

**Continuous Archaeological Recording
on Land at Caistor Lane Caistor St Edmund Norfolk**

Grid Ref: TG 2530 0335
Planning Application No: 2015/2933
HES No. CNF 44839
HER No. ENF 140384
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Summary

Continuous archaeological recording was carried out in advance of the erection of two detached dwellings and two garages on land adjacent to Field House Caistor lane Caistor St Edmund Norfolk. This project has been carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by James Albone, Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service, dated September 2012.

A french drain which ran the entire perimeter of the site was inspected, which contained no archaeological finds or features. The footings for both new house plots were also inspected and similarly contained no archaeology.

1. Introduction and Planning Background

1.1 Planning permission for the erection of two new dwellings on land adjacent to Field House Caistor lane Caistor St Edmund Norfolk. has been granted by Breckland District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (2015/2933).

1.2 The planning application, (2015/2933) is subject to a condition of archaeological works and forms part of the planning application process of the Joint Core Strategy for " Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk: Broadland Part of the Norwich Policy Area Local Plan Adoption Statement 10 January 2014" at grid reference: TG 2530 0335

1.3 In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to comply with the policy of and the Department of Communities and Local government *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (March 2010), and the Joint Core Strategy for " Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk: Broadland Part of the Norwich Policy Area Local Plan Adoption Statement 10 January 2014' and the NPPF, the following condition (13) stated:

` No development shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological works has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include:

- 1. An assessment of the significance of heritage assets present*
 - 2. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
 - 3. The programme for post investigation assessment of recovered material*
 - 4. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording*
 - 5. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
 - 6. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
 - 7. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation*
- B) No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under part (A).*
- C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under part (A) and the provision to be made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.*

Reason for the condition:

The method is required prior to the commencement of works to ensure adequate provision is made to identify and protect any potential historical interest of the site is investigated in accordance with Policy 2 of the Joint Core Strategy and Policy DM4.10 of the South Norfolk Local Plan Development Management Policies Document 2015'.

1.4 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work before development begins in accordance with the NPPF 2012, to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.

2. Site Location and Description

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Figure 1. Caistor St Edmund and Site Location

The site is situated 1.5 km to the east of the historic core of the village of Caistor St Edmund and 2km to the east of the Roman town of *Venta Icenorum*. Field House is in the west-end of a nucleation of housing separated from the main village on the south side of Caistor Lane.

3. Geology and Topography

.3.1 The geology of the Caistor area largely consists of river gravels and glacial sands and gravels overlying chalk (BGS 1975).

3.2 The site lies on gently undulating pasture at the western edge of a built-up area, mainly ribbon development, and the area slopes away gradually, north and west towards the Tas Valley. An ordnance datum point taken from the centre of the site was 57.25m AOD.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

Archaeological Background

4.1 There are seventy nine records held by the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Records office, relating to Caistor St Edmund and the roman town of *Venta Icenorum* and its environs. Due to the remote location of the development site, from the main nucleus of Caistor St Edmund and the Roman town c. 2 km to the west, no attempt will be made here to correlate and synthesise any part of the records evidence to the site. Whilst some extra-mural evidence is known north-east of the town mainly by metal detecting, it is still over 1.5km distance. The interventions listed in the HER records were also situated in and around the Roman town with one focussing on the church, located within the fortified settlement.

Historical Background

4.2 Caistor St Edmund is a small village that lies just to the south of Norwich, close to the A47 bypass, and is primarily known for the remains of a Roman market town and capital of the *Iceni* tribe, originally known as *Venta Icenorum*. The ruins are in the care of the Norfolk Archaeological Trust and managed by South Norfolk Council. The parish church of St Edmund's lies at the south-east corner of the old Roman town. Caistor St Edmund features on the *Antonine Itinerary*, a Roman "road map" of the routes around Britain.

5. Results

Fieldwork

5.1 Plans of the trenches were drawn to a scale of 1:50; sections were drawn at 1:20.

5.2 A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project.

5.3 A digital photographic archive was produced of the work carried out, namely the drainage trench (site perimeter) and the footings for the two houses, at 10 million pixels resolution, and will form part of the site record to be curated at the Norfolk county Council.

5.4 Site plans and sections were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

The Archaeological Monitoring

5.5 Five trenches were excavated: one for the french drain (tr 1), which was located around the perimeter of the site, four soak-aways were also excavated at each corner of the site connecting the french drain at 2m square by 2m depth; for plot 1 (tr 2) footings; for plot 2 (tr 3) footings; for one garage (tr 4) footings and for the second garage footings (tr 5). The site was stripped of top soil once the french drain works were completed.

