

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

The Car Park, Ickworth House, Ickworth IKW 014

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2004
(Planning app. no. SE/03/2509/P)

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Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Contents

List of Figures
List of Tables
List of Contributors
Acknowledgements
Summary
SMR information

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Results
4. Discussion
5. Conclusion

References

Appendix 1: Brief and Specification

Appendix 2: Nearby sites on the Suffolk SMR

List of Figures

1. Site location plan
2. Site in relation to earthworks recorded in EH survey
3. Survey results plan
4. Traverse profiles
5. Site strip monitoring plan

List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by The National Trust and was monitored by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The fieldwork was carried out by John Duffy, David Gill, Andrew Tester and Jonathan Van Jennians from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report. Survey results and traverse profiles were produced for the report by John Duffy.

Summary

A program of earthwork survey in advance of the development of a new carpark at Ickworth Park, and archaeological monitoring during the site strip identified several very minor earthworks which were generally associated with 19th-20th century deposits of building rubble. Any archaeological evidence, such as cut features associated with the pattern of earthworks surrounding the site, is likely to be preserved at depth below these modern deposits.

SMR information

Planning application no.	SE/03/2509/P
Date of fieldwork:	January-February 2004
Grid Reference:	TL 8143 6160
Funding body:	The National Trust
Oasis reference.	Suffolkc1-9149

