

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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## LAND AT DUKE STREET, IPSWICH (SMR Ref. IPS 474)

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION OF A PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL  
DEVELOPMENT ON LAND LYING BETWEEN DUKE  
STREET AND FORE HAMLET, IPSWICH

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

## Land at Duke Street, Ipswich

SMR Ref. IPS 474 (IAS9008)

**Summary:** An archaeological evaluation was undertaken during April/May 2005 to investigate the potential for buried archaeology within an area of land lying between Duke Street and Fore Hamlet, Ipswich (NGR ref. TM 1723 4388), in advance of a proposed residential development. Ten linear trenches targeted at parts of the site least likely to have undergone past truncation were machine excavated to the depth of the undisturbed natural subsoil. No significant archaeological deposits or features relating to the Anglo-Saxon and medieval history of the town were identified although a small number of post-medieval pits and two undated ditch type features were recorded as well as an industrial brick structure thought to relate to a former timber yard and dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This evaluation is recorded on the County SMR, reference no. IPS 474. The evaluation was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service who were commissioned and funded by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their client, Fairview New Homes Ltd.

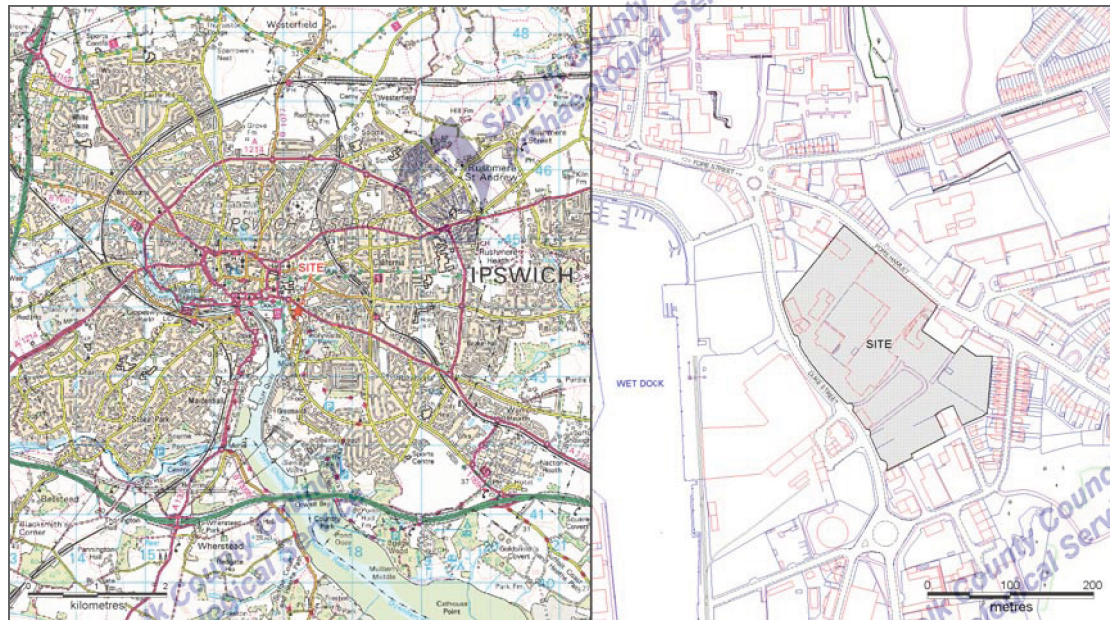


Figure 1: Location Plan

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## 1. Introduction

A residential development has been proposed for an area of land lying between Duke Street and Fore Hamlet, Ipswich (application no. IP/04/01290/FUL). A desk-based survey, undertaken by Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting, identified a moderate archaeological potential for the prehistoric periods and a good archaeological potential for the late medieval and post medieval periods based on earlier finds and documentary evidence. Unfortunately, it is believed that 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century development and landforming would have had a severe and widespread impact on any buried archaeological deposits that may have existed within the site. In order to ascertain the potential for buried archaeological deposits and features within the site, and as an aid to determination of the planning application, an archaeological evaluation was commissioned. The main aims of the evaluation were to identify actual archaeological deposits and to assess the impact of earlier development on the site.

The site is c.36500 square metres in area and is situated on a gentle southwest facing slope to the southeast of the Saxon and Medieval town centre of Ipswich. The southwestern edge of the site is formed by Duke Street which, prior to land reclamation, is believed to have run along what would have been the edge of the River Orwell. The area to the southwest of Duke Street, between the site and what is now the Wet Dock would formerly have been mudflats and saltmarsh which were reclaimed progressively from north to south from the 1600s onwards. The Wet Dock itself is formed from the river channel, which has been dammed at each end (the river now runs in a cut further to the west). The NGR for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1723 4388.

