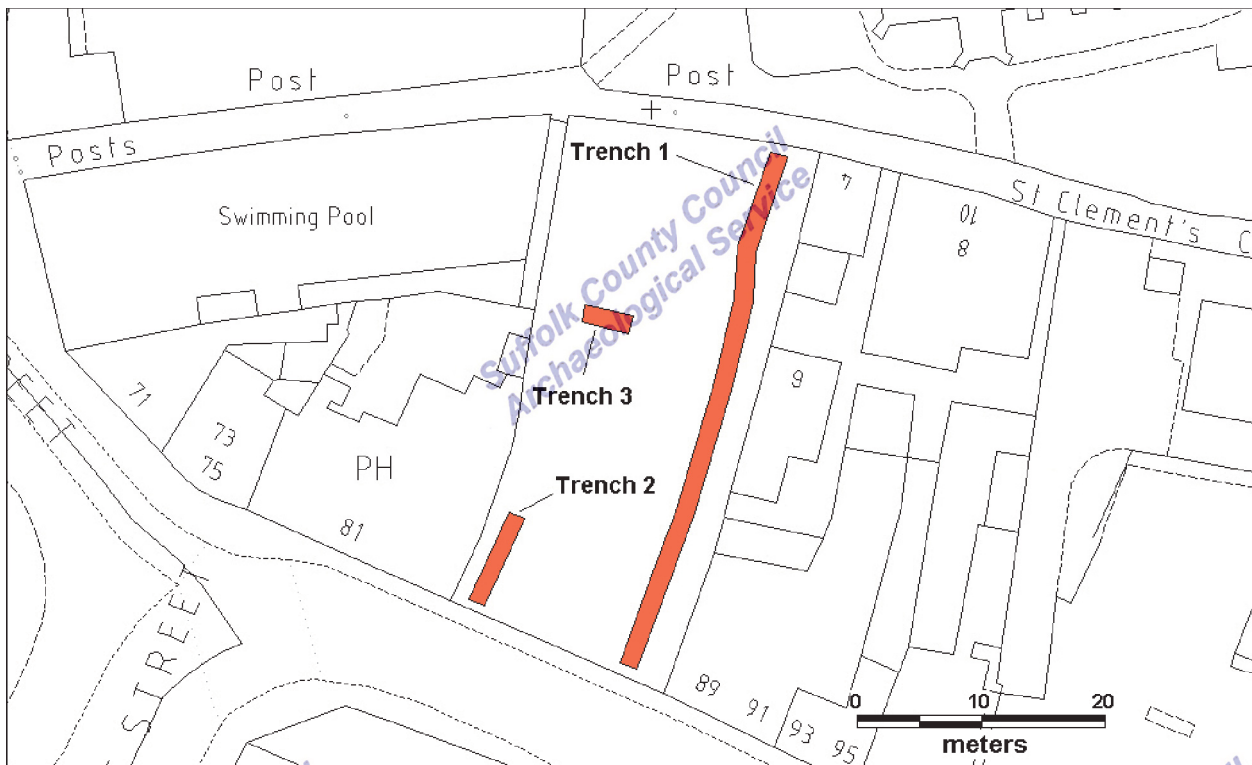


Figure 2. Site detail and trial trench locations.

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The site was allocated the SMR numbers IAS 6106 and IPS 585 and all observed archaeological features and deposits were allocated unique context numbers and recorded on *pro forma* recording sheets. All drawn recording was carried out in a series of 1:100 or 1:50 scale plans and 1:20 scale section drawings. Context records were entered into an Access97 database, and inked copies of the drawings were prepared on archive quality drafting film.

Finds were processed and quantified by in-house staff, with the data then input onto an Access97 database. The results are outlined in Section 4, below.

3 Results

3.1 Trench 1

A single trench, measuring some 42m in length, was excavated for the length of the site, from north to south (see Figure 3).

The southernmost 5.5m was truncated to a depth of at least 1.7m below existing ground level (c. 4.07m AOD) by cellaring.

North of this cellar's wall, a substantial sand dump was recorded, stretching for a further 14m north. This was an extremely sterile and clean deposit of very soft light brownish yellow sand (80%) with small sub-angular to angular flint pebbles (20%) and occasional large pieces of very modern brick. Two machine-dug sondages showed this to be at least 1.8m deep. This appeared to have been very recently imported to backfill a very large void. The origin of this large excavation remains unclear, but the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps do show the site heavily occupied by buildings everywhere except in the north-western corner. Cellaring associated with these does not necessarily need to have been confined to the principal street frontages and appears to have extended north for a considerable distance into the site.

