

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Connexions 159, Princes Street,
Ipswich, Suffolk**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Teresa Vieira

Site Code: PS115/56

(TM 1573 4414)

Connexions 159, Princes Street, Ipswich, Suffolk

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
for PDR Construction Limited**

by Teresa Vieira

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PSI 15/56

September 2015

Summary

Site name: Connexions 159, Princes Street, Ipswich, Suffolk

Grid reference: TM 1573 4414

Planning reference: IP/15/00254

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 28th July - 10th September 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Teresa Vieira

Site code: PSI 15/56

Summary of results: Ground reduction in respect of the new development was monitored, but it was determined that it was not of a sufficient depth to affect any archaeological deposits which may be present on the site. However, it was established that the area had been significantly disturbed in the past, probably when the existing building was constructed, and relatively deep deposits of made ground were recorded during the watching brief.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Suffolk Archaeology Service in due course.

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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 02.10.15 Steve Preston ✓ 28.09.15 |
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Connexions 159, Princes Street, Ipswich, Suffolk An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Teresa Vieira

Report 15/56

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Connexions 159, Princes Street, Ipswich, Suffolk (TM 1573 4414) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Jade Semple of Dovetail Architects Limited, Suite 4, Clocktower House, Horndon Industrial Park, West Horndon, Essex, CM13 3XL on behalf of PDR Construction Limited c/ o Dovetail Architects. Planning permission (IP/15/00254) had been gained from Ipswich Borough Council to alter and extent the the buildings at Fison House.. The consent was subject to a condition (7) relating to archaeology, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of building work. This was to take the form of a watching brief, to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by Ms Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council. Archaeology Service Conservation team. The fieldwork was undertaken by Teresa Vieira between 28th July and 10th September 2015, and the site code is PSI15/56. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Suffolk Archaeology Service, in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies close to the historic core of Ipswich, Suffolk (Fig. 1), just east of Portman Road, and is almost completely occupied by a modern building. Princes Street marks the western boundary, Grafton Way the southern and New Cardinal Street the eastern (Fig. 2). The site is relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 3m above Ordnance Datum, on the floor of the Gipping Valley, the river itself being around 200m to the south. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of River Terrace Gravel, although this was not observed during the watching brief (BGS 2006).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation team (SCC 2011). In summary, the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential due to the fact that an Iron Age weaving comb was found in peat deposits during construction work on the site in 1959. It is considered possible that contemporary occupation deposits may also be present in the vicinity

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks including any deeper organic deposits. This would involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any overburden stripping prior to ground reduction, the digging of foundation trenches and service runs and any deeply invasive landscaping as necessary. Where piling was to occur, any works prior to piling were to be monitored, as were trenches dug for pile caps and ground beams.

Results

Two main areas (A and B) were monitored during the course of this watching brief (Fig. 3).

Area A

The first area (A) was situated within the existing building itself, where a trench was excavated for a ground beam (Fig. 3; Pls 1 and 2). The area had clearly been extensively disturbed in the past, and modern made ground deposits were observed below the present surface, to a depth of 1.2m. The made ground comprised concrete overlying concrete rubble above brick rubble which lay above another concrete surface. This overlay further concrete and brick rubble. Levels possibly containing archaeological deposits were not encountered.