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client, Fairview New Homes Ltd., who funded the work. The evaluation was undertaken by the Field Projects Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and was carried out during April/May 2005. The evaluation archive is lodged with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at its Bury St. Edmunds office under the Sites and Monuments Record reference, IPS 474 (*Ipswich Series IAS9003*). A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-7841.

## 2. Methodology

Trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil (or the top of any significant archaeological deposits if encountered) using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a c.1.8m wide, toothless, ditching bucket which through careful controlled use this left a clean freshly cut surface on the trench base. The trenches were numbered 1 to 10 and were positioned in accordance to a plan provided by CgMs Consulting (see figure 2). These trenches were targeted at those parts of the site thought least likely to have undergone past truncation.

In many areas it was necessary to get a 'breaker' to get through the concrete surface present across much of the site. The machining of the trenches themselves was closely observed throughout in order to recover artefacts that may be in the overburden. Upon removal of the overburden the resulting surface was examined for features. This was followed by the removal of any underlying subsoils or hillwash, which may have masked archaeological deposits and features, until the underlying unweathered natural subsoil was revealed, which was also examined for archaeological deposits and features. Occasional metal detecting of the spoil tips and all trenches was undertaken. A 1:50 scale surface plan of any features noted was constructed and context numbers were issued to each feature starting from 0002, 0001 being reserved for unstratified finds from the site. Sample sections were excavated through the features to assess their depth, investigate the nature of the fills and to recover datable material. These sections were recorded at a scale of 1:20. A photographic record of the evaluation using monochrome film and colour slide film was compiled. It incorporated photographs of each trench and the sections through any excavated features. In addition a series of digital photographs using 3.2megapixel camera were also taken.

The trench locations were plotted and their depths were noted. A sample section of each trench was drawn. A dumpy level was used to measure the relative heights of the

trenches and any features noted. A bench mark was located on one of the extant structures on the site, its height is recorded on Ordnance Survey maps as 5.41m. Upon completion of the fieldwork the trenches were backfilled and fill consolidated.