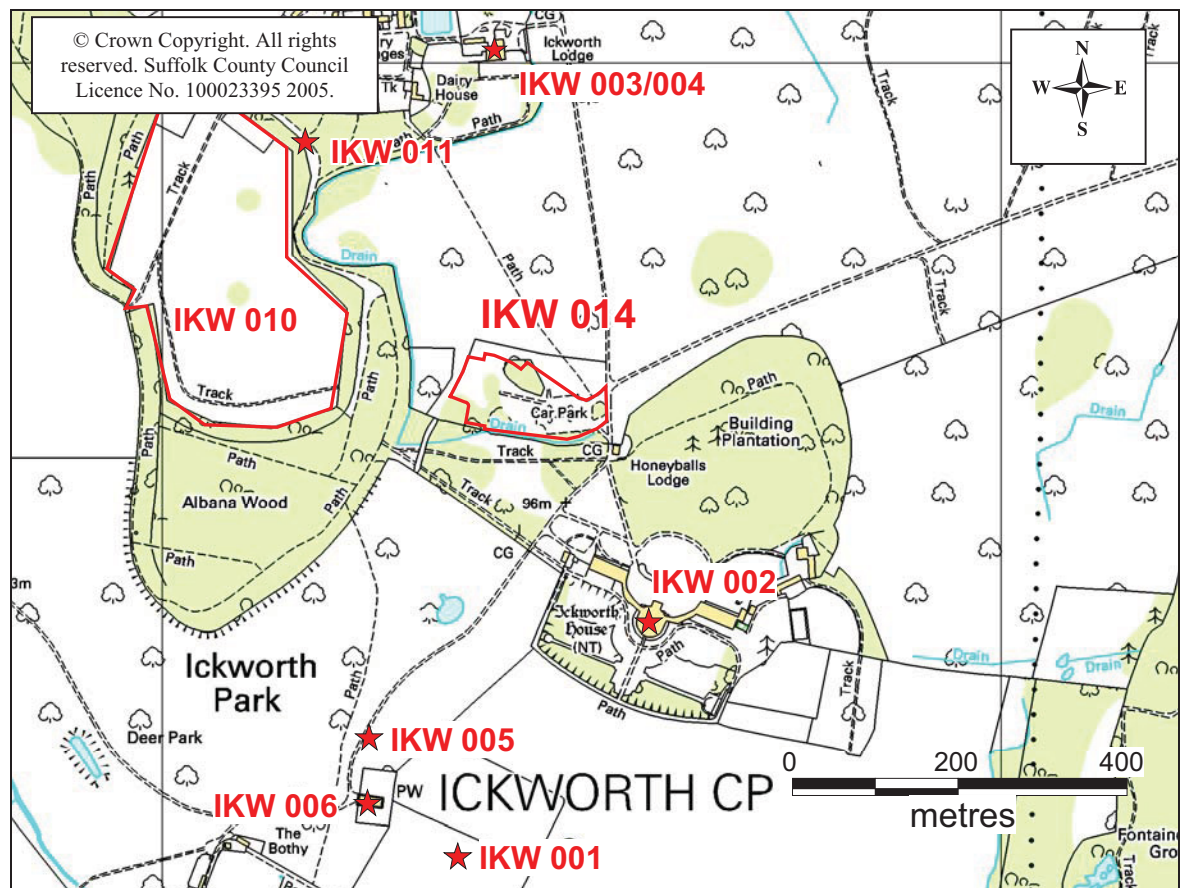
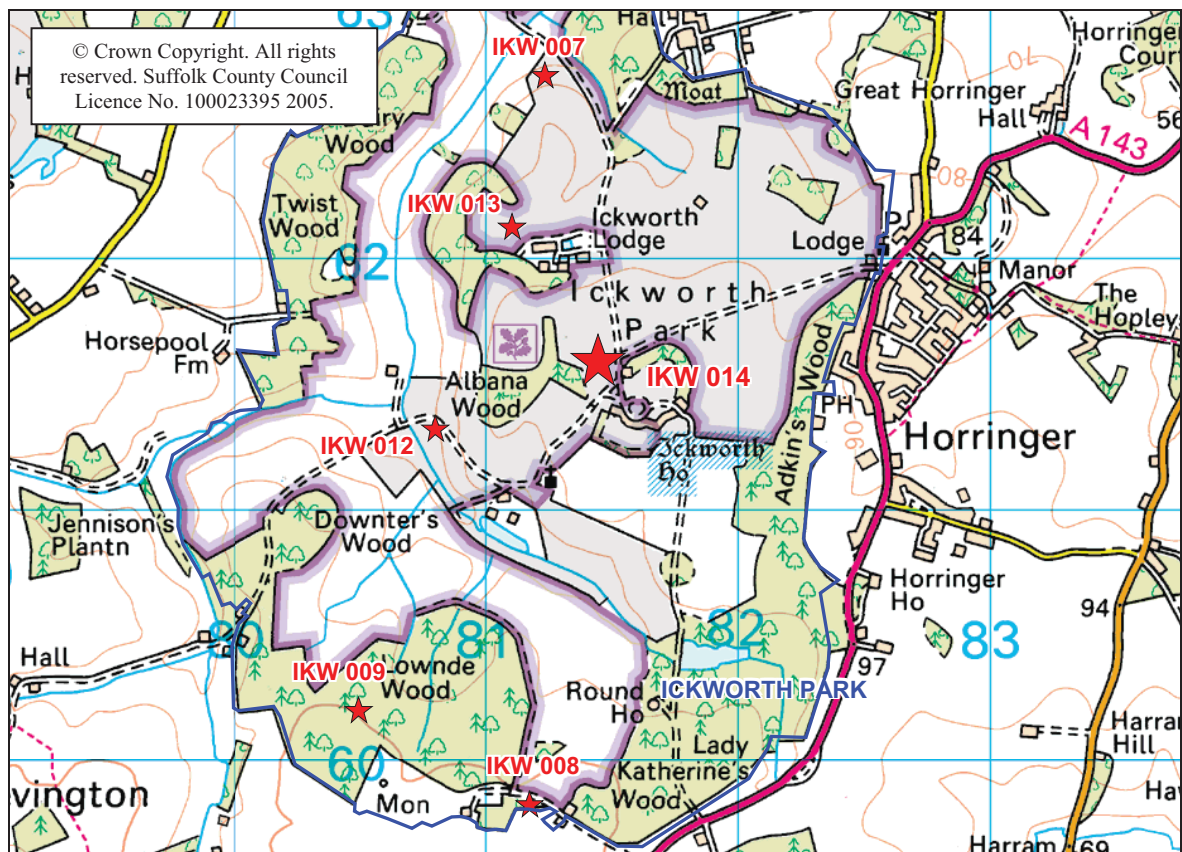


Figure 1. Site location plan

1. Introduction

A program of archaeological survey and monitoring was carried out in advance of, and during, the groundworks for the redesign and extension of an existing carpark at Ickworth Park, Suffolk. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team, Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/03/2509/P. The work was funded by the developer, the National Trust.