Area B

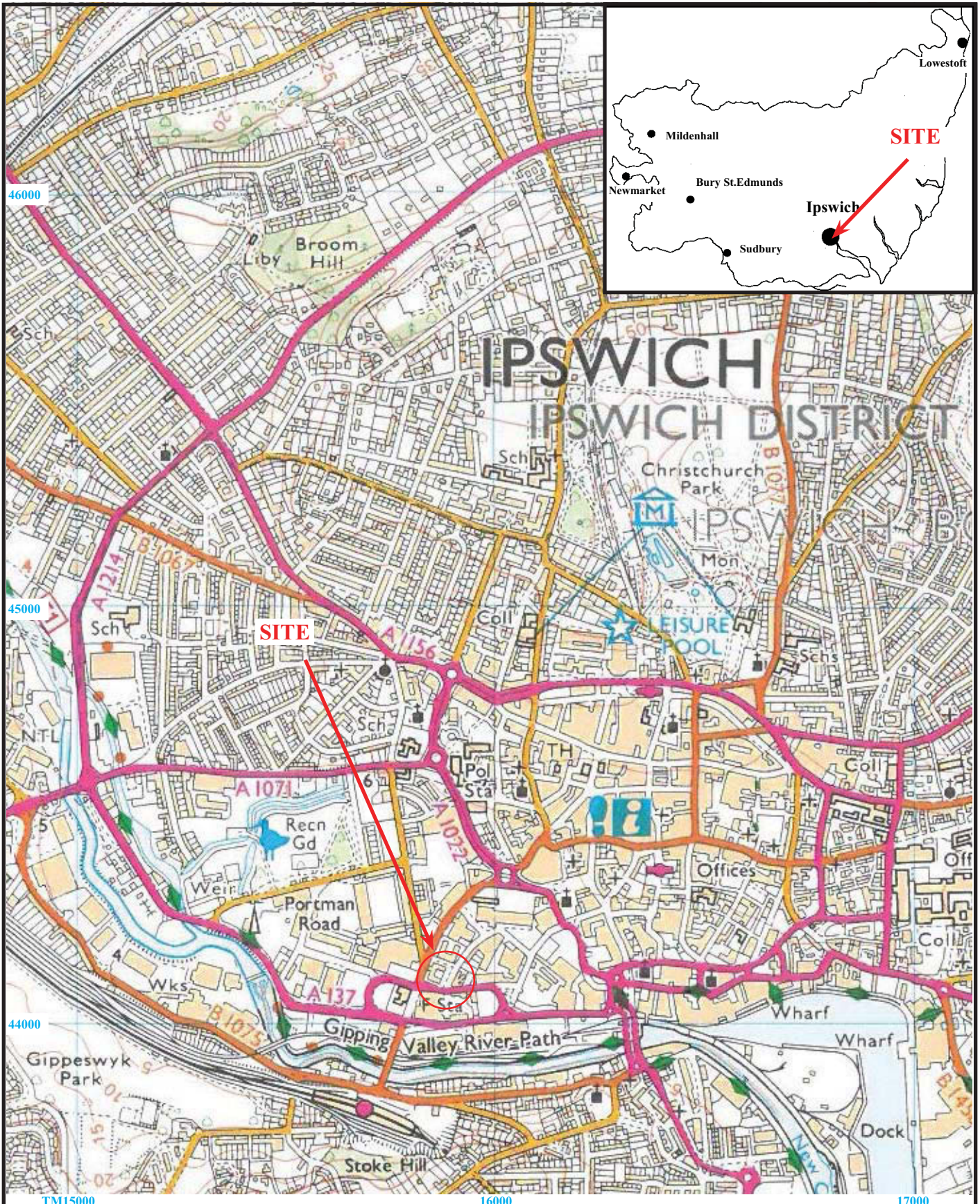
The second area (B) was adjacent to the south-west corner of the existing building, where a new extension was to be built (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 3-6). Once again it was apparent that the area had been previously disturbed both probably when the existing building was constructed and during demolition of previous structure(s). Although the area was reduced to a depth of 1.4m, only modern made ground deposits were recorded and levels possibly containing archaeological deposits were not encountered.

Conclusion

The watching brief has examined those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the planned building work. It was clear that the area had been significantly disturbed in the past. Although it is possible that archaeological deposits may have survived on the site lower down, apart from the new piles, the current groundworks were not of sufficient depth to affect any archaeology which may be present.

References

- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 207, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth.
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
- SCC, 2011, *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring*, Fison House, 159 Princes Street, Ipswich, Suffolk County Council, Bury St Edmunds