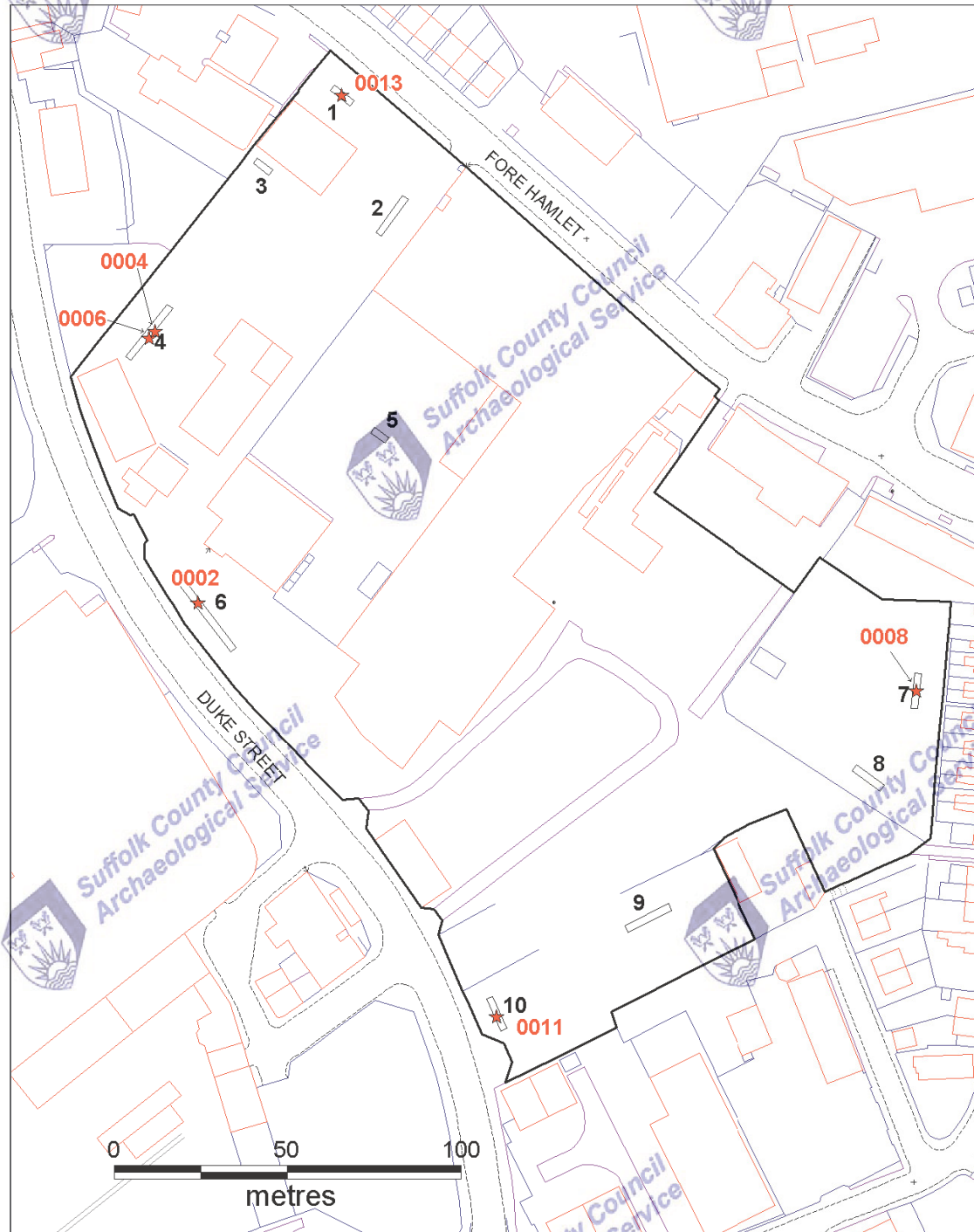


Figure 2: Trench and Feature Location Plan

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### 3. Results

Ten trenches in total were excavated within which a total of five archaeological features were identified as well as a 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century brick structure of industrial origin. These were situated in Trench 1 (brick structure), Trench 4 (2 pits), Trench 6 (1 ditch), Trench 7 (1 pit), and Trench 10 (1 ditch). The natural subsoil predominately comprised yellow orange silty sand. (See figure 2 for a plan of the trench and feature locations. A description of each follows overleaf; for the reader's convenience the feature cut numbers are highlighted in **bold** in the text. For a section of the material removed during the excavation of each trench see figure 3. Appendix I details the relative heights and the approximate depths of overburden recorded for each trench. A full context list is included as Appendix II).

**Trench 1** measured 7m in length. Upon excavation a deposit of brick rubble filling a chamber was immediately encountered (see figure 5 and Plates I and II). It became apparent that the trench was located in the corner of the chamber with the southwest and northwest edges of the trench being formed by the chamber's brick walls. A further brick wall running across the trench was encountered c.3.35m from the northwestern wall. All three of the exposed walls of this chamber were faced with very hard blue 'engineering' bricks. At a depth of 1.2m a well made red brick floor was encountered upon which an area of raised brickwork had been built. This formed a gully or flue c.0.3m wide and 0.25m deep. It ran parallel to the edge of the trench, from a hole in the northwest wall close to the eastern corner, for a short distance before turning 90 degrees to the northeast and continuing beyond the northeast edge of the trench. Towards the eastern corner of the chamber the base of the flue dipped and continued through the wall. At this point an iron grate could be seen with a void beneath. Looking along the flue towards the northwest, the flue could be seen to run a little further (c.0.5m) before ending in what appeared to be a pair of small iron doors. This has been interpreted as a hearth or firebox with an area for ash beneath the grate. This area of the hearth and the first 1m or so of the flue showed signs of repeated heating with the brick surfaces appearing very scorched and worn. In the area of the hearth/firebox two large ceramic blocks, both of which were badly cracked, covered the flue but no covering was noted elsewhere in the trench although from observation of the scorching on the brickwork it would appear that in service the flue would have been enclosed.

A second chamber, a mirror image of the first, was encountered to the southeast of the chamber described above. It was of similar appearance and dimensions but was entirely constructed of red brick and appeared to be of an earlier phase than the chamber first encountered. After discussion with Duncan Hawkins (CgMs) and The County Archaeologist the flue and floor of this second chamber was removed revealing a truncated natural subsoil surface consisting of a pale yellow silty sand. No other archaeological features or deposits were identified.

**Trench 2** (Plate III) was to be 20m in length but due to the location of services it was only possible to excavate a 9.5m trench. Natural subsoil, consisting of yellow orange silty sand, was encountered at a depth of 0.55m metres. The interface between the natural subsoil and the overlying deposit of grey brown silty sand was blurred and irregular suggesting the natural subsoil had not been truncated.

**Trench 3** (Plate IV) measured 5m in length. The natural subsoil comprising yellow orange silty sand was encountered at a depth of 1.4m. Overlying the natural subsoil was a layer mid brown silty sand, the interface between the two layers was blurred and irregular indicating the subsoil had not been truncated. Overlying the deposit immediately above the subsoil was a 0.8m deposit of made ground comprising a layers of crushed mortar and small brick/tile fragments and dark grey silty sand.

