

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## 153 PRINCES STREET, IPSWICH (SMR ref. IPS 471)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF  
GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A  
NEW LOBBY AT 153 PRINCES STREET, IPSWICH  
(Application No. IP/04/00848/FUL)

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/73  
(OASIS Ref. suffolkc1-7628)

**Summary:** Archaeological monitoring of the groundwork associated with the construction of a new lobby at 153 Princes Street, Ipswich (NGR TM 1586 4417), was undertaken during March 2005. An area excavated for a raft foundation spanning across piles was observed but no significant archaeological deposits were revealed. The excavation only cut into made ground and no natural subsoil was seen. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference IPS 471. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned and funded by The Charter Partnership and was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team.

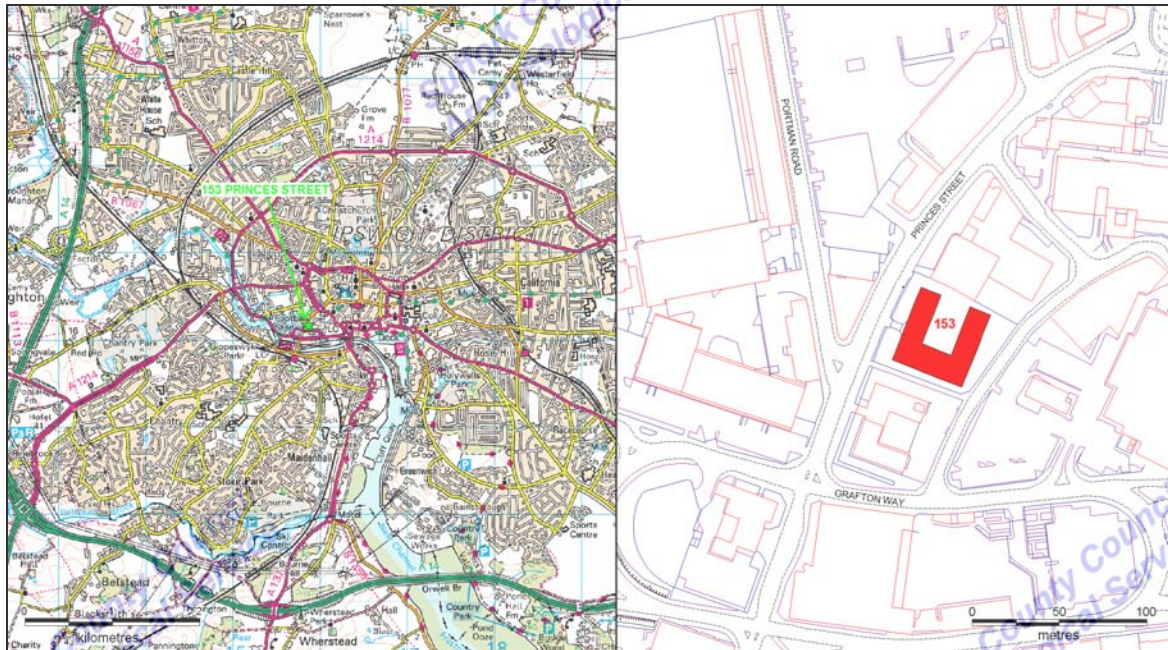


Figure 1: Location Plan

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## Introduction

An application to create a new lobby at 153, Princes Street, Ipswich (application no. IP/04/00848/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 adjacent a known Iron Age findspot.

The new lobby was to be in the form of an extension on the west side of the building, between the existing structure and Princes Street and was to be constructed on a concrete raft resting on piles. The piling would give little opportunity to observe for archaeological deposits but it was possible that excavation of the raft area may reveal archaeological deposits. As only relatively limited ground disturbance was proposed a monitoring condition was deemed appropriate to ensure an adequate record of any archaeological deposits revealed and for this a Brief and Specification was produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the proposed lobby is TM 1586 4417; 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 471. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned and funded by The Charter Partnership on behalf of their clients. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team.