The site is located at TL 8143 6160 (Fig. 1) and covers an area of c.1.2ha at the centre of Ickworth Park, at a height of 95m OD. The existing carpark occupied an area of c.0.34ha, with the remaining western part of the site being part of a wider landscape of open parkland with scattered mature oak trees, situated to the north-west of Ickworth House.

Due to its location the development area is surrounded by a series of known sites that are associated with the park and recorded on the Suffolk SMR (Appendix 2). Lying 200m to the south-east is Ickworth House (IKW 002), which was built from 1796-1828 by the Hervey family and lay at the centre of over 13ha of landscaped gardens. This replaced the earlier medieval Ickworth Hall (IKW 001), which probably lay to the south near Ickworth Church but was comprehensively demolished in the early 18th century. 350m to the north is Ickworth Lodge (IKW 003), an estate building with 18th century landscaped gardens, that was used by the Hervey family during the construction of Ickworth House. The building is thought to have developed from a medieval farmhouse and is probably a surviving element of a deserted medieval green and village (IKW 004). 400m-450m to the south, are Ickworth church (IKW 006) and Church Greene (IKW 005), the probable site of another deserted medieval village. Finally numerous other areas of earthworks and an icehouse have been recorded within the park (IKW 007-012).

A survey report by English Heritage in 1999 (Pattison and Menuge 1999) had identified a series of earthworks within the open parkland between Ickworth Lodge and Ickworth House. These are thought to be a mixture of features dating from the medieval period to the 19th century and several extended south into the development area.

The English Heritage plan (Fig. 2) shows an elongated enclosure, **A**, lying to the north of the development area, which probably developed over a period of time from a layout of pre-existing fields. A trackway runs north-south through the western part of the enclosure (and into the development area) creating smaller subdivisions **B,C,D** and **E**, of which **D** is a shallow depression interpreted as the site of a building with robbed out foundations. Together these enclosures are thought to be a post-medieval farmstead, incorporated into the park in the late 17th century.

F and **G** mark where other ditch and banks meet enclosure **A**, with the latter possibly being another trackway. **M** is a curving ditch and bank, thought to be an ornamental feature possibly marking a plantation boundary. **P** is a shallow linear depression with a bank, marking a footpath between Ickworth Lodge and Ickworth House. Finally **Q** is a rectangular earthwork, probably marking an early 20th century tennis court or similar area.

The large-scale site strip and ground levelling that was to occur during the carparks construction therefore was going to wholly remove several existing earthworks. It also had the potential to disturb or destroy any medieval or post-medieval archaeological deposits surviving below ground level and a program of archaeological monitoring was therefore required to record the area before and during its development.