Further small masonry walls constructed of red unfrogged brick (of probably 19th century date) were encountered at 21m, 23m and 24.5m from the southern boundary of the site.

Just beyond this group of walls a single partially revealed pit was observed cutting deposit 0005 (see below and Figure 4). This was not excavated, and its surface yielded no dateable finds. However, it represents the highest coherent archaeological feature observed on the site – visible at a depth of 3.70m AOD.

The northernmost c. 15m of this trench was largely undisturbed in comparison with the southern end.

At this northern end of the trench a number of more meaningful deposits could be recorded (Figure 4). Beneath a poorly made brick floor (0003) and its associated make-up (0004), a soil-like deposit (0005) was encountered. This comprised soft dark greyish brown slightly sandy clayey silt with rare chalk, charcoal, shell and CBM flecks. It shows

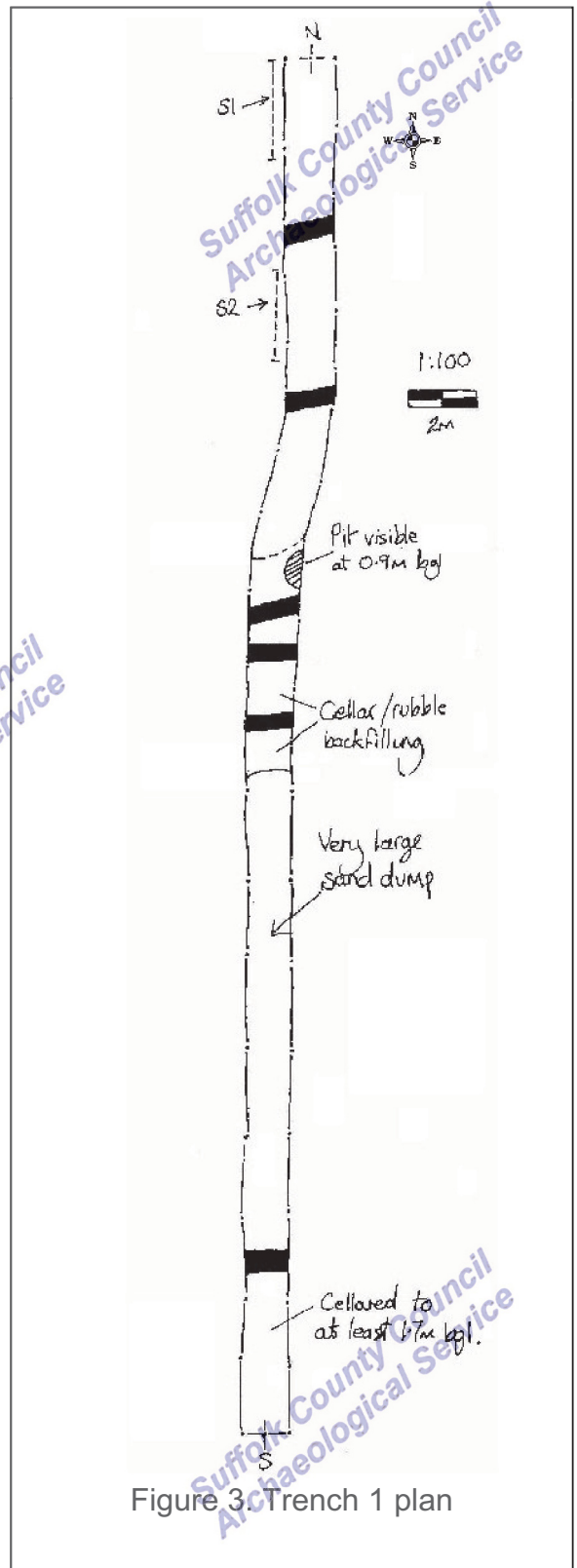


Figure 3 Trench 1 plan

that the ground in this part of the site remains largely undisturbed at a depth of c. 4.7m AOD. However, no dateable finds could be recovered from this deposit.

The first dateable deposit was 0006, a very soft dark brown clayey silt with rare potsherds, animal bone fragments (not retained) and shell flecks along with moderate small to medium flint pebbles. The pottery recovered indicates a later medieval date, and the nature of the deposit is suggestive of a suburban cultivation soil.

This overlay deposit 0007, a very soft slightly pinkish greyish brown slightly clayey sandy silt. This also contained frequent ashy pockets, charcoal flecks, fired clay pieces and shell flecks. A single potsherd of 11th to 12th century date was recovered from this layer. The abundance of ash and presence of burnt clay indicates nearby burning/hearth activity and the deposit as a whole is suggestive of quite intensive occupation along the northern frontage of the site.