**Trench 4** (Plate V) measured 20m in length. A yellow orange silty sand natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 1.5m. It was overlain by a 0.15m thick layer of orange brown silty sand, which appeared as a weathered natural subsoil. It in turn was overlain by a brown silty sand, c.0.7m thick which was overlain by made ground comprising layers of sand, crushed mortar and brick rubble. Two features were identified at the base of this trench, **0004**, a shallow irregular shaped cut interpreted as a pit, and **0006**, also interpreted as a pit (figure 4). Although these were not identified until the natural subsoil had been reached upon cleaning the side of the trench adjacent to these features it could be seen that they had actually been cut from the top of the brown silty sand deposit, just below the deposit of made ground.

Pit **0004** was situated against the edge of the trench and continued beyond the limits of the trench. The fill (0005) consisted of brown silty sand. A large portion of this feature was carefully hand excavated but no finds were recovered.

Pit **0006** was situated immediately to the southwest of 0004 and partially cut the fill of 0004. The fill (0007) comprised dark brown silty sand from which seven sherds of pottery and five fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered. Four of the pottery sherds and the CBM fragments point to a post-medieval date for this feature. The other three pottery sherds were residual finds with one possibly dating from the Roman period whilst the remaining two were medieval in date.

**Trench 5** (Plate VI) was 5m in length. Natural subsoil comprising yellow gravelly sand was encountered at a depth of 0.8m. It was overlain by a single deposit of dense grey silty sand. The interface between the natural and the overburden was very abrupt suggesting the natural had been truncated in this area.

**Trench 6** (Plate VII) was 25m in length with the natural subsoil being encountered at a depth of 1.1m. It comprised a gravelly silty sand. It was overlain by a dark silty sand 0.20m thick which has been interpreted as a buried topsoil. This was in turn overlain by a thick deposit of mid brown silty sand with numerous fragments of crushed brick and tile into which red brick foundations associated with houses that formerly fronted onto Duke Street had been cut. There was no indication that the natural subsoil surface had been truncated.

A single linear feature, **0002**, interpreted as a ditch, was recorded within this trench (figure 4, Plate VIII). Its cut had a 'V' shaped profile, was 1.2m wide and aligned southwest-northeast. Three fills were evident, a basal fill of fine grey silt which was overlain by a dirty orange yellow sand. The final upper fill comprised mid brown silty sand with frequent large stones. The lower two fills probable built up during the ditch's useful life whilst the final fill appears to represent a deliberate backfilling. No finds were recovered from the fill.

**Trench 7** (Plate IX) measured 10m in length. The natural subsoil, which comprised a yellow brown silty sand, was encountered at 0.9m. It was overlain by layers of silty sand containing fragments of crushed CBM, some of which were pushed into the subsoil surface. The subsoil surface in this area appeared to have been truncated. A single feature, **0008**, was identified (figure 5). It comprised a large amorphous shaped cut interpreted as a pit. It cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.3m. The fill consisted of brown orange silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

**Trench 8** (Plate X) was 10m in length. A definite deposit of natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 1.2m comprising mottled orange silty clay. This was overlain by two further layers of mottled silty clay which may also have been natural as they were similar in appearance apart from the variation in colour. These layers were overlain by a layer of grey silty sand containing frequent fragments of crushed CBM and charcoal flecks and lumps. This was overlain by a 0.7m thick deposit of made ground in two distinct layers.

**Trench 9** (Plate XI) was to be 25m in length but due to the nature of the ground it was only excavated to a length of 15m. The profile revealed in this trench indicated that the natural subsoil lay at a depth of c.3m. This was overlain by a 0.8m thick deposit of grey waterborne silt which in turn was overlain by a 0.2m thick layer of very dark to black peat. A small number of finds were recovered from the machine spoil that appeared to have originated from these layers. They were allocated the context number 0010. The finds comprised nine sherds of pottery dated to the post medieval period, with four of the sherds indicating an early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. These indicate the formation of the peat horizon was relatively recent. The peat layer was sealed beneath a thin layer of yellow sand which in turn was overlain by 1.35m of made ground. Tip lines were clearly visible running down from the northeast to the southwest. These deposits were then sealed under layers of crushed mortar, brick rubble and hardcore before finally being topped with tarmac. Given the depth of deposits further excavation of this trench was abandoned. It is possible that Trench 9 was wholly located within a former pond or water filled depression.

**Trench 10** (Plate XII) was 10m in length. Natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.85m. It was immediately overlain by a layer of mid brown silty sand which in turn was overlain by deposits of

made ground comprising dark silty sand with numerous fragments of crushed brick and tile. A single linear feature, **0011**, interpreted as a ditch was identified. It had a 'V' shaped profile, was aligned southwest-northeast and cut the subsoil to a depth of 0.4m. The fill (0012) comprised mid brown silty sand from which no finds were recovered. The fill, which was sealed by the overlying deposits, appeared to have been truncated.