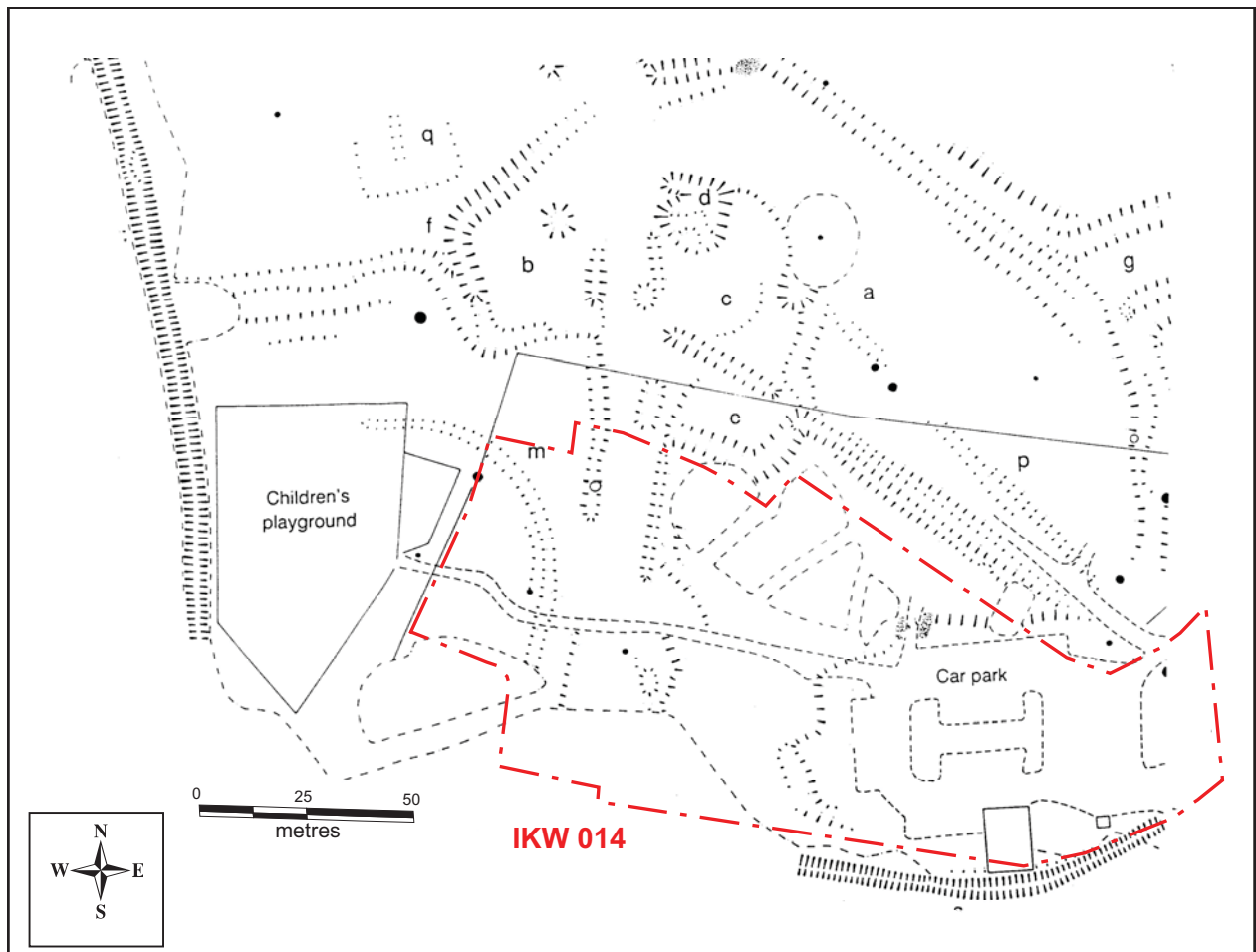


Figure 2. Site in relation to earthworks recorded in EH survey

2. Methodology

The archaeological survey and monitoring of the development consisted of three phases of work. The first phase was a survey of the visible earthworks on the site, to establish whether any further details could be added to the English Heritage earthwork plan (Pattison and Menuge 1999). Locations of newly identified earthworks were recorded with a Total Station Theodolite.

The second phase of work was the recording of site contours along three traverses aligned east-west through the centre of the site.

The third phase consisted of a monitoring of the initial topsoil strip. This consisted of the removal of the turf and soil to a depth of 0.2m-0.25m, a depth which only exposed the natural subsoil, a mix of sands, clay and gravels, in isolated areas. Across the majority of the site either the topsoil was left *in situ* or a mix of relatively modern deposits were visible, the latter were briefly recorded and spot located.

An Oasis form has been completed for the project (suffolkc1-9149).

The site archive is kept in the small and main stores of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. IKW 014.

3. Results

The first phase of work consisted of an earthwork survey over the development area. Several minor new earthworks were identified (Fig. 3), amidst those already mapped by EH, and were recorded using a TST.

Earthwork **01** was a short extension, c.10m in length, to the already known north-south bank on the eastern edge of ditch **M**. It also further defines the course of the north-south trackway that runs through enclosure **A**.

Earthwork **02** was a short extension, c.10m in length, to an already known north-south bank on the eastern edge of the trackway.

Earthwork **03** was a low, sub-circular mound, measuring c.18m in diameter and 0.3m high. To the south and north of this feature several other small, irregular and indistinct, earthworks were visible.

The second phase of works was the recording of contour surveys along three traverses using a TST (Figs. 3 and 4). These clearly showed the indistinct, low-level, nature of the earthworks with banks and ditches only becoming apparent when the profiles vertical axis was exaggerated.

The third phase of monitoring was the topsoil strip (Fig. 5), which levelled the site for the carpark construction. Across most of the site removal of the 0.2m thick topsoil showed it to overlie a thin layer of brown clay/loam. Beneath this was the natural subsoil, an undulating surface of yellow clay/sands with spreads of green clay infilling shallow natural hollows that was only seen in scattered areas. Frequent deposits or spreads of redeposited brick, tile and slate rubble were observed throughout the site at the base of the topsoil, of which the most obvious are detailed below.

