

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

16-20 STOKE STREET, IPSWICH
(SMR ref. IPS 470)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK
ASSOCIATED WITH ALTERATIONS TO NOS. 16-20 STOKE STREET
(Application No. IP/04/00243/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/15
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-6790)

Summary: Archaeological monitoring of the groundwork associated with structural alterations at 16-20 Stoke Street, Ipswich (NGR TM 1629 4387), was undertaken during August 2004. The lowering of levels in the cellar was observed but only undisturbed natural subsoil of yellow silty sand was seen. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 470. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from Featherstone Construction Limited, the site's developers.

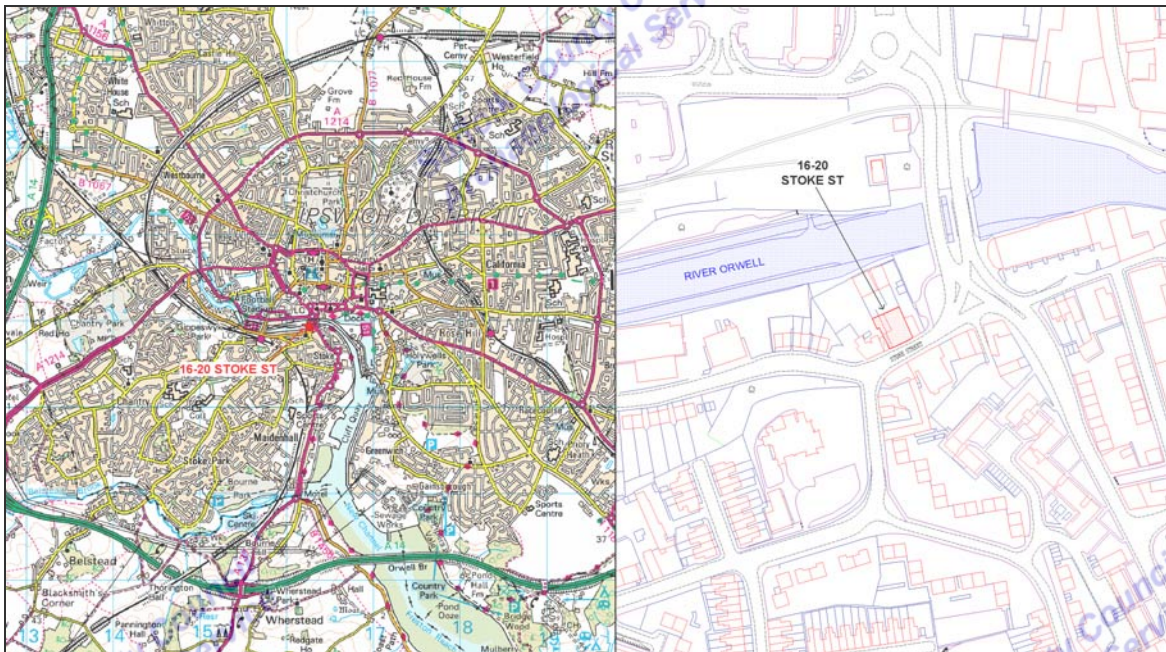


Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

An application to convert 16-20 Stoke Street, Ipswich, to residential use (application no. IP/04/00243/FUL), was approved with an attached condition requiring a programme of archaeological works to be put in place prior to any construction work. The archaeological interest in the site was due to its location within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined for Ipswich in the Ipswich Local Plan.

As only limited ground disturbance was proposed a simple monitoring condition was deemed appropriate and for this a Brief and Specification was produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The site lies on an area of ground that slopes steeply down from Stoke Street to the river. Numbers 16-20 are built on a terrace that has been cut deeply into the slope with what appears as the ground floor at the front of the building becoming the first floor when viewed from the rear.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1629 4387; for a location plan see figure 1 above. This monitoring event is recorded on the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 470. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, with funding from Featherstone Construction Limited, the site's developers.

Results

A single visit was made to the site on the 26th August 2004 in response to a telephone call from the developers to inspect the works then underway. The floor of the cellar had been lifted and material was being excavated in order to lower the interior ground surface by c.400mm. Immediately under the floor a natural subsoil of yellow silty sand was present. No intrusions were evident and only clean undisturbed natural subsoil was seen across the entire width of the building with no trace of the original ground level.

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 470, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-6790.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or features have been destroyed or damaged by the works observed as the original sloping ground surface has been completely truncated by the excavation of the terrace upon which these properties are built. It was possible that the bottom portions deeper features could have survived towards the back edge of the structure but none were seen although any such intrusions would have been easily identified in the cleanly cut natural subsoil surfaces.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team

25th February 2005

APPENDIX 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

16-20 STOKE STREET, IPSWICH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to convert 16-20 Stoke Street, Ipswich, to residential use has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (IP/04/00243/FUL). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed limited new-build indicates that the area affected by new ground disturbance can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined for Ipswich in the Ipswich Local Plan and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As ground disturbance is limited and the damage to any archaeological deposits can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during groundworks 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 Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches, a new basement and drainage trenches. 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 time-table.
- 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 In the area of the new basement, topsoil will be excavated under the supervision of the 'observing archaeologist' and should stop if archaeological features are revealed above the final formation level. Any such features should then be hand-excavated by the 'observing archaeologist', prior to the continued reduction of levels.
- 4.5 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.6 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.7 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.
- 5.7.1 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: 4 June 2004

Reference: /Ipswich-StokeSt06

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.