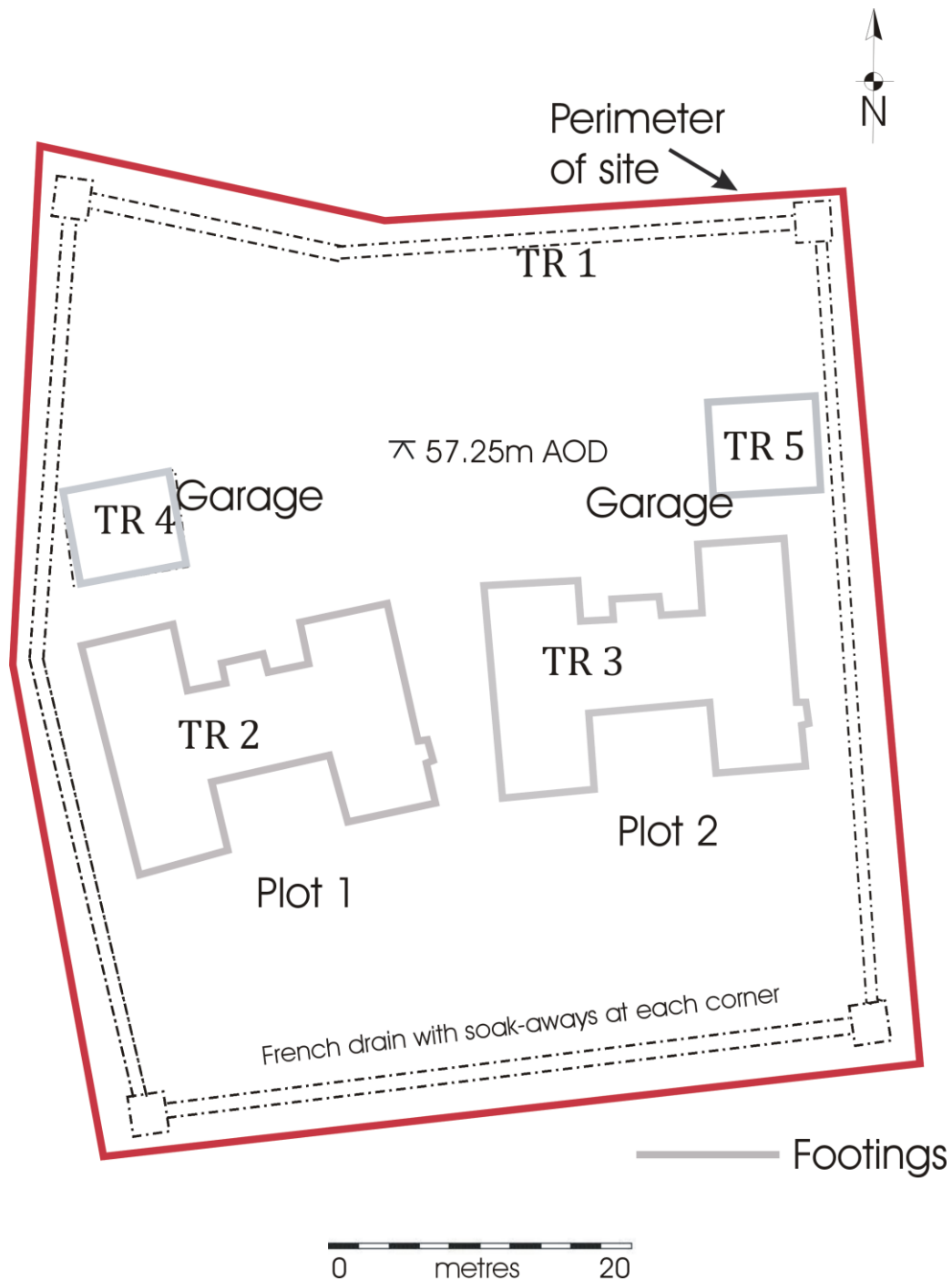


Figure 2. Trench plan

5.6 The deposit model throughout the site was (before stripping) top soil, 0.28m depth; subsoil (where existed) 0.20m depth and the natural sandy gravels with a clay consistency, exposed to a depth of up to 0.75m

5.7 Trench 1, for the french drain (fig. 20) was located around the entire perimeter of the site, was 0.60m width and was excavated to a depth of 1m, along with the four soak-aways, 2m by 2m depth, which did not reveal any archaeology.

5.8 Trench 2, for plot 1, was 0.60m width to a depth of 1m. The deposit model was as above with no top soil; no archaeology was present.

5.9 Trench 3, for plot 2 was 0.60m wide to a depth of 1m. The deposit model was as above with no top soil; no archaeology was present.