The sinuous hollows, recorded on the EH plan at point **04** had largely been infilled with a deposit of black peat/clay mixed with dense 19th century brick rubble, slate and glass, which was left *in situ*.

05 was a concentrated mass, c.10m diameter, of brick, flint and chalk lump building debris. It was exposed and left *in situ* in a large spread across the subsoil surface.

At point **06** a small area of debris contained some pieces of oyster shell and fragments of broken earthenware flowerpots, which was not collected.

07 was a concentrated area of rubble, formed from complete and finely crushed bricks, with slate, mortar, flints and flowerpot fragments, set in a matrix of black peat/clay/silt.

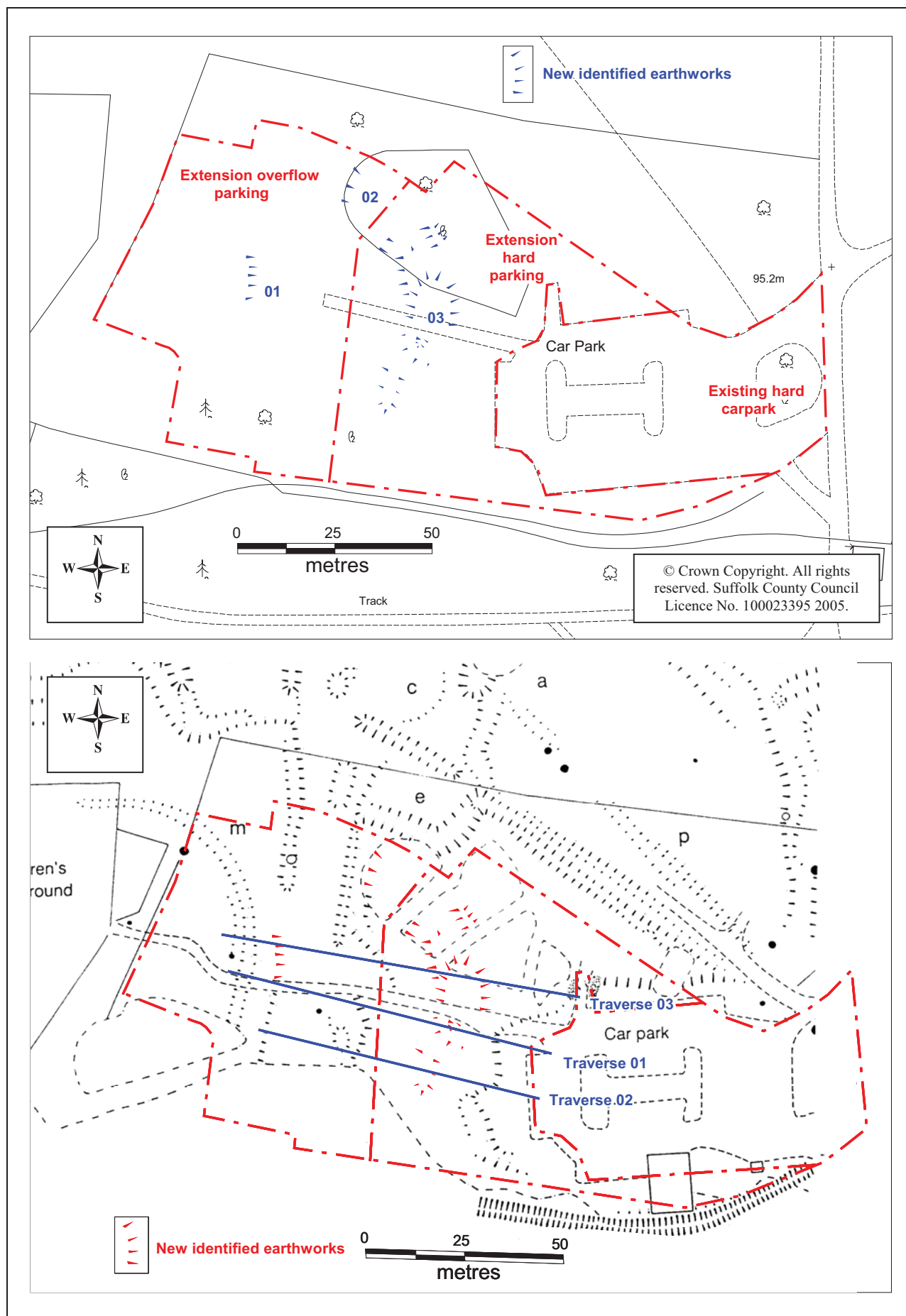


Figure 3. Survey results plan

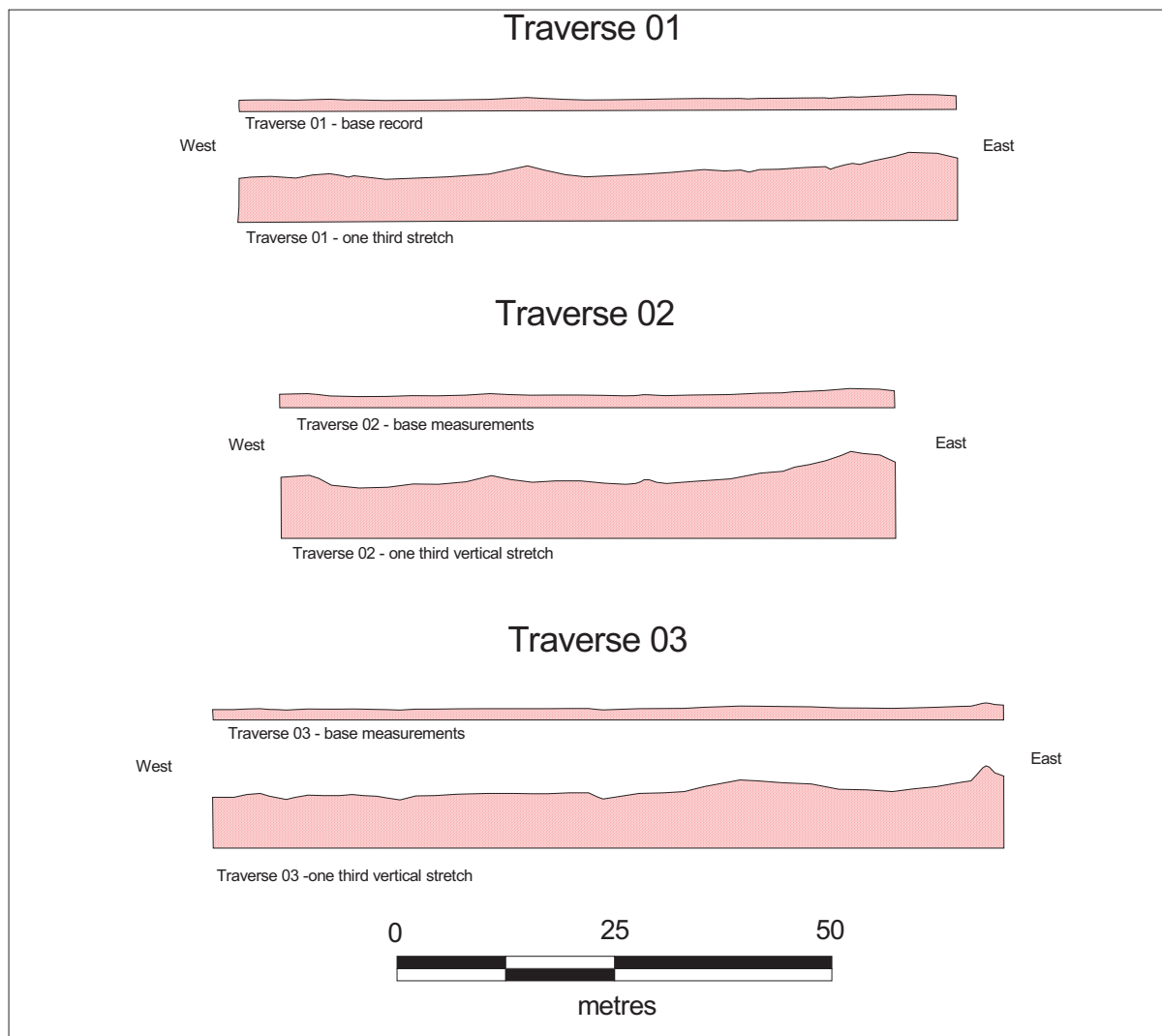


Figure 4. Traverse profiles

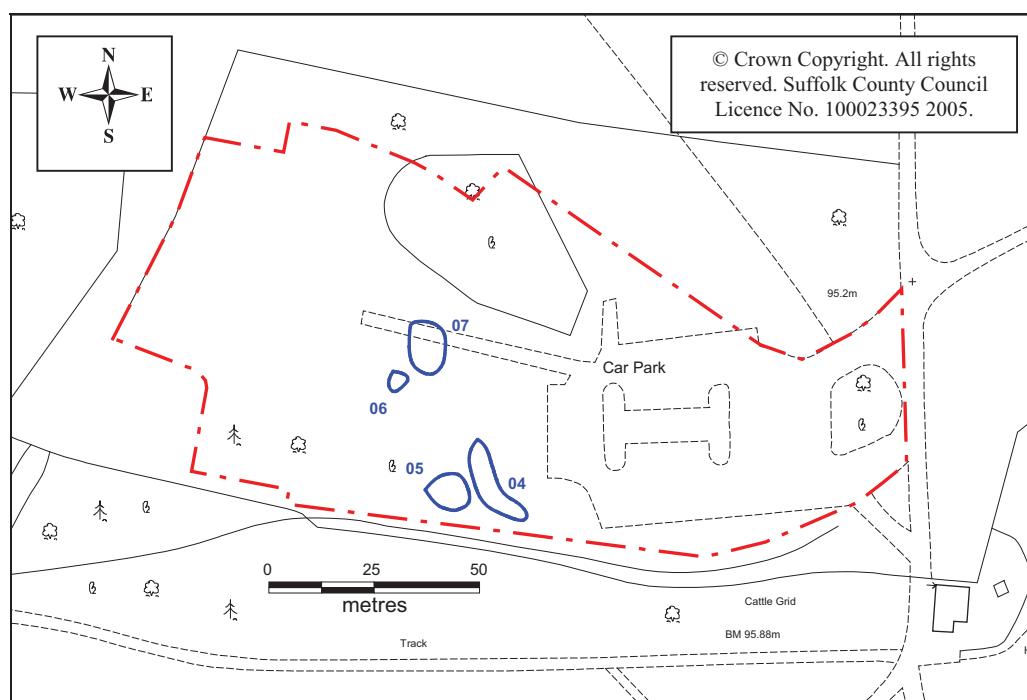


