

23, Westgate Street, Ipswich
IPS 472
Planning Application no. IP/03/01172/FUL
Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2005/72
OASIS ID no. 7594

Summary

Ipswich, 23, Westgate Street (TM/1611 4461; IPS 472) A small area was monitored as a condition of planning consent for a new extension to 23, Westgate Street, Ipswich. Much of the material removed was concrete, beneath which, only made up ground was revealed. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed by the limited ground level reduction.

(Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Dean and Bowes Ltd.; report no. 2005/72)

Introduction

Planning consent for an extension to 23, Westgate Street, Ipswich, required a programme of archaeological work in order to observe and record the planned groundworks. The site lies at TM 1611 4461, at approximately 10m OD, within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined for Ipswich in the Local Plan, and is within 40m of excavated areas which have revealed Saxon and medieval deposits. The development scheme required ground to the rear of the premises to be reduced to a formation level suitable for subsequent piling. The area is known to comprise made ground to a depth of over 1.7m and as such, the ground level reduction was unlikely to reach archaeological features cut into the natural subsoil. However, the upper levels did have the potential to contain solid structural remains such as medieval/early post medieval walls.

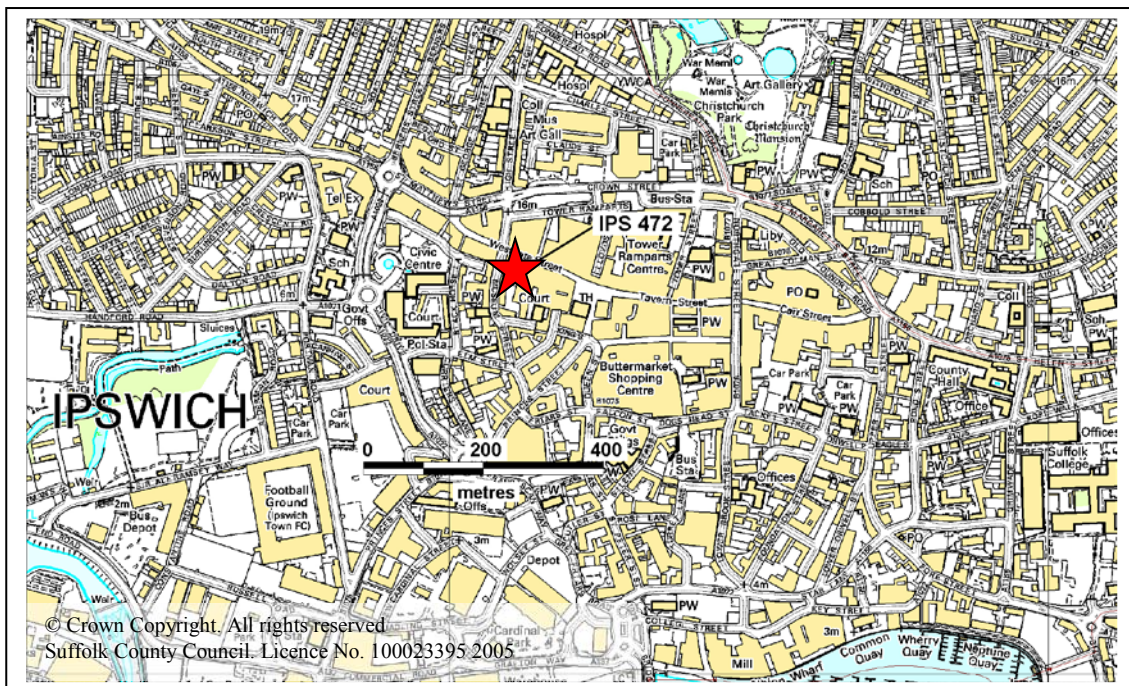


Figure 1: Site location

Methodology

Visits were made to the site during February 2005 in order to observe the groundworks and record any archaeological deposits revealed. Concrete was removed from an area of approximately 165 square metres which was subsequently stripped to the required formation level with a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothed bucket. The site was recorded under the SMR code IPS 472. The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Conservation Team. The monitoring work was carried out by the SCCAS Field Projects Team and was funded by Dean and Bowes Ltd. on behalf of Primark.

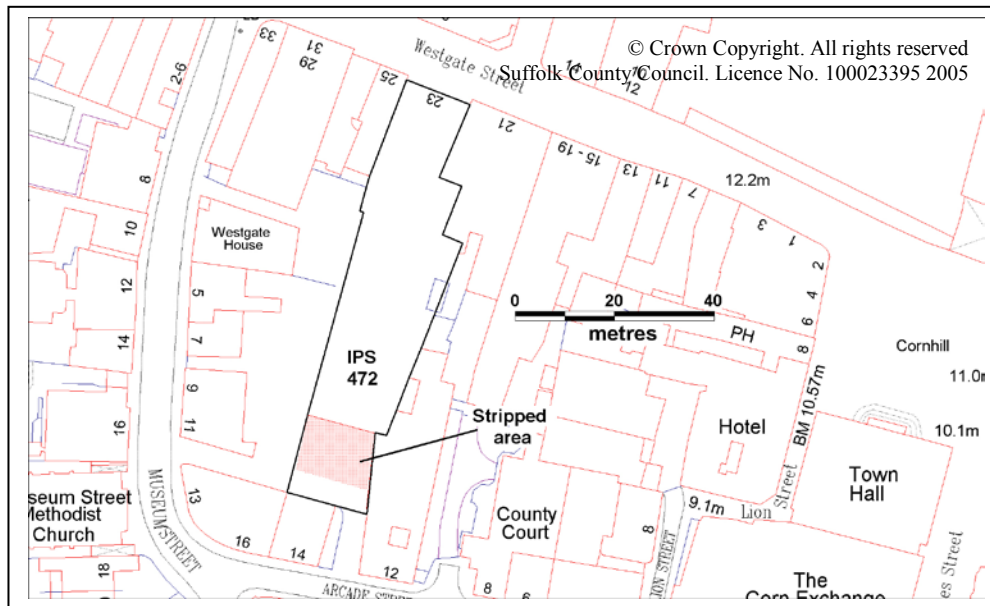


Figure 2: Location of monitored area

Results

Below the concrete which covered the site was a layer of hardcore which sealed a dark brown loamy soil. This was made up ground and contained late post medieval and modern material but no evidence of medieval or earlier post medieval deposits. This was at a depth of c.1m below the surrounding ground level at the northern end of the site, shallowing out to c.500mm at the southern end. Piling was to occur from this level and as such further ground disturbance was likely to be limited.



Plate 1: View of stripped site, looking north east.

Discussion

Only made up ground was revealed within the stripped area, within which no archaeological evidence was observed. The monitored groundworks were not sufficiently deep as to reveal natural subsoil or impinge on any archaeological deposits likely to be present.

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