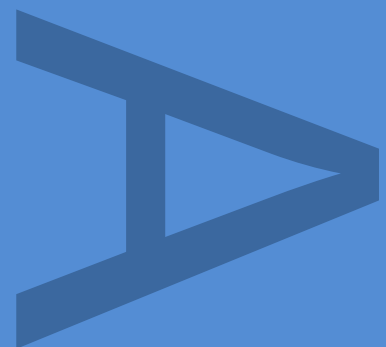


**Archaeological Monitoring on
Land at No.37 New Market,
Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9HE**

November 2014




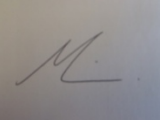
**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11904**

LAND AT NO.37 NEW MARKET,
BECCLES, SUFFOLK, NR34 9HE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3724
Report Number	R11904

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING ON LAND AT NO.37 NEW MARKET,
BECCLES, SUFFOLK, NR34 9HE**

Local Planning Authority: Waveney District Council

Planning Reference: DC/11/1182/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TM 42093 90410

Site Code: BCC085

Report No. R11904

Written and researched by: Mary-Anne Slater
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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at 37 New Market, Beccles, Suffolk (NGR TM 42093 90410) on 28th October 2014. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by Cripps Development in response to a planning condition attached to planning permission DC/11/1182/FUL. The aim of the monitoring was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site.

The monitoring works, which focused upon the foundation footings for a single garage building, revealed one Post-Medieval and two undated rubbish pits possibly associated with the 16th century house on this plot.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at 37 New Market, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9HE (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 42093 90410) on 28th October 2014 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential within the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval core of Beccles (BCC 018) and within the immediate vicinity of St. Michael's church.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Cripps Development in response to a planning condition attached to planning permission DC/11/1182/FUL.
- 1.4 The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 The archaeological programme monitored the hand-excavation of the foundation footings for the garage and revealed three probable Post-Medieval rubbish pits.
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the monitoring. The site archive will be deposited with Suffolk County Council.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The underlying bedrock is comprised of sands of the Crag Group, formed in shallow seas in the Quaternary and Neogene periods (British Geological Survey 2014; Website 1). The superficial geological deposits on the site are sands and gravels of the Happisburgh Lowestoft Formation, formed as outwash deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters in the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey 2014; Website 1).
- 2.2 The development area occupies a parcel of land to the west of the north-south running New Market road and Beccles town centre and is directly to the south of St. Michael's church. The site is located on a north-west facing slope 12km from the Norfolk coastline, 120m south-east of the River Waveney. The development area is situated at approximately 13 AOD sloping to 11m AOD at the north-east limit. This continues to drop to a height of approximately 3m AOD beyond the north-eastern limit.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential within the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval core of Beccles (BCC 018) and within the immediate vicinity of St. Michael's parish church. The church was built by the Abbots of Bury St Edmunds in 1369, but probably replaced a predecessor as a church is recorded in Domesday.
- 3.2 Given the sites location there is a marked potential for complex archaeological deposits relating to the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval historic development to survive intact within the development area.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The archaeological monitoring observed the hand-excavation of the foundation footings, measuring c.19.5m long, 0.4-0.5m wide and 0.6-0.65m deep (Figure 2; Plates 2-5). The western and northern trenches were not excavated below the subsoil.
- 4.2 Ground reduction was carried out by hand under archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.
- 4.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 The southern trench of the foundation footings revealed three pits (Figure 2; Plates 2-5).

5.2 Pit [104] (Plate 2)

5.2.1 A small pit on approximately a north-south alignment was located towards the eastern end of the southern trench. Only the northern edge of the pit (c.0.2m x 0.4m) was seen, the bulk of the pit extended beyond the southern limit of excavation. It contained loosely compacted mid-blackish brown silty sand (103) with frequent chalk, limestone and CBM fragments. No stratified dateable finds were seen, but the similarity of the fill to (105) and the finds found when excavating the trench suggest a Post-Medieval date. This feature was not fully excavated.

