

**The Swallow Inn, 3 Augusta Close,
Ipswich, Suffolk**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Speymill Contracts Ltd

by Simon Cass

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code IPS 586

October 2007

Summary

Site name: The Swallow Inn, 3 Augusta Close, Ipswich, Suffolk

Grid reference: TM 2007 4133

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 25th-27th September 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Simon Cass

Site code: IPS 586

Area of site: c. 480 sq m

Summary of results: No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were observed during this watching brief.

Monuments identified: None.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Ipswich Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 03.10.07
	Steve Preston ✓ 02.10.07

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Report 07/125

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at The Swallow Inn, 3 Augusta Close, Ipswich, Suffolk (TM 2007 4133) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Chris Harrington of Speymill Contracts Ltd, Mace House, Sovereign Court, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 6XU.

Planning consent (IP/07/00428/FUL) has been granted by Ipswich Borough Council for the construction of a two-storey accommodation block at the site of The Swallow Inn. This consent was subject to a condition (4) relating to archaeology requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during invasive groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Robert Carr, Senior Archaeologist of Suffolk County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Cass between the 25th and 27th September, 2007 and the site code is IPS586.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Ipswich Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located just to the north of the junction between the A14 and the A1189 (Nacton Road) on the southern edge of Ipswich, and to the north-east of the Downham Reach section of the River Orwell (Fig. 2). The site is at a height of approximately 35m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is mapped as glaciofluvial deposits (sands and gravels) (BGS 2006). These were observed in the foundations. Prior to this development the area was partially covered by carparking, with an area of hard-standing to secure children's playground furniture and an area of patio for the Inn. These areas were likely to have been created during the construction of the Inn in 1997.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Suffolk County Council (Carr 2007). In summary, the site is located a relatively short distance (*c.* 170m) to the north-east of a Bronze Age ring ditch (leveled round barrow) and in an area with potential for further remains of similar date.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to identify and where necessary excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examining all areas of excavation relating to the development, including soil stripping, ground reduction and the digging of foundations and service runs.

Results

The area to be built upon comprised an area of *c.* 480 sq m. This area was first stripped to remove the topsoil and upper layers of modern built surfaces such as the Tarmac car-park and the patio slabs down to a level approximately 0.1m below the topsoil (the contractors' working level). The foundation trenches were then excavated to 1.0m below ground level (0.9m below working level) and were 0.6m wide (Figs. 3 and 4).

The works showed that the majority of the site had been previously disturbed, probably during the construction of the property which recently stood on the site. The foundation sections showing car park surfaces/hardcore directly overlying the sand and gravel natural geology without any buried topsoil or subsoil present. However, a small area in the south-west corner of the site showed an undisturbed stratigraphy, comprising 0.10m of topsoil overlying 0.40m of sand and gravel, over 0.40m of silty sand over 0.10m of orange sand and gravel.

No archaeologically relevant finds or deposits were noted during the course of this watching brief.

