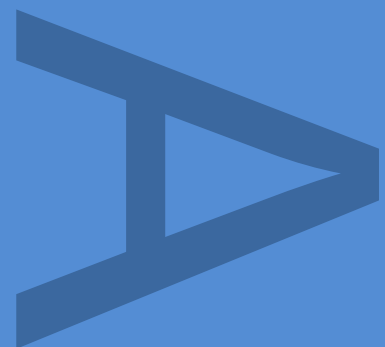


**Archaeological Monitoring on  
Land at Felixstowe Ferry,  
Suffolk**

**June 2015**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
R12134**

LAND AT FELIXSTOWE FERRY,  
SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Quality Control

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## Archaeological Monitoring on Land at Felixstowe Ferry, Suffolk, IP11 9RZ

**Local Planning Authority:** Suffolk Coastal District Council

**Planning Reference:** N/A

**Central National Grid Reference:** TM 3267 3774

**Site Code:** FEX328

**Event No:** ESF23103

**Report No:** R12134

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Felixstowe Ferry, Suffolk (NGR TM 3267 3774) between the 16th and the 17th June 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Hyder Consulting on behalf of The Environment Agency. The aim of the work was to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed during groundworks were recorded, recovered and interpreted.*

*No archaeological features were seen during monitoring of the eight test pits at Felixstowe Ferry. The mixed shingle and shell deposit recorded in Test Pits 6 and 7 indicate that the lower peat layer is possibly a buried inlet leading into the estuary.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Felixstowe Ferry, Suffolk (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 3267 3774) from the 16th to the 17th June 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Hyder Consulting on behalf of The Environment Agency.
- 1.3 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Taleyna Fletcher of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Fletcher 2015).
- 1.4 The aim of the monitoring was to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed during groundworks were recorded, recovered and interpreted.
- 1.5 This report describes the results of the monitoring. The site archive will be deposited at Suffolk County Council Archaeology Store.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

2.1.1 The underlying geology of the site is Thames Group - Clay, Silty (British Geological Survey; Website 1). The Sedimentary Bedrock was formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. This is overlain by Tidal Flat Deposits comprising clay and silt. These deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

### **2.2 Topography**

2.2.1 The site lies on the edge of a small inlet on the mouth of the River Debden. The monitoring is along the route of a flood defence bank which lies at 4m OD. The base of the bank is around 3m OD.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 General**

3.1.1 This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the WSI (Fletcher 2015). There is very little archaeological evidence for Felixstowe Ferry. Most evidence is post-medieval to modern however the presence of flints on the mouth of the river indicates activity or occupation as far back as the Palaeolithic period.

#### **3.2 Prehistoric**

3.2.1 White patinated Clactonian type flint flakes and a scraper have been found within Felixstowe Ferry on the beach at the mouth of the river Debden (precise location unknown) which indicate potential for activity in the area during the Palaeolithic period (MSF3012 / FEX090).

#### **3.3 Post-Medieval to Modern**

3.3.1 At least 12 hulks/former houseboats and various mooring plots were identified on the saltmarshes and on the mud during low tide during a rapid field survey of the coastline undertaken in 2002 by Suffolk County Councils Archaeological Service (MSF 20670 / FEX197). This provides evidence of post-medieval to modern activity.

3.3.2 A rubbish pit containing material dated to the 18th or 19th century has been recorded at Ferry Road (precise location unknown) according to an article published in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology in 1961 (MSF2976 / FEX040).