Further to the south, in the area of Section 2, a small area of probably natural drift deposits (sands and gravels 0008) was recorded at a depth of 3.3m AOD.

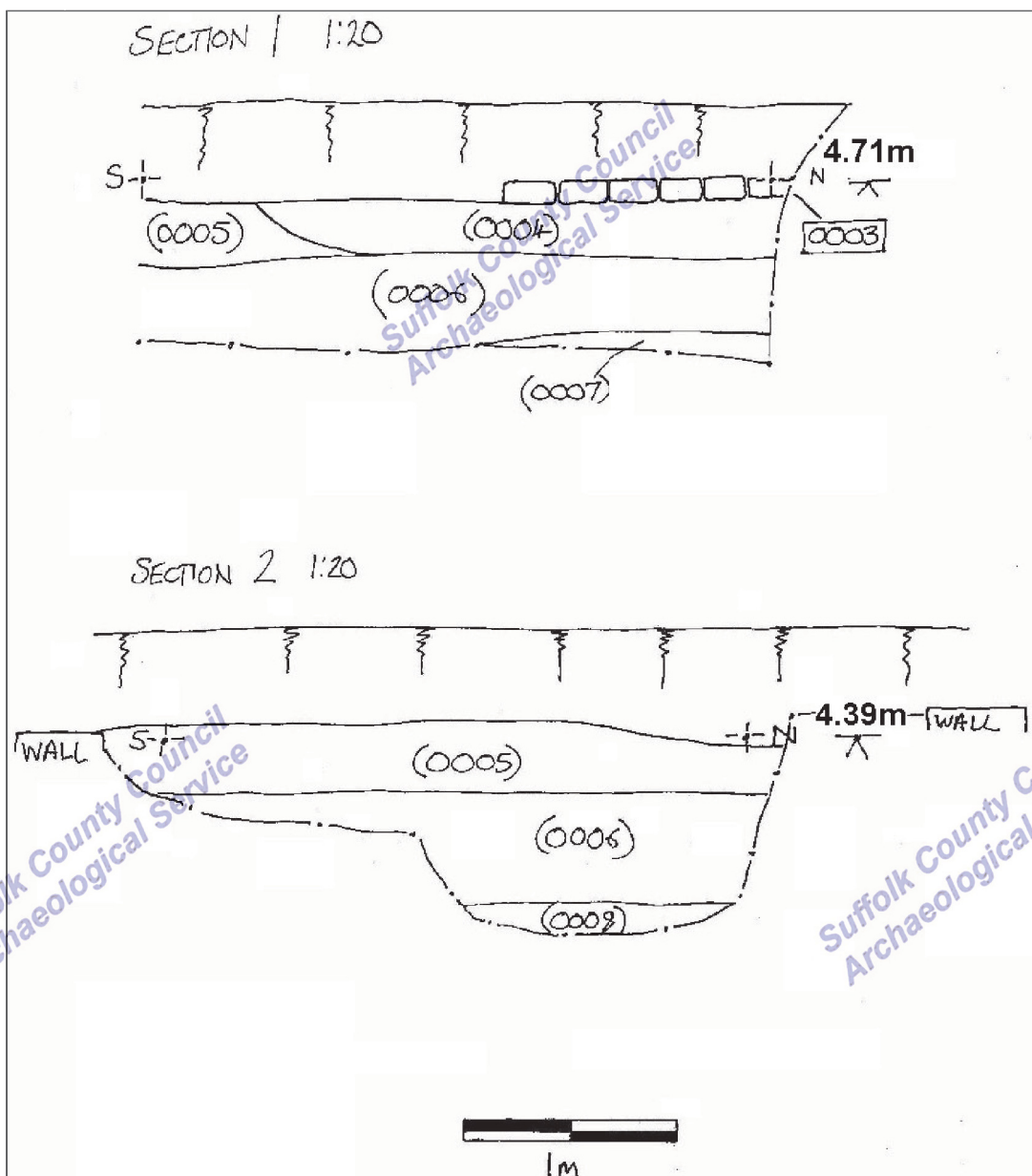


Figure 4. Trench 1 Sections

3.2 Trench 2

This was excavated for a distance 8.25m from the Fore Street frontage. Heavy cellaring and modern disturbance to a depth of at least 1.6m below ground level was recorded. Excavation ceased at this depth and no further work was carried out.