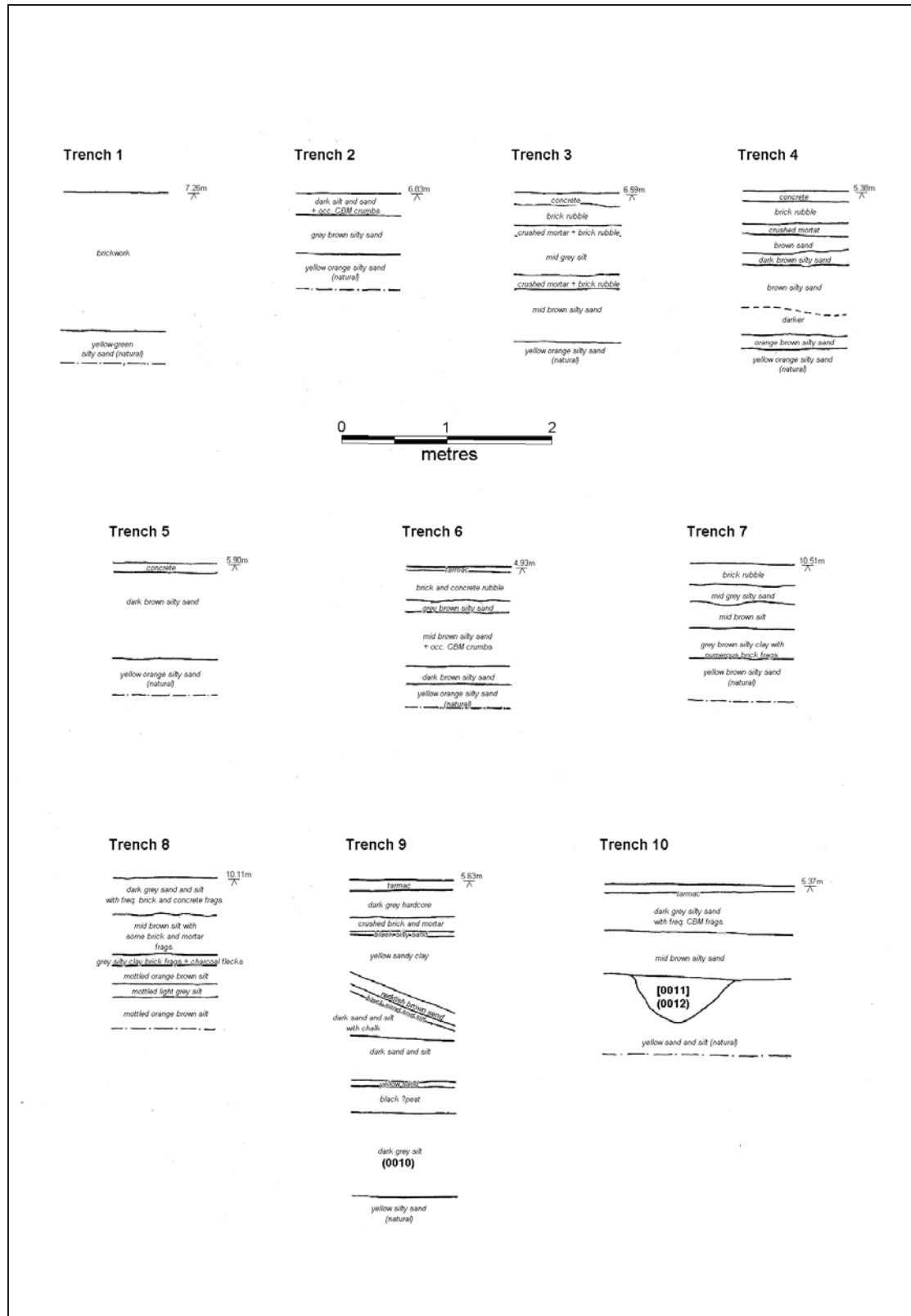


Figure 3: Trench Sections