5.3 Post-Medieval pit [106] (Plate 2-3)

5.3.1 A large north-south pit measuring c.1.6m wide was located in the centre of the southern foundation trench. It extended north and south beyond the trench limits of excavation. It contained loosely compacted mid-blackish brown silty sand (105) with frequent chalk, limestone and CBM fragments. Six sherds of pottery, weighing 229g, were found in (105), representing five vessels dating between the 17th-20th centuries and four clay tobacco pipe stems which broadly date to the 17th-18th centuries. This feature was not fully excavated.

5.4 Pit [108] (Plate 4)

5.4.1 A pit of unknown size seen in the western end of the southern foundation trench. It extended north and south beyond the trench limits of excavation. It contained loosely compacted mid-greyish brown silty sand (107) with frequent chalk and CBM fragments. The similarity of the fill to (105) and the finds found when excavating the trench suggest a Post-Medieval date. This feature was not fully excavated.

6 THE FINDS

By Chris Jarrett

6.1 Unstratified

6.1.1 Pottery

There are twenty four sherds of unstratified pottery representing some seventeen vessels and weighing 253g. The earliest pottery is a sherd of 16th-century glazed red earthenware with a faceted splayed base and it represents a copy of a German stoneware rounded mug or drinking jug. Two sherds of tin-glazed earthenware date to the 18th century. The majority of the pottery dates to the 19th century and includes bone china, transfer-printed wares with mid 19th-century designs, English stonewares and Sunderland coarse/slipware. A rounded dish with chrome colour floral decoration may date to the 20th century.

6.1.2 Clay tobacco pipes

There are five fragments of clay tobacco pipes which include a c.1660-80 dated biconical profiled bowl and four stems. The latter are wide dating and include 17th-century examples, as well as two thin stems with fine bores which date to c. 1740-1910.

6.1.3 Ceramic building material

A fragment of roof tile has coarse moulding sand and may be medieval in date, while a pan-tile is of a post-medieval date.

6.2 Fill [105], pit [106]

6.2.1 Pottery

Six sherds of pottery, representing five vessels and weighing 229g were recovered from fill [105]. The pottery present consists of a sherd of a combed slip ware dish, dated c.1660-1870, three sherds of German Frechen stoneware rounded jugs, which includes a bartmannen with part of a face and a medallion with a rampant lion/heraldic animal design, dated to the 17th century and a sherd of glazed red earthenware, dated c. 1580-1900. The latest pottery type is a sherd of yellow slip ware in the form of a probable food mixing bowl with an internal white slip and external moulded panel design featuring a central diamond and circle and dot motif. This sherd dates to after c. 1820, although it is more likely to date to the late 19th and 20th century.

6.2.2 Clay tobacco pipes

Four clay tobacco pipe stems are recorded and they can be broadly dated to the 17th and 18th century, except for one item which is thin in thickness and has a fine bore and that is dated c. 1740-1910.

6.3 Conclusions

A fragment of a peg tile may indicate medieval activity on or in the vicinity of the archaeological excavation. The pottery indicates 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th-century activity on the site with the latest sherds inferring that 20th-century material is represented in the assemblage. The pottery types are typical for those occurring in Suffolk, while the forms that are found in the pottery types are also typically domestic in nature and are a good indication of the activities which occurred on the study area.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Archaeological monitoring of works at 37 New Market, Beccles revealed three pits in the southern trench of the foundation footings. Finds from pit [106] indicated a Post-Medieval date ranging from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Pits [103] and [107] did not contain any dateable finds, but the similarity of their fills with Pit [106] would seem to indicate a Post-Medieval date. The dating evidence, and the location of the pits within the back garden of 37 New Market, strongly suggest that they are refuse pits associated with the property.