3.3.3 There are two Martello Towers along the coastline within close proximity of the watching brief area: Martello Tower U (No 6) (MSF3002 / FEX061) and Tower T (no. 7) on the golf course adjoining Woodbridge Haven (MSF3003 / FEX062). Both towers were built between 1800-1812 and are Scheduled Monuments. There are eight Martello Towers built on the Suffolk coastline to repel Napoleonic invasion. These squat, ovoid-shaped brick-built towers were immensely strong and were modelled on a gun tower at Martella in Corsica. Four of these towers can still be seen along Felixstowe's coastline today. A fifth tower 'R' is incorporated into the fabric of the former Bartlet



Hospital, which has been converted into new housing. Tower 'P' to the south of the town towards the Landguard Peninsula was for many years the Coastguard Station (now one of the stations of the National Coastwatch Institution), whilst Tower 'Q' along South Hill has been converted to a home. Towers 'T' (unused on the golf course) and 'U' (converted into a home) stand at Felixstowe Ferry ([www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk](http://www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk)).

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Monitoring**

4.1.1 Following monitoring of Window Sample 1 it was decided that further monitoring of the window samples would not be needed due to the depth of made ground of the flood defence bank and the small size of the samples (c.0.2m wide).

4.1.2 Ground reduction for the test pits was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 8-ton rubber-tracked 360° fitted with a 0.45m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Deposits were removed in spits. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Spoilheaps were scanned by a metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.

4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual by Joanna Taylor, Gary Brown and Mark Hinman (2015).

### **4.2 Recording Methodology**

4.2.1 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, Brown and Hinman 2015). 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 monitoring are listed in Appendix 2.

4.2.2 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the monitoring process.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Test Pit 1

5.1.1 No archaeological features were seen in this test pit, although a modern breeze block was recovered from the subsoil (2) at a depth of c.1m and glass bottles, one complete and marked 'Schweppes' was recovered from the clayey peat (3) at a depth of c.1.8m.

<b>TEST PIT 1</b>	<b>Figure: 2</b>	<b>Plate: 2</b>
Length: 2.5m	Width: 0.45m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>
Topsoil	(1)	0.15
Subsoil	(2)	1.1
Peat	(3)	3
Summary: Modern breeze block and glass bottles recovered from Test Pit 1		

### 5.2 Test Pit 2

5.2.1 No archaeological features were seen in this test pit.

<b>TEST PIT 2</b>	<b>Figure: 2</b>	<b>Plate: n/a</b>
Length: 2.5m	Width: 0.45m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>
Topsoil	(1)	0.2
Subsoil	(2)	1
Peat	(3)	3
Summary: No archaeological features seen		

### 5.3 Test Pit 3

5.3.1 No archaeological features were seen in this test pit.

<b>TEST PIT 3</b>	<b>Figure: 2</b>	<b>Plate: 3</b>
Length: 2.5m	Width: 0.45m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>
Topsoil	(1)	0.2
Subsoil	(2)	1.2
Peat	(3)	3
Summary: No archaeological features seen		

#### 5.4 Test Pit 4

5.4.1 No archaeological features were seen in this test pit.

<b>TEST PIT 4</b>	<b>Figure: 2</b>	<b>Plate: n/a</b>
Length: 2.5m	Width: 0.45m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>
Topsoil	(1)	0.3
Subsoil	(2)	1.4
Peat	(3)	3
Summary: No archaeological features seen		

#### 5.5 Test Pit 5

5.5.1 No archaeological features were seen in this test pit.

<b>TEST PIT 5</b>	<b>Figure: 2</b>	<b>Plate: n/a</b>
Length: 2.5m	Width: 0.45m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>
Topsoil	(1)	0.2
Subsoil	(2)	1.2
Peat	(3)	3
Summary: No archaeological features seen		

## 5.6 Test Pit 6

5.6.1 No archaeological features were seen in this test pit.

<b>TEST PIT 6</b>	<b>Figure: 2</b>	<b>Plate: n/a</b>
Length: 2.5m	Width: 0.45m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>
Topsoil	(1)	0.2
Subsoil	(2)	1
Peat	(3)	1.6
Shingle/shell mixed with peat	(4)	3
<p>Summary: Not natural geology. This test pit is probably in a buried inlet/former river channel leading into the estuary.</p>		