5.10 The trenches (4 & 5) for the garages were 0.60m wide and 1m deep with no archaeology present.

5.11 The up-cast soils were metal detected, resulting in no finds.

5.12 All trenches, sections and feature were photographed with digital images.

6. Context Descriptions

Table of Contexts

Context	Type	Description/Dimensions	Interpretation	Find-Types, comments
(1000)	Layer	Top 0.28m (max)	Mostly modern disturbance	n/a
(1001)	Layer	Natural 0.80 (max)		n/a
(1002)	Layer	Sub soil of mid greyish-brown silty sand; depth, 0.30m (max)	Old plough soil	n/a

7. Interpretation

7.1 The development site yielded no archaeological features.

8. Discussion and Conclusion

The site was far enough away (2km) from the Roman town and nucleus of Caistor St Edmund village and the monitoring demonstrated that the site had not been occupied at any period of time and probably remained as agricultural land for its entire existence.

This archaeological monitoring and recording therefore was successful in demonstrating that no archaeology will be compromised by this development.

8. Archive deposition

8.1 The paper and photographic archive will be held at the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

8.2 There are no physical finds.

8.3 A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at the Norfolk County Council Council Historic Environment Service.

8.4 The digital report may also be viewed at the following site:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>.

9. Acknowledgements

9.1 The author would like to thank Richard Lambford of Lambford Homes Ltd who commissioned and funded this work.

9.2 This report for archaeological continuous monitoring and recording and was written by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) ACIfA (Archaeoserv), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work.

Bibliography

Medlycott, M (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

Online References

PastScapes <http://www.pastscape.org/homepage/index.htm>

APPENDIX I: Digital Images



Plate 1. Pre-excitation view of site, from the north



Plate 2. Section of french drain trench, looking south-east



Plate 3. General view of site with top soil stripped, from the east



Plate 4. Section of footings trench, plot 1, from the west



Plate 5. Section of footings trench, plot 1, from south

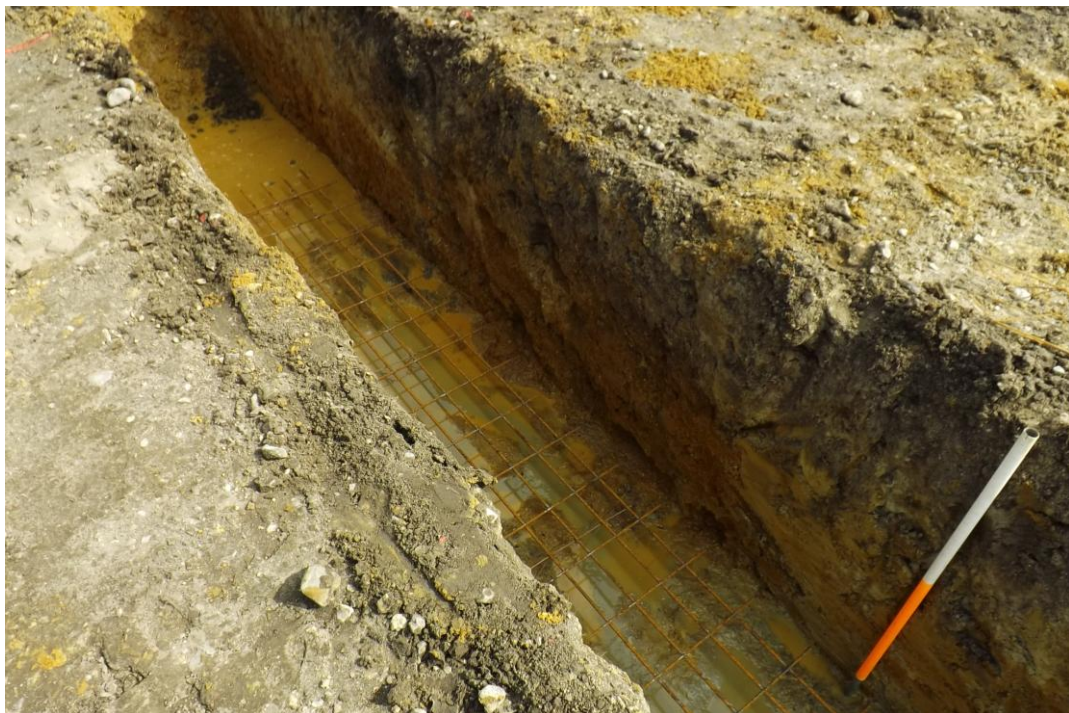


Plate 6. Section of footings trench, plot 1, from south-west



Plate 7. Section of footings trench (plot 2), from the south-west



Plate 8. Footings trench (plot 2) from the north



Plate 9. Section from footings trench (plot 2) , from the north-west (where sub-soil and some top soil remained on the west end of the site