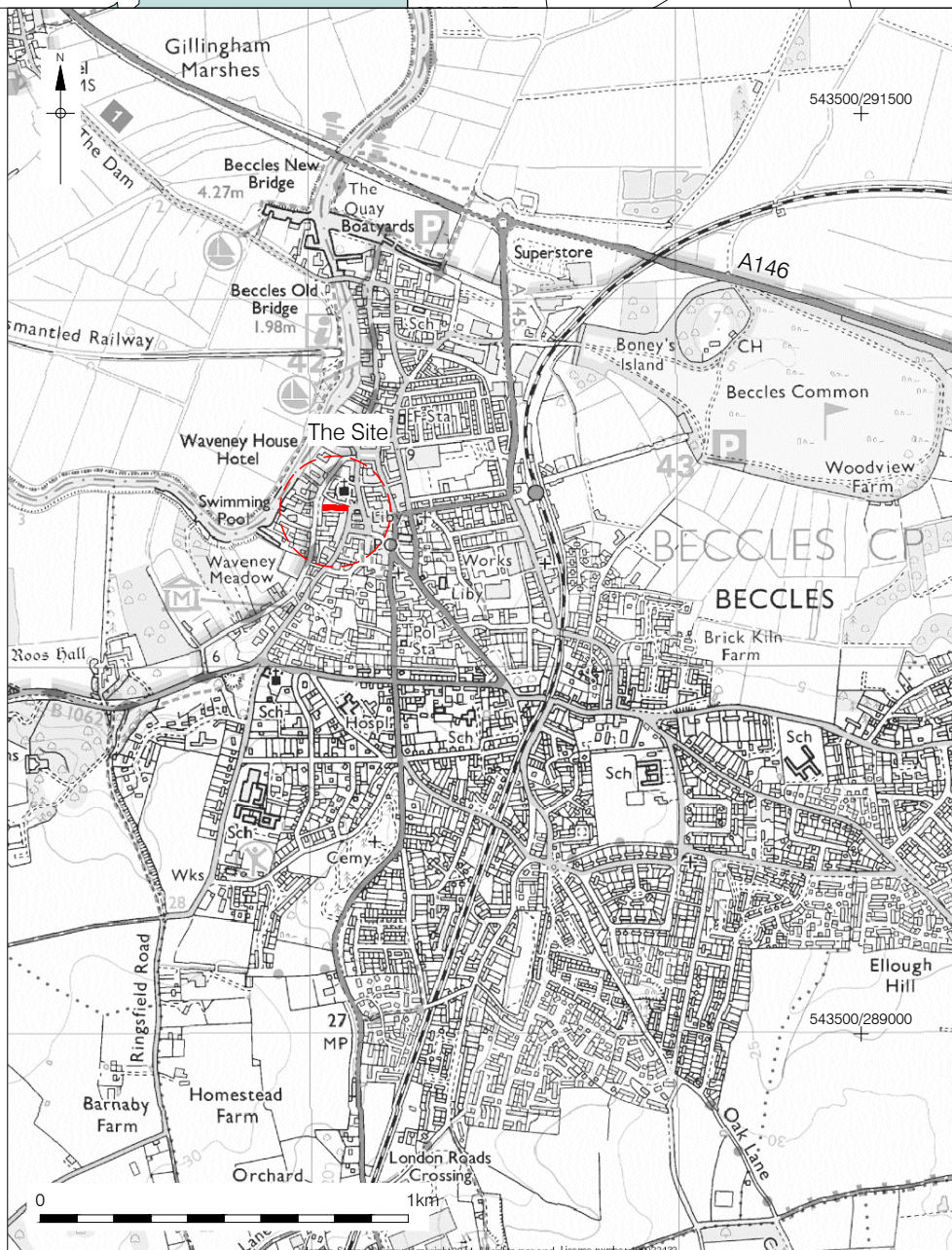
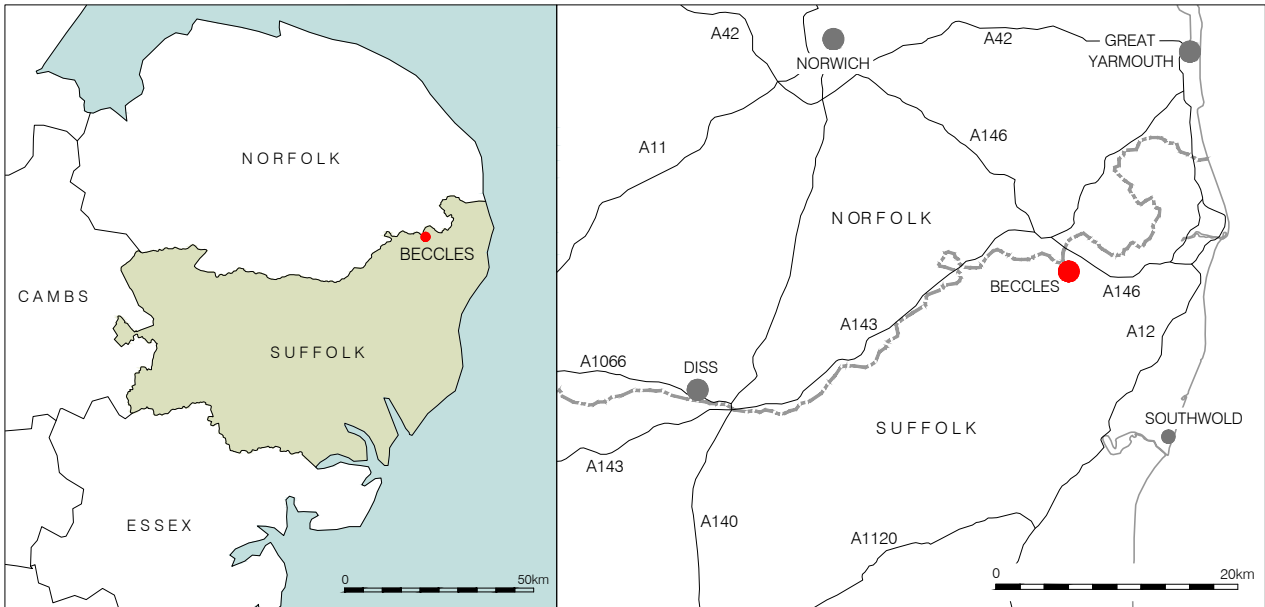
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Cripps Development for commissioning the work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD Department.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=IP9%203DG>.
Date accessed 27th October 2014