## 5.7 Test Pit 7

5.7.1 No archaeological features were seen in this test pit.

<b>TEST PIT 7</b>	<b>Figure: 2</b>	<b>Plate: n/a</b>
Length: 2.5m	Width: 0.45m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>
Topsoil	(1)	0.2
Subsoil	(2)	1.4
Peat	(3)	1.8
Shingle/shell mixed with peat	(4)	2.8
<p>Summary: Not natural geology. This test pit is probably in a buried inlet/former river channel leading into the estuary.</p>		

## 5.8 Test Pit 8

5.8.1 No archaeological features were seen in this test pit.

<b>TEST PIT 8</b>	<b>Figure: 2</b>	<b>Plate: n/a</b>
Length: 2.5m	Width: 0.45m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>

Topsoil	(1)	0.15
Subsoil	(2)	1.3
Peat	(3)	3
Summary: No archaeological features seen		

## **6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 No archaeological features were seen during monitoring of the eight test pits at Felixstowe Ferry. The mixed shingle and shell deposit (4) seen in Test Pits 6 and 7 indicate that the lower peat layer is possibly a buried inlet leading into the estuary. The lack of archaeology is in keeping with the HER results for this area.



## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Hyder Consulting for commissioning the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **8.1 Printed Sources**

Brown, G., Taylor, J. and Hinman, M. 2015 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Fieldwork Induction Manual PCA Central Edition (unpublished PCA Ltd.)

ClfA, 2014 Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation,  
Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials

Fletcher, T. 2015 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological  
Monitoring on Land at Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 9RZ (unpublished PCA Ltd.)

### **8.2 Websites**

1) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Date accessed  
18/06/2015