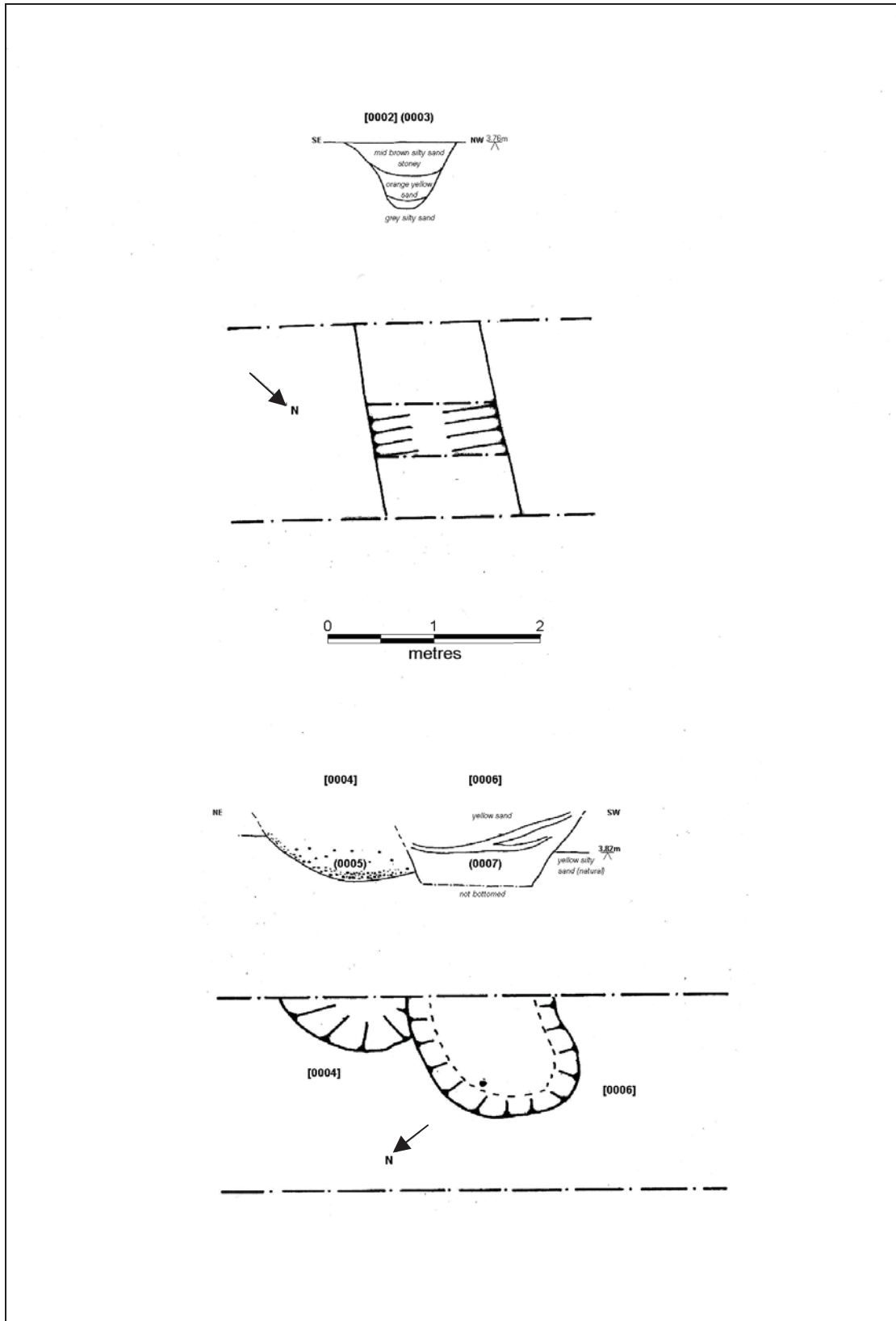


Figure 4: Feature Plans and Sections (0002, 0004 & 0006)