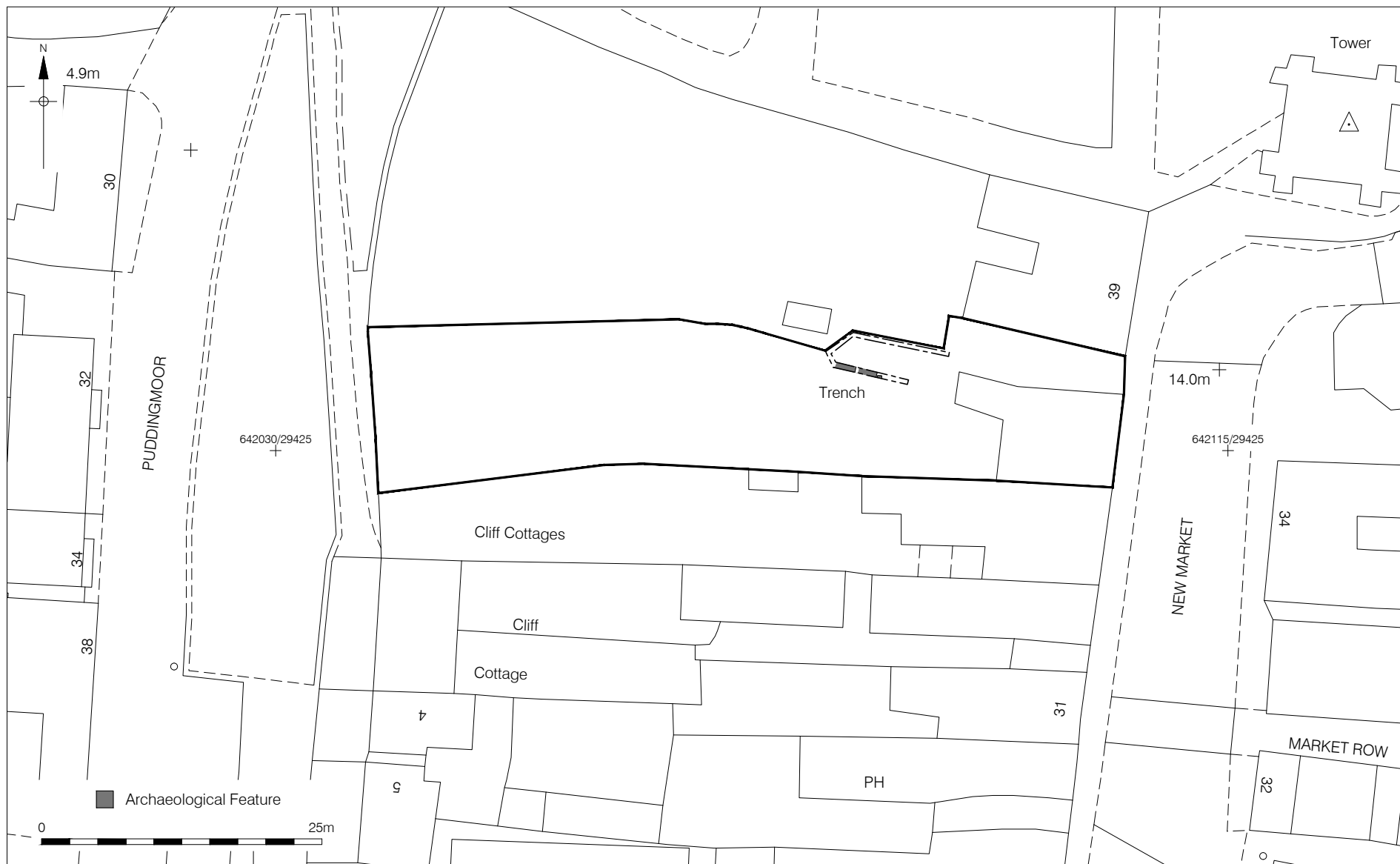


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05/11/14 JS