3.3 Trench 3

A small east-west orientated trench was cut c. 21m north of the Fore Street frontage near the centre of the site, in an attempt to identify/locate where the previous excavation in 1990 had taken place. No sign of previously excavated deposits was observed. It was concluded that the original excavation area was to the north of this point and to the west of Trench 1 (Keith Wade and John Newman, *pers comm.*).

4 The Finds

Finds were collected from two contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP No.	Pottery		Fired clay		Spot date
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0006	4	46			12th-14th C
0007	1	5	11	108	11th-12th C
Total	5	51	11	108	

Table 1. Finds quantities

4.1 Pottery

Five fragments of pottery were collected from the evaluation (0.051kg). Four sherds were recovered from the dark earth type deposit 0006. A fragment of Sandy Ipswich ware was present, with external girth grooves. A second, more abraded grey sandy body sherd is harder to date, as it could be Saxon or even medieval. A grey sherd with oxidised margins containing calcareous inclusions dates to the Late Saxon/early medieval period. In addition a small unabraded medieval coarseware made in a sandy fabric with sparse grog and fine silver mica dating to the 12th-14th century was also present in this context.

A single medieval body sherd was found in occupation layer 0007. It is also sandy but contains occasional shell inclusions, some of which have been leached out. It appears to be hand-made rather than wheel-thrown, and dates to the 11th-12th century.

4.2 Fired clay

Eleven fragments of fired clay were recovered from layer 0007. These are made from a fine sandy matrix with frequent linear voids and impressions of straw or grass. Other inclusions are moderate flint up to 8mm in length, and chalk and shell up to 15mm. No impressions of rods, withies or other signs of structural evidence were recorded to indicate the function of this material, but the presence of ash and charcoal in the deposit may suggest they are hearth-related.

4.3 Discussion

The small quantity of pottery from the evaluation is mixed in its dating. The fragment of Ipswich ware is likely to be Middle Saxon rather than an Ipswich Thetford-type ware, but it is accompanied by an abraded grey sandyware which is more problematic. However

the presence of the single fragment of medieval coarseware indicates a 12th century date or later for the deposition of this material.

The site is located beyond the south-eastern edge of the Middle Saxon settlement. Finds recovered from areas nearby such as Site IAS 6104 (71-73 Fore Street) have included sherds of pottery of Middle and Late Saxon date, and previous archaeological work on Site IAS 6106 has revealed the presence of Late Saxon and early medieval pits.

5 Discussion and Conclusions

The site has seen heavy 19th century/early modern occupation. As a result it has been heavily truncated, particularly along the Fore Street frontage.

The only significantly undisturbed deposits were seen at the northern end of Trench 1. The site of the previous 1990 excavation also lies somewhere in the northern third of the development area.

Coherent medieval deposits were encountered in this area of the site at a depth of c. 4.20m AOD, with natural sands and gravels at 3.30m AOD.

Given that the well-preserved Saxon building remains were also encountered in that part of the site (west of Trench 1) there should be a presumption that the medieval deposits encountered in this evaluation seal significant earlier occupation remains.

6 Recommendations

It is clear that there is the potential for significant deposits to survive. However these are at some depth and their survival or destruction will be heavily dependant on the method of construction in the proposed development.

The available findings suggest that an area 12m wide along the northern frontage of the site should be considered to have high potential, with coherent remains between 0.8 – 1m below the existing ground level.

It is recommended that this area be subject to excavation if mitigation in the proposed construction techniques is insufficient to enable preservation of the deposits *in situ*.

Report No. 2007/179
OASIS ID-No. suffolkc1-32008
Rhodri Gardner, for SCCAS, September 2007

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.

APPENDIX 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

85-87 FORE STREET, IPSWICH

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

1. Background

- 1.1 An application is to be submitted for planning consent for the erection of student accommodation at 85-87 Fore Street, Ipswich.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority will be advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 The development area lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined for Anglo-Saxon and medieval Ipswich in the Ipswich Local Plan and will involve extensive ground disturbance. A small excavation on this site in 1990 revealed occupation dating from the 10th century onwards and included a late Saxon cellared building.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline

specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish the extent of archaeological deposit in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

- 2.6 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will precede the field evaluation. If field-walking is proposed it will precede trenching. The results of the desk-based work and any field-walking are to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. **Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment**

- 3.1 Consult the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report.
- 3.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.

4. **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the entire site and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches

are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins. A single trench (north-south) on the eastern side of the plot is recommended.

- 4.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 4.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 4.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).

- 4.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.

"Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England" English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.

- 4.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. General Management

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 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

Tel: 01284 352440

Date: 21 August 2007
Street

Reference: /85-87 Fore

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.

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