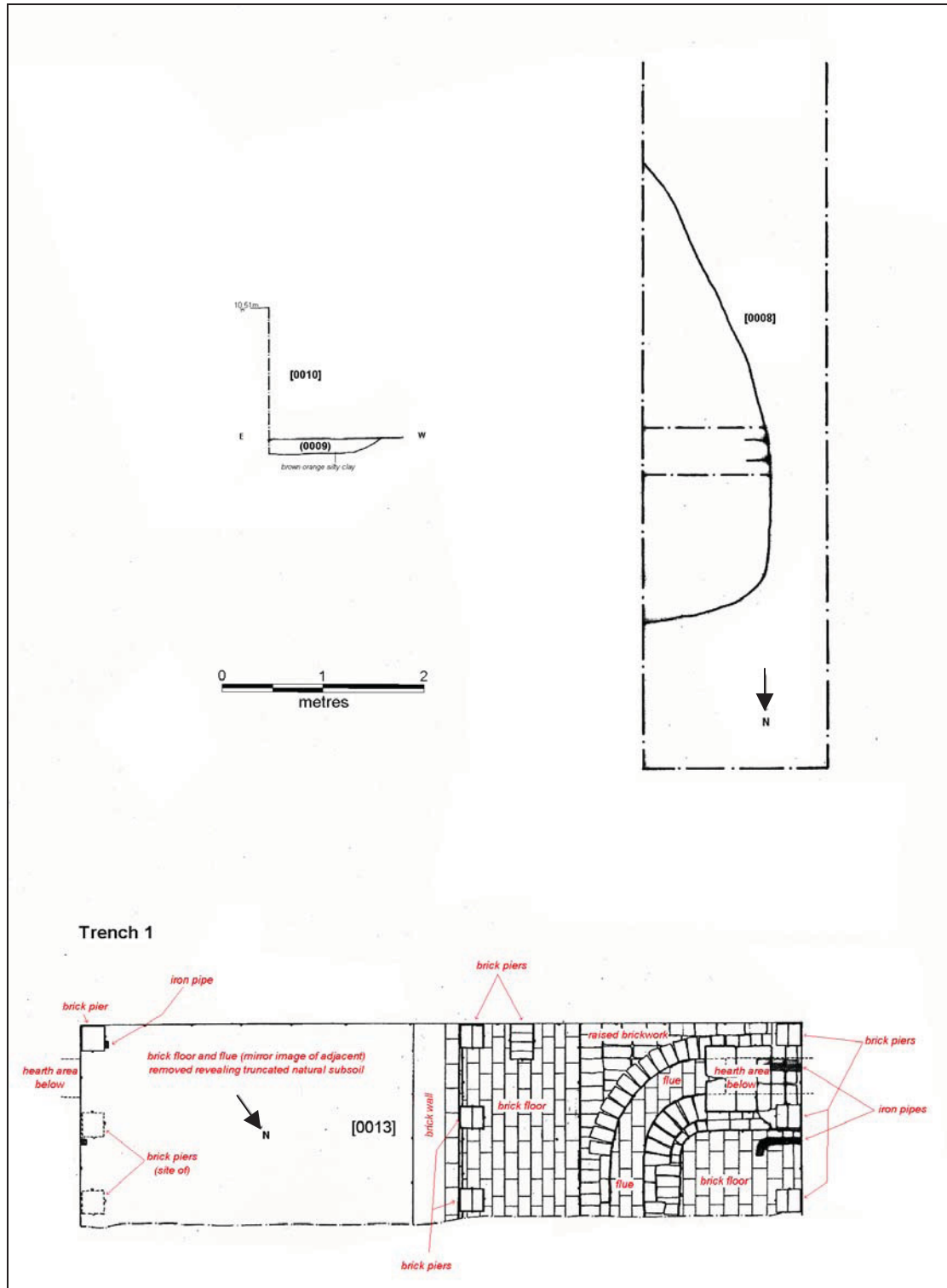


Figure 5: Feature Plans and Sections (0008 & 0013)

## 4. The Finds

Richenda Goffin, May 2005.

### Introduction

Finds were collected from 2 contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		Ceramic Building material		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0006	7	44	5	343	Late 17th-18th C
0010	9	510			Early 19th C
Total	16	554	5	343	

### Pottery

A total of 16 fragments of pottery were recovered from the evaluation, weighing 0.554kg. The majority of the pottery is post-medieval in date, but a small quantity of medieval wares were identified, and a single fine greyware which may be Roman.

Seven sherds were present in 0006, the fill of a rectangular pit. A fragment of a micaceous wheelthrown greyware is likely to date to the Roman period. Two slightly more abraded coarse sandy wares are medieval (12th-14th century). Four post-medieval wares were also present. These include an abraded sherd of Glazed red earthenware, possibly part of the base of a bowl, dating to the 16th-18th century. Two fragments of tin-glazed earthenware were identified. One sherd from a small bowl or dish has a polychrome decoration which is likely to date to the late 17th-first half of the 18th century. The second fragment has a plain white tin-glaze. A single stained and abraded sherd of Yellow Glazed Border ware dates from 1550-1750.

Nine fragments of pottery from six different vessels were recovered from 0010, a number given to a layer of silt, but which also may contain sherds recovered from spoil. A very abraded rim of Glazed red earthenware was present, dating to the 16th-18th century. In addition two joining fragments of a Yellow ware dish and a bowl fragment were identified, of Late 18th-19th century date. The base of a Late slipped redware bowl or panchion is of a similar date. Two joining sherds of a pearlware bowl with footring and annular blue decoration are likely to date to the period c1795-1815 (Noel Hume 1980). Two abraded fragments of blue and white transfer printed ware made from Ironstone china can be broadly attributed to the 19th century.

### Ceramic building material

Five pieces of ceramic building material were found in pit-fill 0006. A roof tile fragment made from a sandy uniformly fired fabric dates to the late medieval-post medieval period. A second fragment may be of a similar date. Three fragments of brick were also recovered, all of which are very abraded. One of these has mortar still adhering to one of its surfaces. No complete dimensions could be measured, but the sandy fabrics and uniformity of firing indicates that the bricks date to the 16th-18th century.

### References

Noel Hume, I., 1980, A guide to artefacts of colonial America, Alfred A Knopf

## 5. Discussion

No significant archaeological deposits relating to the early origins of the town of Ipswich were identified during this evaluation. The handful of features identified all appear to be related to a low level post medieval activity with very occasional scattered pits suggesting the site was largely unoccupied and was presumably pasture. The two ditches recorded in Trench 6 and Trench 10 appear to run towards the river and were possibly for drainage although, given the free draining nature of the land, it is more likely they acted as boundary markers or stock keeping divisions.