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000; 625,000 & 20,000 at A4



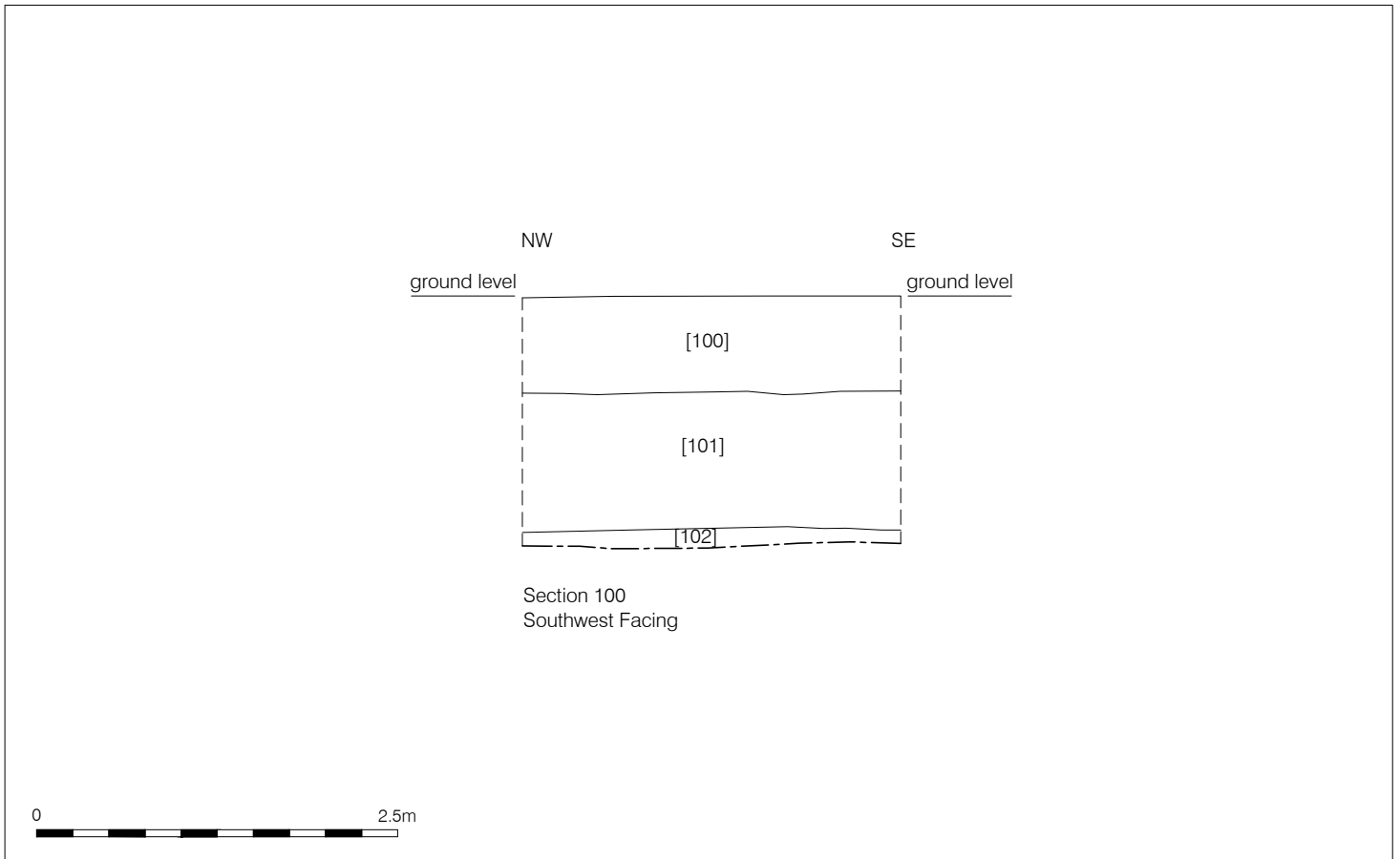