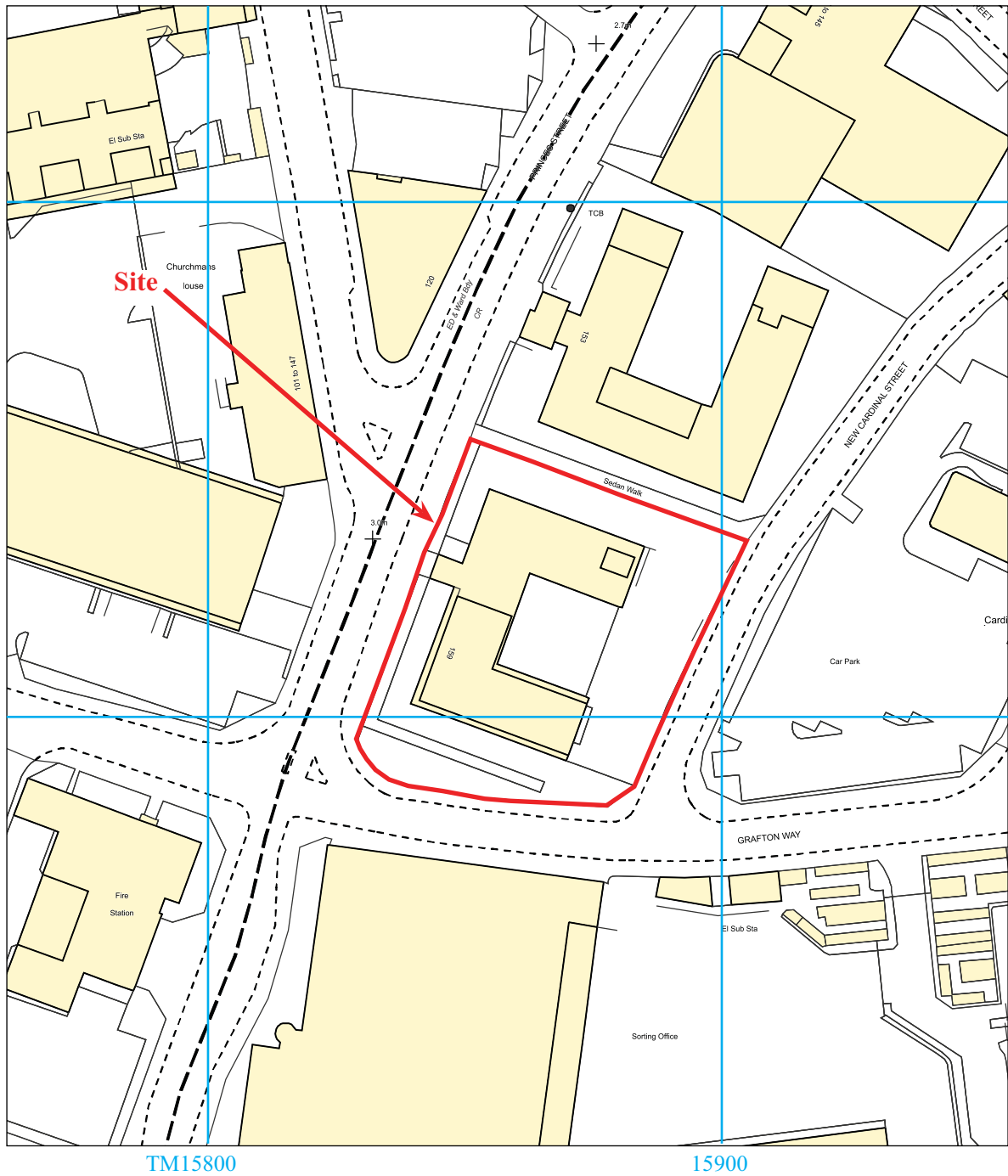
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Figure 1. Location of site within Ipswich and Suffolk.

