

101-103 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket
SKT 060

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/057

Client: JD Wetherspoon Plc

Author: Simon Cass

April 2011

101-103 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket SKT 060

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Report Date: April 2011

HER Information

Report Number: 2011/057r
Site Name: 101-103 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket
Planning Application No: 3428/10
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Client Reference: -
Curatorial Officer: Keith Wade
Project Officer: Simon Cass
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Site Code: SKT 060

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Simon Cass
Date: 12/04/2011

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner
Position: Contracts Manager
Date:
Signed:

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeology and historical background	1
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	3
5.1 Trench 1	3
6. Finds and environmental evidence	4
7. Discussion	4
8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work	5
9. Archive deposition	5
10. Acknowledgements	5

List of Figures

Figure 1. Location map	2
------------------------	---

List of Plates

Plate 1. Trench 1	4
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List of Appendices

Appendix 1. Brief and specification	
Appendix 2. Context List	

Summary

A single trench was excavated at 101-103 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket on the 4th April 2011 in advance of the development of the site by JD Wetherspoon Plc. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed, with modern demolition rubble lying directly above the natural geological deposits. No further work is recommended as being necessary at this site.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the proposed development of a new public house/restaurant on the site of 101-103 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The evaluation was required to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of the planned ground works and was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (Appendix 1). The project was funded by the developer, JD Wetherspoon Plc.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies on a slope between c. 38m OD to the west and 35m OD to the east, on the shoulder of the valley of the River Gipping, some 190m to the north-east. The underlying natural geology is recorded as chalky till, although the natural observed in the trench was soft sands. This does accord with that seen at a larger site immediately north-east of this one (Sherringham Court monitoring report, *in prep*).

3. Archaeology and historical background

The proposed development site is within the area defined for medieval Stowmarket in the County Historic Environment Record (defined as a site of regional importance) and it was believed that there was a high potential for the presence of significant remains relating to this period, especially close to the route of Ipswich Street to the west of the site. Stowmarket has a long and varied history, with continuous occupation within the town traceable back to at least the Domesday Survey. Recent archaeological work around the town and various recorded find spots also suggest Roman and prehistoric activity in the wider area around the River Gipping valley.

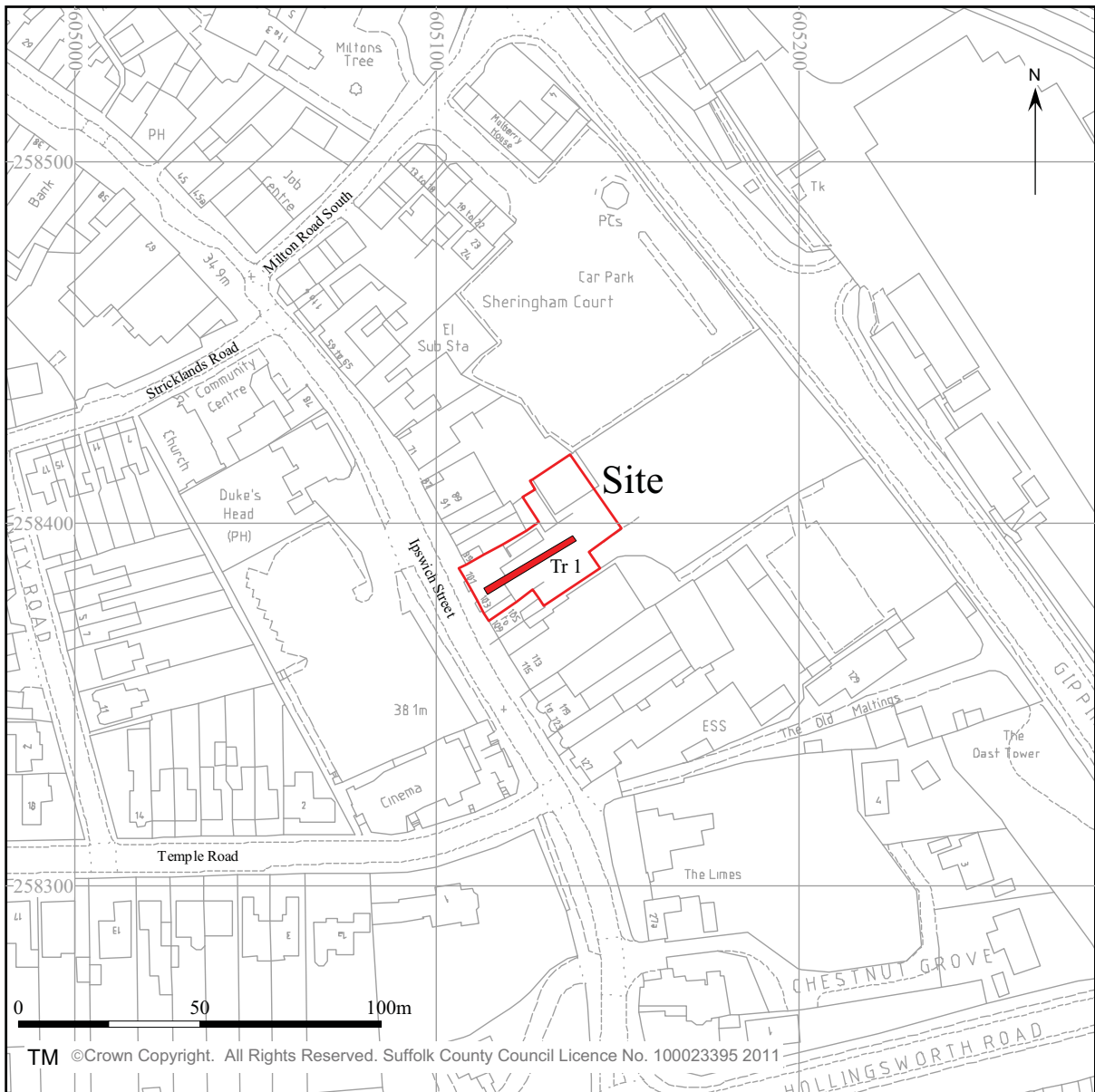
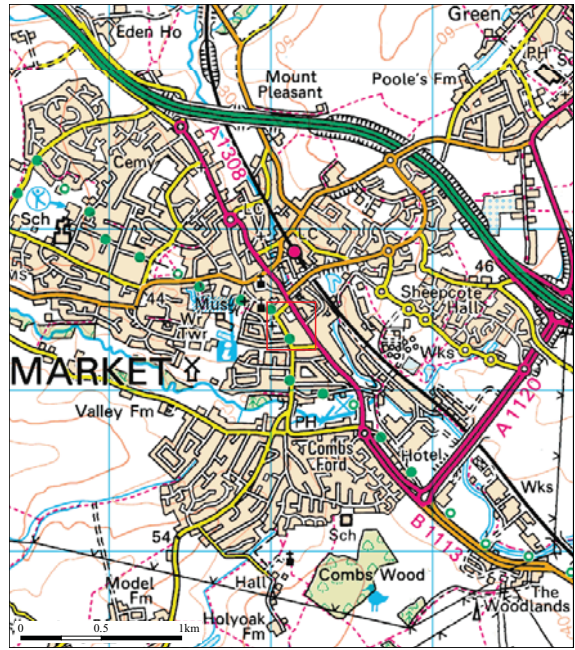