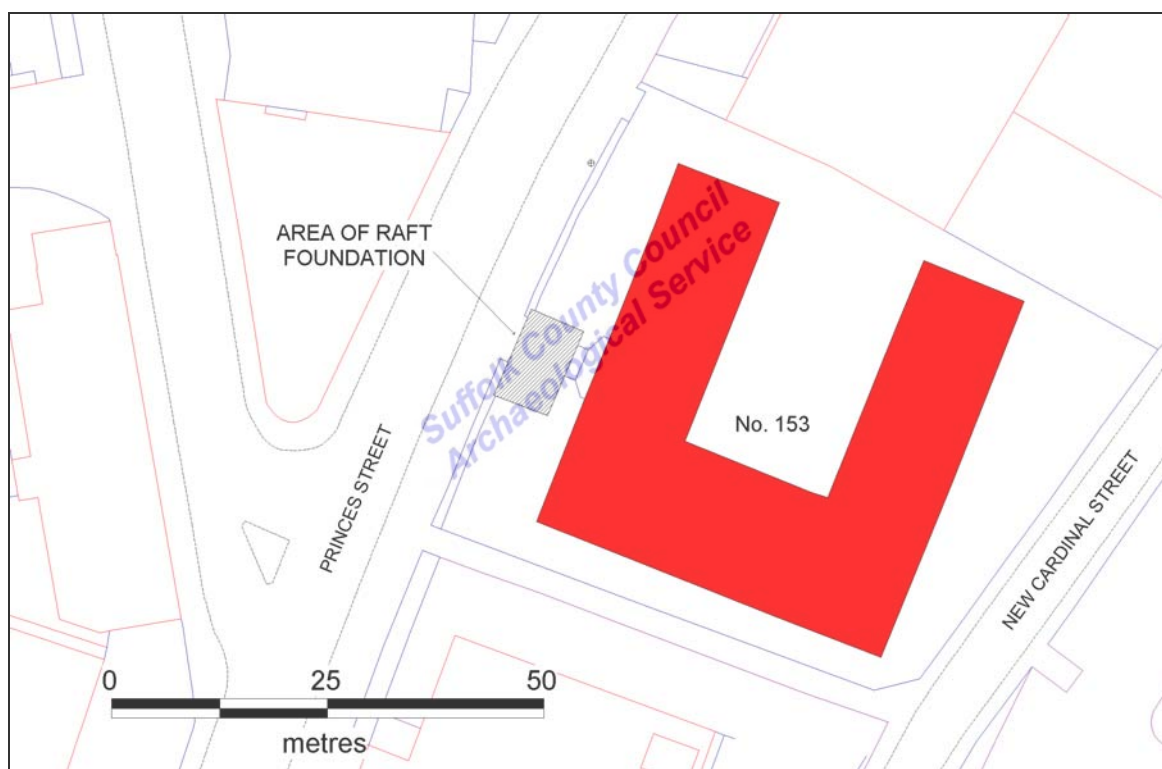


Figure 2: Location Monitored

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## Results

The excavation for the raft foundation was inspected on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005. It measured c.11m by 7m and had been cut to a depth of c.650mm. Beneath the tarmac and rammed gravel hardcore surface present in the area was a deposit of pale brown clayey sand. Occasional fragments of brick and tile and mortar rubble were evident throughout and the remnants of a narrow red brick wall running perpendicular to Princes Street was seen. The top of this wall was encountered at a depth of c.200mm and only two courses survived.

The pale brown clayey deposit was evident across the base of the excavation except in the southwest corner where a small area of grey silty sand was visible. A small number of visits were also made to the site to inspect excavations associated with the installation of services which only revealed the same deposit of brown clayey sand with occasional brick

building debris. No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified within this site during any of the monitoring visits.

A ground investigation had been carried out by MLM Environmental Limited (project ref. SJO/720827; document ref. 720827/R2/F). This was undertaken through the excavation of two boreholes, one immediately to the north of the lobby site and one to the south. These indicated that the top 0.6 to 1m comprised of 'made-ground' consisting of loose brown clayey sand or soft black clay with brick fragments. This overlay blue grey alluvial clay/silt deposits with occasional peat layers up to depths ranging from 1.7 to 2.4m at which depth yellow sand and gravel river terrace deposits were encountered.

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 471, it is also recorded on the OASIS, online database, reference: suffolkc1-7628.

## Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or features have been destroyed or damaged by the works observed as the excavations only cut into a deposit of made ground.

This area of the Ipswich is marked as 'marsh' on Ogilby's map of the town dated 1674 and this is reflected by the deposits of alluvial silts with peat layers recorded in the boreholes. It remained as marsh or low-lying pasture until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and was still an area liable to flooding during the 20<sup>th</sup> century although this problem has since abated with increased control of the River Orwell and its tributaries.

Prior to the construction of No. 153 a terrace of Victorian houses fronted onto Princes Street. The area of the new lobby lies across the site of three or four of these houses and the large amount of building debris and the remnants of brick wall noted is probably associated with their demolition. It is likely the made ground was formed from material imported in order to raise this area as protection against floods.



# APPENDIX I

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

#### 153 PRINCES STREET, IPSWICH

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend 153 Princes Street, Ipswich, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (IP/04/00848/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 adjacent to Fison House where Iron Age finds were made in a peat deposit in 1959.
- 1.3 As piled foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which 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 prehistoric occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the construction of pile and beam foundations.

#### 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 works as outlined in this 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: 16 February 2005

Reference: /Ipswich-PrincesSt02

**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.**