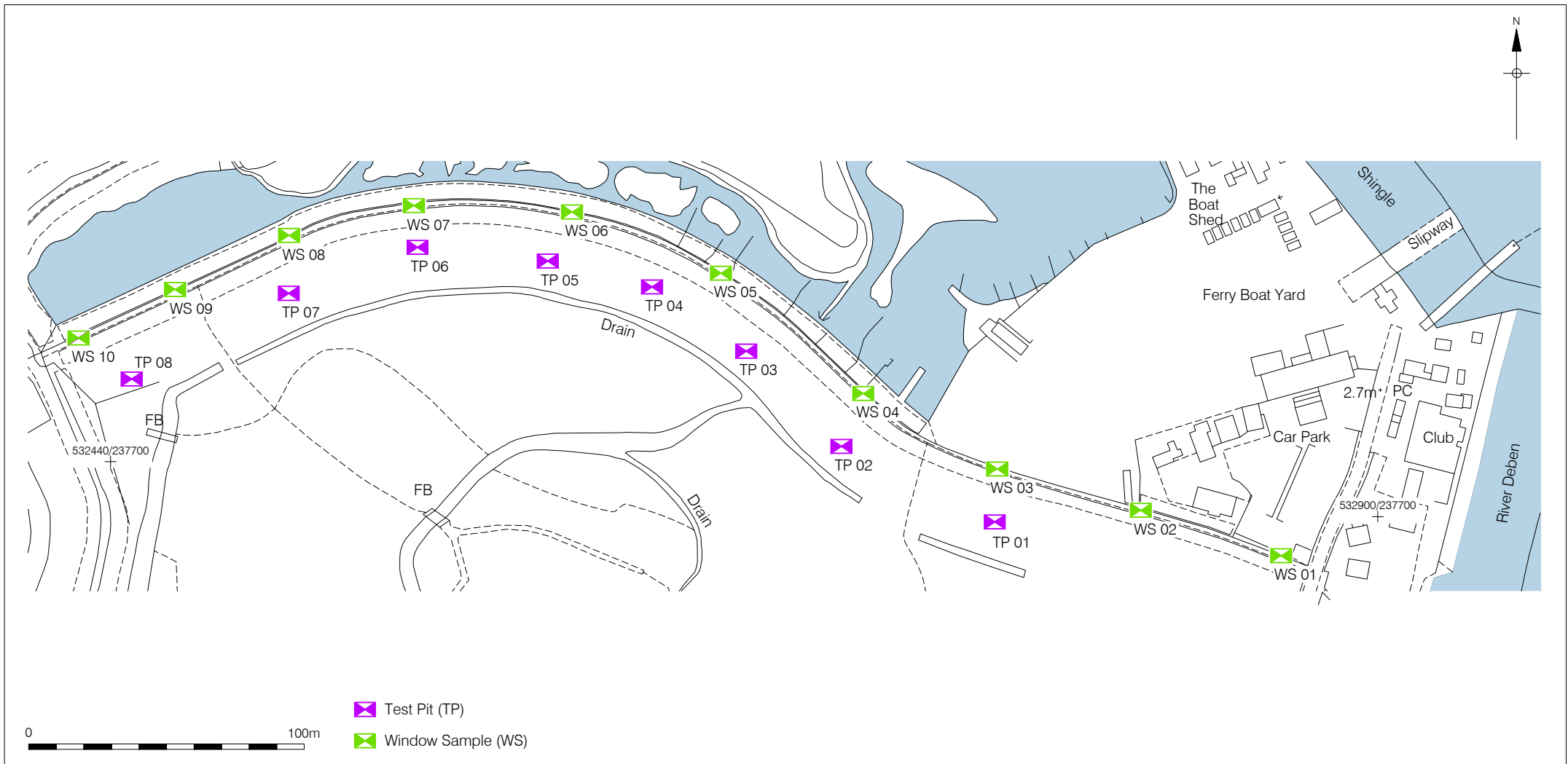


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24/06/15 JS

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000; 625,000 & 25,000 at A4



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24/06/15 JS

Figure 2  
Test Pit and Window Sample Location  
1:2,000 at A4

**9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES**



Plate 1: Felixstowe Ferry flood defences, view north-east



Plate 2: Test Pit 1, view south-west



Plate 3: Test Pit 3, view east



Plate 4: Schweppes glass bottle from Test Pit 1

## 10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation
1	N/A	Layer	Overburden	Topsoil
2	N/A	Layer	Overburden	Subsoil
3	N/A	Layer	Overburden	Clayey peat
4	N/A	Layer	Overburden	Silting of former estuary inlet?

## 11 APPENDIX 3: TABLE OF ATTENDANCE

Date	Staff	Works Monitored
16/06/2015	M. Slater	Window Sample 1
17/06/2015	T. Woolhouse	Test Pits 1-8



## 12 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

### OASIS ID: preconst1-213769

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#### Project details

Project name Archaeological Monitoring at Felixstowe Ferry, Suffolk, IP11 9RZ

Short description of the project This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Felixstowe Ferry, Suffolk (NGR TM 3267 3774) between the 16th and the 17th June 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Hyder Consulting on behalf of The Environment Agency. The aim of the work was to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed during groundworks were recorded, recovered and interpreted. No archaeological features were seen during monitoring.

Project dates Start: 16-06-2015 End: 17-06-2015

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes FEX328 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes ESF23103 - HER event no.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Coastland 3 - Above high water

Monument type N/A None

Significant Finds N/A None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Environmental (unspecified schedule)

---

#### Project location

Country England  
Site location SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL FELIXSTOWE Felixstowe Ferry  
Postcode IP11 9RZ  
Study area 0 Square metres  
Site coordinates TM 3267 3774 51.9887057938 1.38915847374 51 59 19 N 001 23  
20 E Point

---

#### Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.  
Organisation

Project brief none  
originator

Project design Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
originator

Project director/manager Taleyna Fletcher

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater and Tom Woolhouse

---

#### Project archives

Physical Archive No  
Exists?

Digital Archive Suffolk County Council  
recipient

Digital Archive ID FEX328

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography","Text"  
available

Paper Archive Suffolk County Council  
recipient

Paper Archive ID FEX328

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General  
available Notes","Report"

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Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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9RZ

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