No Prehistoric artefacts or features were recorded in any of the trenches although it was noted that truncation of the surface of the natural subsoil was not as widespread as originally feared and that there is a possibility that prehistoric features and deposits could survive. These are often widely scattered and consequently hard to pick up in trenched evaluation.

The deep deposits of grey waterborne silt and peat noted in Trench 9 are of interest as they indicate the presence of a, presumably large, water filled feature. It was initially thought that the river edge must have been further to the east but as natural sand deposits were located at a depth of only 0.85m in Trench 10, which is situated directly between Trench 9 and the river, it clearly was not. This feature was possibly a pond or water filled depression of some form. The finds recovered from the silt and peat suggest an early 19<sup>th</sup> century date for its final filling .

The only other feature of note was the brick structure recorded in Trench 1. The purpose of this industrial structure is a matter of speculation as only a small, incomplete portion of what is presumably a much larger complex was seen. No structures are marked in this area on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map although a line of buildings is marked on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Editions suggesting the structure was built between the late 1880s and 1900. This area of the site is marked as a 'timber yard' on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Editions and it is presumed that the brick structure is associated with the yard. Its purpose is presumably to provide heat although as the hearths were of moderate dimensions in comparison to the flues only a gentle heat would have been produced away from the fire. One possible interpretation is that the structure formed part of a series of seasoning sheds for the quick drying of timber.

## PLATES



Plate I: Trench 1, Brick Structure (NW chamber), viewer facing NW



Plate II: Trench 1, Brick Structure (SE chamber) after removal of flue and floor, viewer facing SE



Plate III: Trench 2



Plate IV: Trench 3



Plate V: Trench 4



Plate VI: Trench 5



Plate VII: Trench 6



Plate VIII: Trench 6, Ditch 0002



Plate IX: Trench 7



Plate X: Trench 8



Plate XI: Trench 9



Plate XII: Trench 10 showing ditch 0010

## APPENDIX I

Relative heights above Ordnance Datum (OD): present ground surface, height of natural subsoil and approximate depth of overburden.

Measurements related to Bench Mark at TM 17143 43885, height recorded as 5.41m above OD.

	Present ground level	Height of natural subsoil	Depth of overburden
Trench 1	7.26m	5.96m	1.3m
Trench 2	6.83m	6.27m	0.56m
Trench 3	6.59m	5.19m	1.4m
Trench 4	5.38m	3.90m	1.5m
Trench 5	5.90m	5.00m	0.9m
Trench 6	4.93m	3.81m	1.1m
Trench 7	10.51m	9.61m	0.9m
Trench 8	10.11m	9.31m	0.8m
Trench 9	5.63m	2.63m	3.0m
Trench 10	5.37m	4.47m	0.9m

## APPENDIX II

### CONTEXT LIST – LAND AT DUKE STREET SMR ref. IPS474

<u>Context</u>	<u>Feature</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Identifier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cuts</u>	<u>Cut by</u>	<u>Spot Date</u>
0001		n/a	Finds	unstratified finds from across entire evaluation area			
0002	0002	6	Ditch Cut	Linear feature cut interpreted as a ditch. Aligned NE-SW, running towards the river			
0003	0002	6	Ditch Fill	Fill of cut 0002. Comprises mid brown silty sand become darker towards base			
0004	0004	4	Pit Cut	?oval shaped feature cut interpreted as a pit. Gently sloping sides to a rounded base. Situated on edge of trench, full extent unknown		0006	
0005	0004	4	Pit Fill	Fill of cut 0004 comprising brown silty sand			
0006	0006	4	Pit Cut	roughly ?rectangular shaped feature cut interpreted as a pit. Near vertical edges, not bottomed	0004		
0007	0006	4	Pit Fill	Fill of cut 0006 comprises dark brown silty sand			Late 17 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> C
0008	0008	7	Pit Cut	large shallow pit of unknown shape. Only a portion within trench, full extent unknown			
0009	0008	7	Pit Fill	Fill of cut 0008 comprising mid brown orange silty clay			
0010	0010	9	Layer	layer of grey river type silt with thin layer of degrading peat over. Finds under this number recovered from spoil as removed from machine - possible mixing			Early 19 <sup>th</sup> C
0011	0011	10	Ditch Cut	'V' shaped profile of feature cut noticed in side of Trench 10			
0012	0011	10	Ditch Fill	Fill of cut 0011 comprising mid brown silty sand			
0013	0013	1	Structure	Brick built structure incorporating two hearths with brick flues running across brick floors. Two cells each a mirror image. NW cell has walls faced with engineering bricks and appears as an addition to SE cell			