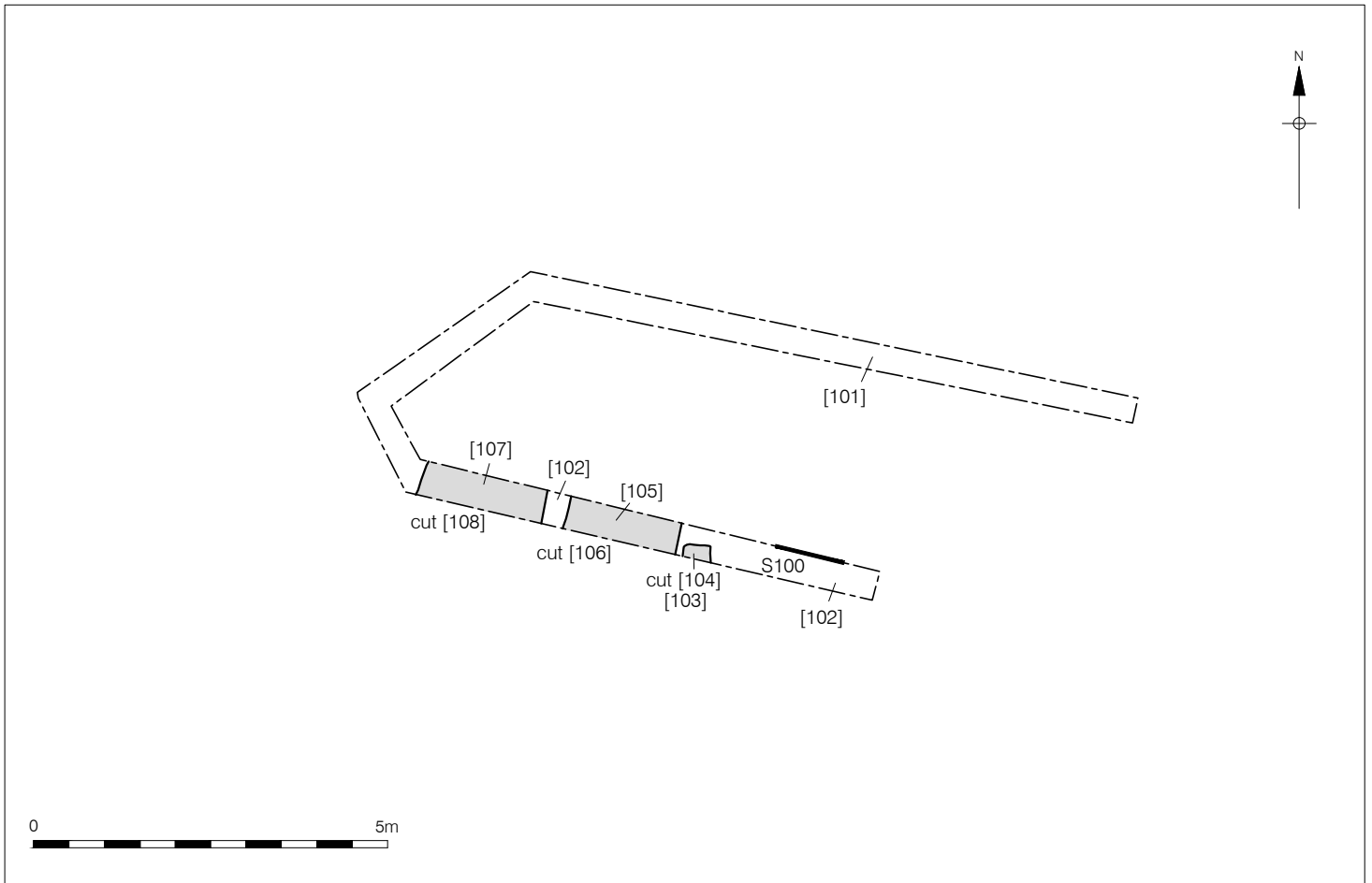
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05/11/14 JS