Finds

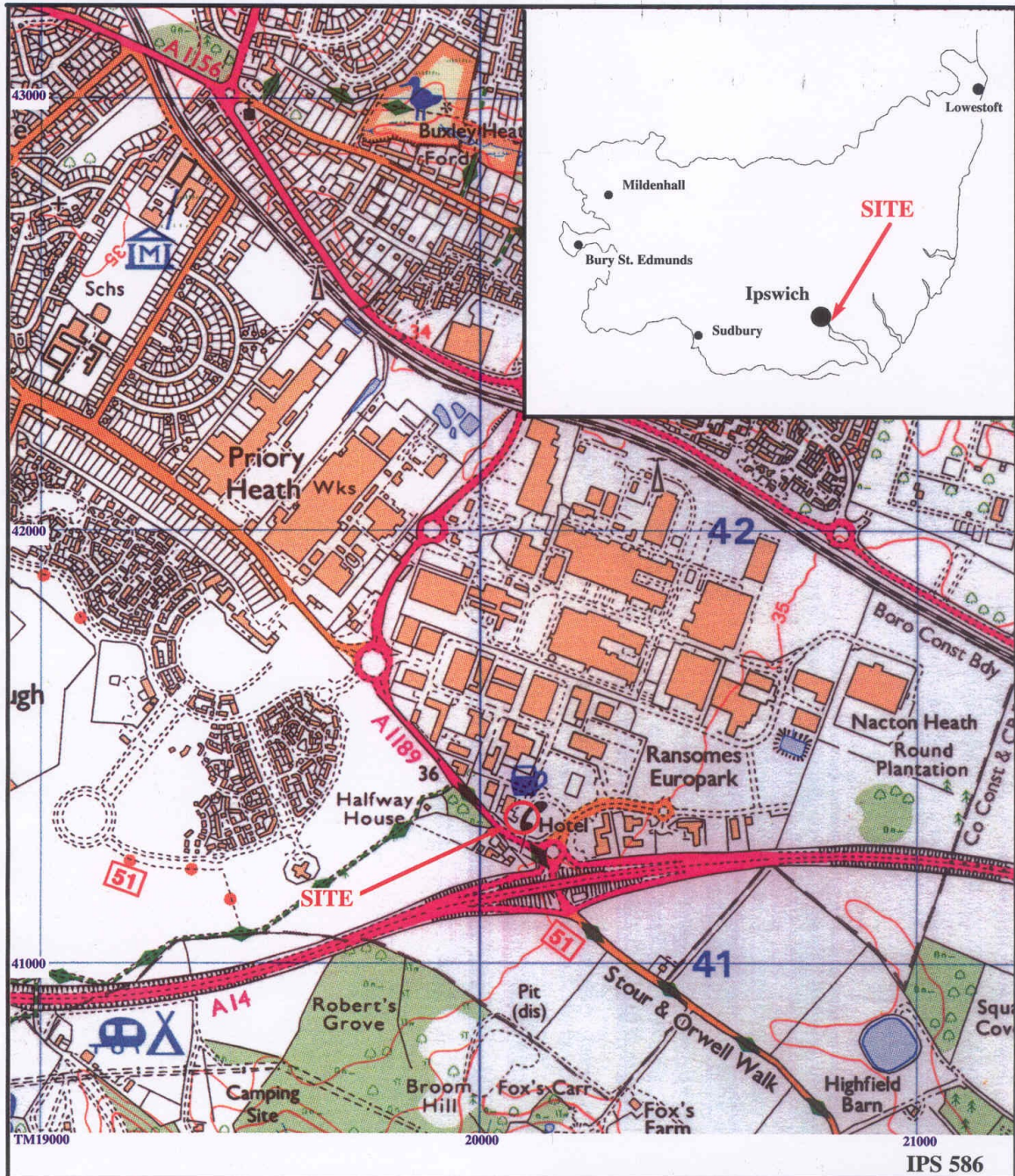
Modern brick fragments were noted in some of the areas of made ground, but not retained. No finds of archaeological interest were observed.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it would appear that there are no archaeologically relevant deposits in the area. Construction of the previous building (c. 1997) may have led to some truncation of the site with removal of any shallow deposits that might have been present.

References

- BGS, 2006, *Ipswich*, British Geological Survey, England and Wales Sheet 207, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits, 1:50 000, Keyworth
- Carr, R D, 2007, 'Brief and specification for archaeological monitoring of development, The Swallow, Augusta Close, Ipswich', Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service - Conservation Team, Ipswich
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