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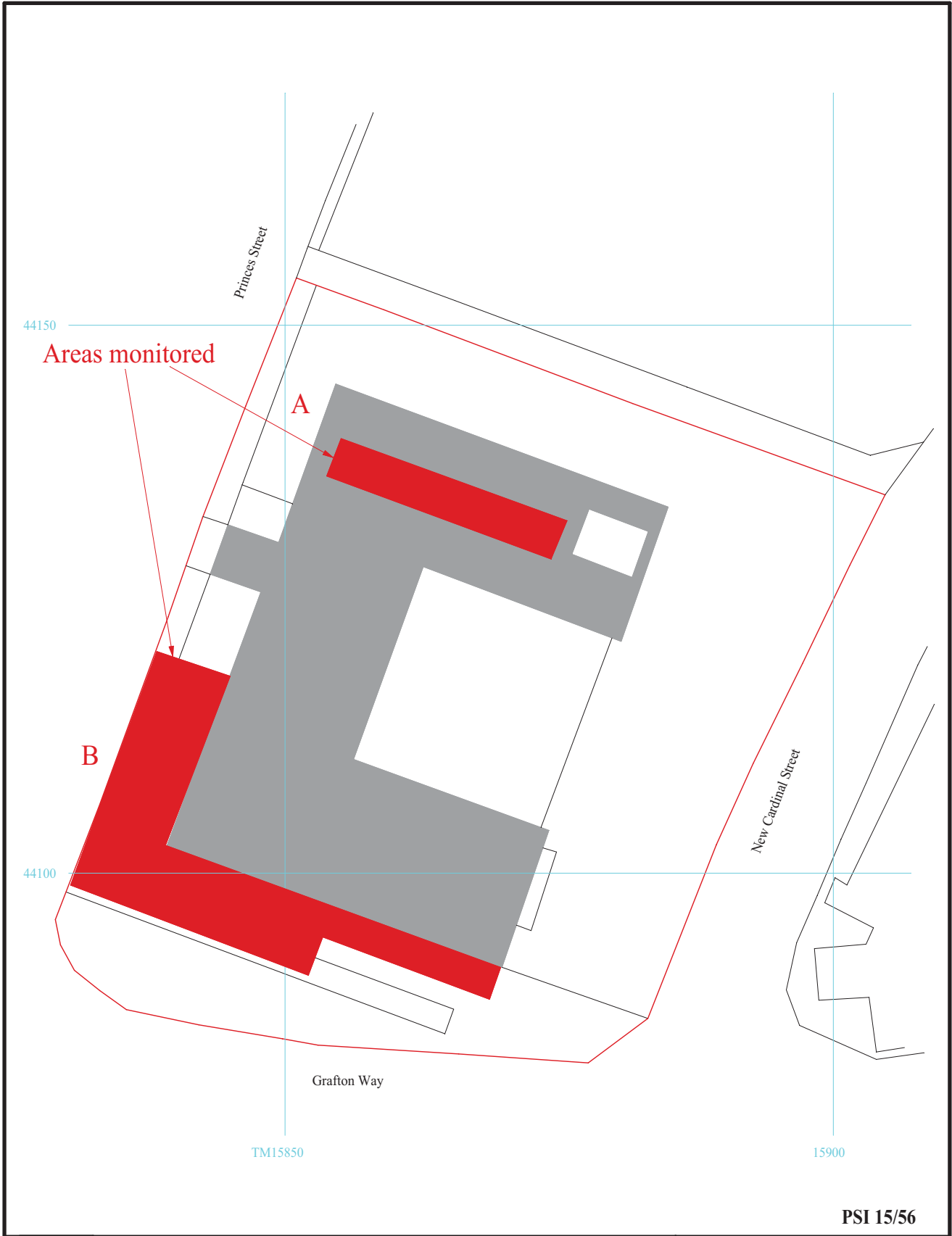
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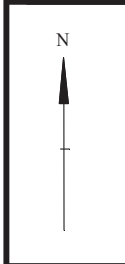
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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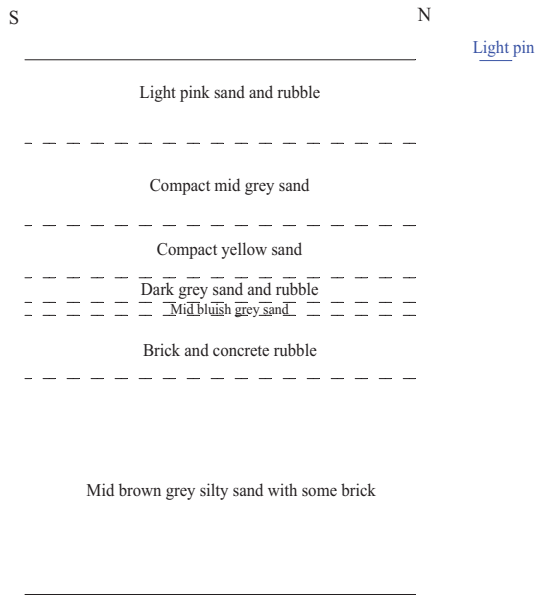


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Figure 3. Plan showing the location of areas monitored.



General stratigraphy in Area B



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Figure 4. Sections





Plate 1. General view of Area A looking north west.



Plate 2. View of Area A looking north showing section (depth 1.2m)



Plate 3. General view of Area B looking north west. Scale: 1m



Plate 4. View of Area B looking west showing section. Scale: 1m



Plate 5. General view of Area B looking west.