17/11/14 JS_r2

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4



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 17/11/14 JS_r2

Figure 3
 Trench Plan and Section
 Plan 1:100; Section 1:50 at A4

10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site prior to excavation, view north-west



Plate 2: Pits [104] and [106], view west

Plate 3: Pit [106], view west



Plate 4: Pit [108], view west





Plate 5: Northern trench , view east

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Period	Interpretation
100	N/A	Layer	Topsoil		
101	N/A	Layer	Subsoil		
102	N/A	Layer	Natural		
103	104	Fill	Pit	Post-Medieval	Rubbish Pit
104	104	Cut	Pit	Post-Medieval	Rubbish Pit
105	106	Fill	Pit	Post-Medieval	Rubbish Pit
106	106	Cut	Pit	Post-Medieval	Rubbish Pit
107	108	Fill	Pit	Post-Medieval	Rubbish Pit
108	108	Cut	Pit	Post-Medieval	Rubbish Pit

12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-193555

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring on Land at No. 37 New Market, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9HE
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at 37 New Market, Beccles, Suffolk (NGR TM 42093 90410) on 28th October 2014. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by Cripps Development in response to a planning condition attached to planning permission DC/11/1182/FUL. The aim of the monitoring was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site. The monitoring works, which focused upon the foundation footings for a single garage building, revealed three Post-Medieval rubbish pits possibly associated with the 16th century house on this plot.
Project dates	Start: 28-10-2014 End: 28-10-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BCC085 - Sitecode
Type of project	Research project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY BECCLES 37 New Market, Beccles, Suffolk
Postcode	NR34 9HE
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 42093 90410 52.4573126993 1.56382690114 52 27 26 N 001 33 49 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Abby Antrobas

Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Mary-Anne Slater

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Physical Archive ID	BCC085
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Digital Archive ID	BCC085
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Archive ID	BCC085
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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