Figure 5. Site strip monitoring plan

4. Discussion

The initial survey did not identify any major new earthworks, simply indicating slight extensions to known features, 01 and 02, and a low mound, 03. The three traverses demonstrate the very slight nature of the earthworks on the site with the bank on the eastern side, adjacent to the existing carpark being the most obvious feature. The low mound 03, is also clearly seen in traverse 3.

The site strip was relatively shallow and generally did not expose the natural subsoil, with either 19-20th century deposits of rubble or a layer of clay/loam left *in situ*. This affected the level of monitoring that could be carried out as the archaeological levels remained buried. However it could be seen that the various deposits of building rubble had a rough correlation with some of the irregular earthworks identified during the survey around mound 03.

5. Conclusion

The earthwork survey and limited monitoring of the site strip did not identify any new major features. It did show a high level of relatively recent activity, with dumped deposits of rubble affecting the topography of the site, perhaps indicating previous rough attempts at levelling the area. Any archaeological evidence within the site, such as ditches associated with removed earthworks, is likely to be preserved at depth below these modern deposits and the new carpark.

References

Pattison, P & Menuge, A., 1999, *Ickworth Park, Ickworth, Suffolk – Survey for the proposed East Wing development*, English Heritage.

Appendix 1:

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Survey and Monitoring of Development

ICKWORTH HOUSE CAR PARK

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 2.4, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5 & 5.6.