Plate 6. General view of Area B looking south west

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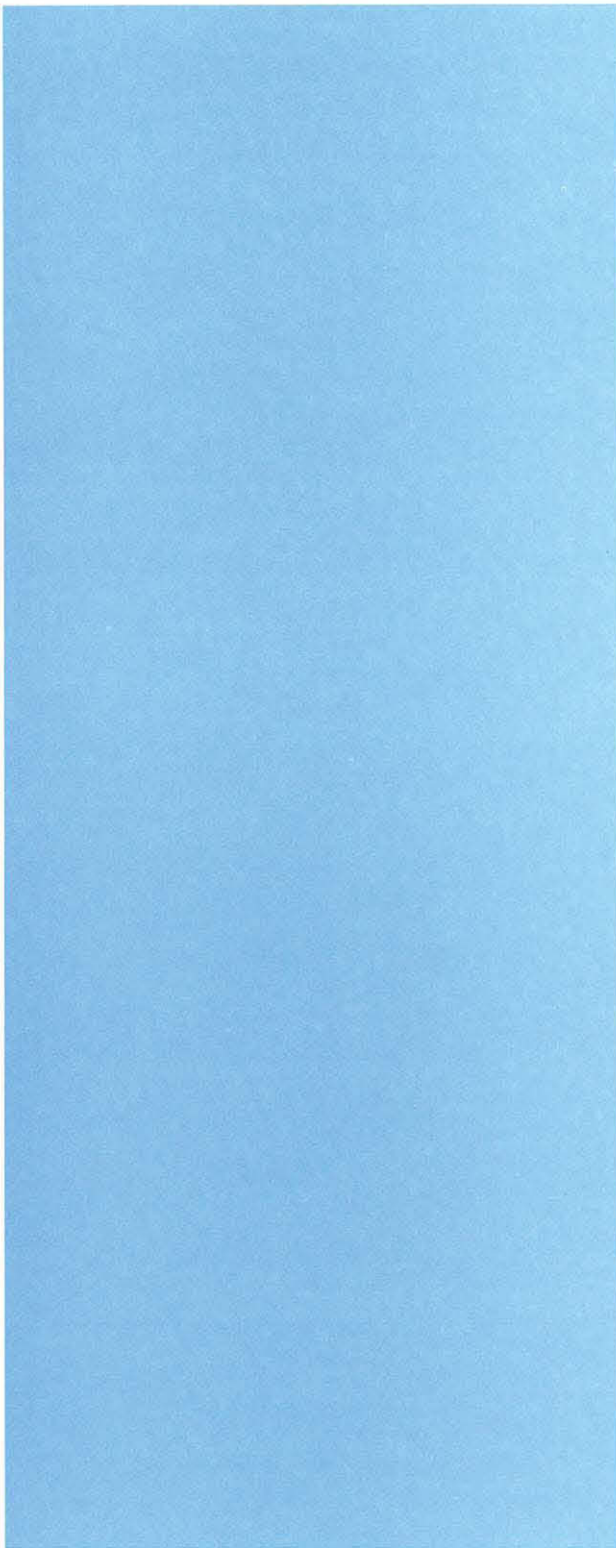
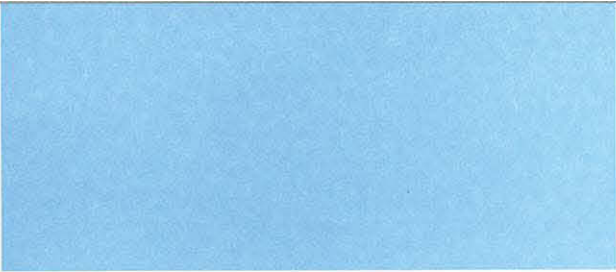
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Plates 1-6

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TIME CHART

| | Calendar Years |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Modern _____ | AD 1901 |
| Victorian _____ | AD 1837 |
| Post Medieval _____ | AD 1500 |
| Medieval _____ | AD 1066 |
| Saxon _____ | AD 410 |
| Roman _____ | AD 43 |
| Iron Age _____ | BC/AD 750 BC |
| | |
| Bronze Age: Late ----- | 1300 BC |
| Bronze Age: Middle ----- | 1700 BC |
| Bronze Age: Early ----- | 2100 BC |
| | |
| Neolithic: Late | 3300 BC |
| Neolithic: Early | 4300 BC |
| | |
| Mesolithic: Late | 6000 BC |
| Mesolithic: Early | 10000 BC |
| | |
| Palaeolithic: Upper | 30000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Middle | 70000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Lower | 2,000,000 BC |





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