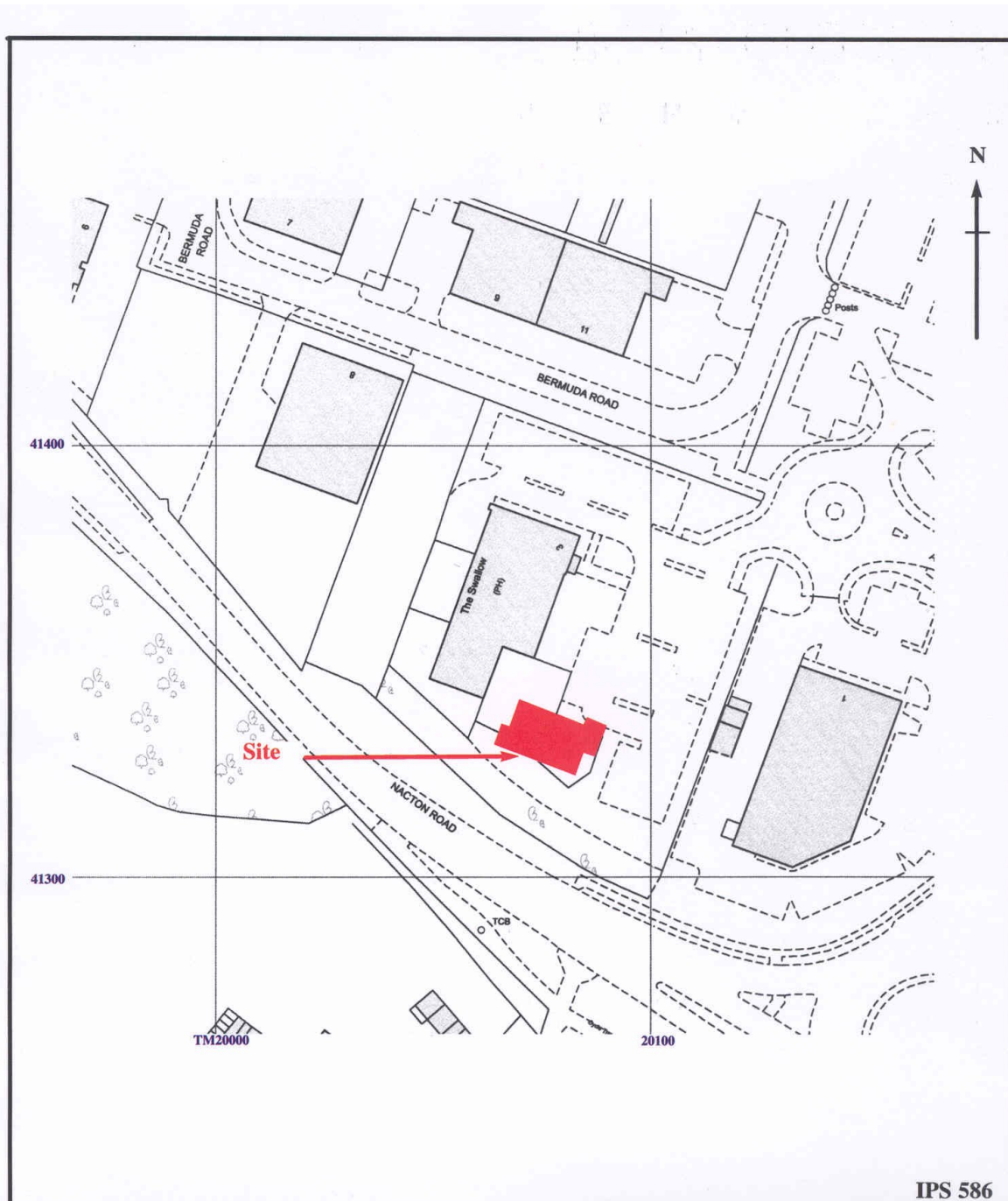


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Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Ipswich and Suffolk.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site in relation to the Swallow Inn, off Nacton Road.

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Figure 3. Detail of areas observed during watching brief.

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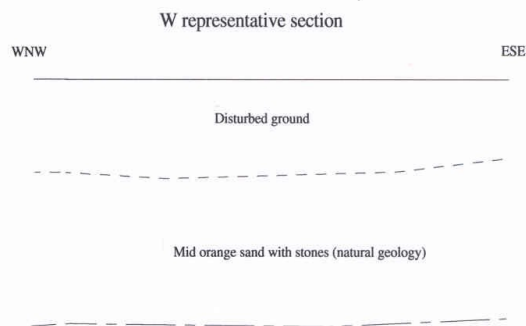
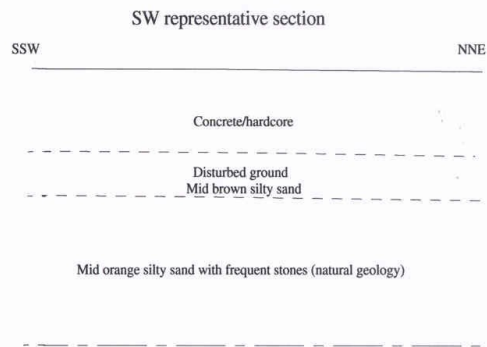
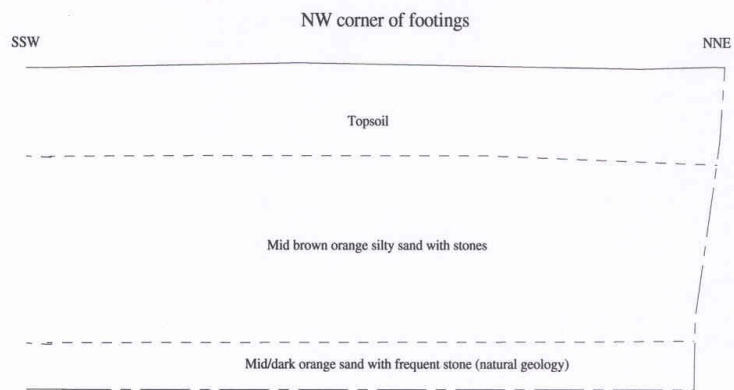


Figure 4. Representative sections.