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (SE/03/2509/P) has been made to redesign the existing car park, involving resurfacing and an extension to the west. The local planning authority have been advised that the site has high archaeological potential and that any consent should be conditional on a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition. Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The extension area is currently grassed and shows faint earthworks marks which are part of the park complex. Engineering design is not precisely defined but removal of topsoil is apparently required so mitigation to record the present land surface, the removal of soil, and subsequently any exposed subsoil surface, is required.
- 1.3 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.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will be the record of the historic landscape feature and the opportunity to establish relationships and dates for any exposed subsoil features.
- 2.3 The present surface is to be surveyed and analysed in its earthwork context.
- 2.4 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the removal of topsoil and exposure of subsoil to prepare for the laying of car park sub base. Soil moving operations are to be controlled and observed as they are conducted by the construction contractor. Adequate control of the soil moving methodology is to be provided such that unnecessary damage is not caused, cleaned surfaces are not obscured before recording, and time is allowed for archaeological recording before sub base is laid.

3. The Survey

- 3.1 Preliminary observation suggests that the earthwork features are slight and are unlikely to be readily defined by even a close contour survey. Based upon an outline level survey create an interpretative survey showing surface features as hatched outlines.
- 3.2 Relate the area to the surrounding earthwork areas on the area to the west of the main car park, i.e. the area to be used as overflow car park; this area should be surveyed in the same way.

4. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 4.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 4.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS 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. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 4.3 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 2.4 and 5.6 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

- 4.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

5. **Specification**

- 5.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 5.2 Opportunity must 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.
- 5.3 Topsoil stripping is to be observed whilst it takes place.
- 5.4 A suitable machine which does not track over cleaned areas is to be used (i.e. not a pushed blade). All vehicle traffic is to be kept off cleaned subsoil (or maximum formation levels) until archaeological recording is completed and agreed with the project archaeologist.
- 5.5 If subsoil is to be exposed following removal of hardcore in the area of current hardstanding/carpark, the same archaeological method is to be used, although constant observation of hardcore removal will not necessary.
- 5.6 The archaeologist is to have unimpeded access to cleaned subsoil surfaces (5.4/5.5) at an average rate of one hour per 50 sq metres.
- 5.7 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 5.8 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context.
- 5.9 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

6. **Report Requirements**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.

- 6.3 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).
- 6.4 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*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 6.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

Specification by: R D Carr

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 24 October 2003

Reference: /Ickworthcarpark10

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.

Appendix 2: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Sites and Monuments Record

12/07/2005

Parish

ICKWORTH, ST
EDMUNDSBURY, SUFFOLK

Ref	Site Name	Period	Summary Description	NGR
IKW 001	Ickworth Hall (site of) SF6556	Med	Site of Hall, E of church.	TL81356105
IKW 002	Ickworth House; Ickworth Park SF7742	PMed	Ickworth House, Park and gardens (registered).	TL81066153
IKW 003	Ickworth Lodge SF7743	PMed	Situated on edge of The Green (or Ickworth Green) (IKW 004) in 1665 when probably a farmhouse.	TL81406200
IKW 004	Ickworth Green SF7744	Med	Site of Ickworth Green or The Green as shown on reconstruction mapped from 1665 survey, with three buildings - (?) dwellings shown, including Ickworth Lodge) (R1)(S1).	TL81306215
IKW 005	Church Greene SF7745	Med	Site of church green as shown on mapped reconstruction of 1665 survey adjoining Ickworth church (IKW 006), and site of Ickworth Hall (IKW 001)(S1).	TL81256119
IKW 006	St Mary's Church SF7746	Med	Church of St Mary in Thingoe hundred, diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, archdeaconry of Sudbury, deanery of Horringer, status of rectory.	TL81256112
IKW 007	SF7747	PMed	Ice house marked by OS (S1)(R1).	TL81236272
IKW 008	SF7748	Med	'A part water-filled homestead situated on level ground NW of Martin's Green Gate.	TL81185982
IKW 009	Lownde Wood SF15997	Un	Ancient woodland as defined in (S1).	TL80506020
IKW 010	Ickworth Park SF20092	Un	AP showing various earthworks, including possible trackway and penannular bank.	TL81076176
IKW 011	Ickworth Park SF20280		Earthwork showing hollow ways and banks circa 50m N-S, by 150m E-W	TL81806191
IKW 012	Ickworth Park SF20281	Un Rom	Earthworks: a series of parallel ridges circa 20m apart in rectilinear field system.	TL80806131 TL80006000
IKW 013	Ickworth Park SF20282	Un	Ditch and bank with further internal ditch to N of buildings. Also earthworks to north, possibly from medieval village	TL81106211