Figure 1. Location map

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that 5% of the development area (c. 830sq m) should be subject to trial trenching. This equated to a single trench, 1.8m wide with a total length of 25m. This trench was sited in the centre of the site, running back from the road frontage. In total, 28.5m of trench was opened up, slightly surpassing the required percentage.

The trench was excavated by a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist. Overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS pro forma sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital camera (6.2 megapixels).

The location of each trench established prior to excavation using hand-tapes, tied in to standing building elements adjacent to the site and present on Ordnance Survey maps.

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project.

The site archives are kept at the store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in Ipswich under HER No. SKT 060.

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1

Trench One was 28.5m long, 1.7m wide and up to c. 0.4m deep, orientated north-east/south-west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of c. 0.2m of modern demolition rubble/hardcore above up to 0.2m of mid/dark brown sandy silt either heavily disturbed or modern made ground with frequent modern inclusions. This sealed natural soft sands with occasional small/medium gravel inclusions. There were traces of several

modern structure foundations in the trench, a significant one having been grubbed out near the street frontage and some less substantial shallow foundations to the rear of the property, in addition to a modern drain run at the south-western end of the trench (visible in the foreground of Plate 1) These are thought likely to relate to the previous buildings for 101-103 Ipswich Street and some early 20th century outbuildings possibly present on early Ordnance Survey maps of the town.



Plate 1. Trench 1, facing north-east (2m scale).

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds or environmental samples of potential archaeological interest were encountered during the excavation of this evaluation trench. Modern ceramic building material encountered in the demolition rubble and *in situ* foundations was not retained.

7. Discussion

It appears that, although this site could well be within the area of the medieval town, it no longer possesses any surviving deposits of archaeological relevance. The absence of any subsoil or surviving topsoil deposits, and the apparent thoroughness of recent demolition have also precluded any estimation of when any historic deposits were removed from the site. The apparent scarcity of even surviving early modern deposits

could indicate a relatively recent clearance of the site (within the last 50-60 years) but the absence of any evidence means this can only be conjectural.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

No further work is recommended to be necessary for the works on this site. While this site in particular has obviously been cleared at some point, there remains the possibility that this clearance was a localised event and surviving medieval deposits could still remain on adjacent land.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Stowmarket\SKT 060 Evaluation

Finds and environmental archive: None.

10. Acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by Rhodri Gardner. The evaluation was carried out by Simon Cass from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Post-excavation graphics were produced by Simon Cass and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Evaluation by Trial Trench

101-103 IPSWICH STREET, STOWMARKET

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent has been granted for the erection of a public house/restaurant at 101-103 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket (3428/10).
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (condition 55 in Circular 11/95). In order to establish the full archaeological implications of the proposed development, an archaeological evaluation is required of the site. **The evaluation is the first part of the programme of archaeological work. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 The development area lies within the area defined for medieval Stowmarket in the County Historic Environment Record (an archaeological site of regional importance). There is a high probability that the development will damage or destroy archaeological deposits.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 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.

- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will normally precede the field evaluation unless agreed otherwise. The results of the desk-based work is to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) 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.
- 2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment

- 3.1 Consult the County Historic Environment Record (HER), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report.
- 3.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.

4 Specification B: Field Evaluation

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 4.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 4.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.

- 4.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
"Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England" English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 4.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.12 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan showing all the areas observed should be included with the report. This must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration into the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 4.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome and colour photographs.
- 4.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. **General Management**

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

6. **Report Requirements**

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 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 HER 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.

- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.10 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.
- 6.11 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. 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

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Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Economy, Skills and Environment
9-10 The Churchyard
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352440

Date: 2nd February 2011

Reference: 101-103 Ipswich Street

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. Context List

Context Number	Description
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0001	Hardcore/demolition rubble layer covering site. Seals intermittently surviving made ground deposit 0002. Approximatley 0.2m deep.
0002	Made ground deposit in Trench 1. Mid/dark brown sandy silt deposit with frequent modern inclusions (CBM fragments, metal objects, glass, plastic, etc). Up to 0.2m deep where present.

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