



---

# **SKATE PARK AT WHITE HOUSE PARK, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**





**SKATE PARK AT WHITE HOUSE PARK, IPSWICH,  
SUFFOLK**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Prepared on behalf of:  
Concertus Design and Property Consultants Ltd

By:  
Martin Brook BA (Hons) PCIfA

Britannia Archaeology Ltd  
**115 Osprey Drive,  
Stowmarket, Suffolk,  
IP14 5UX**  
T: 01449 763034  
[info@britannia-archaeology.com](mailto:info@britannia-archaeology.com)  
[www.britannia-archaeology.com](http://www.britannia-archaeology.com)  
Registered in England and Wales: 7874460

April 2015

<b>SHER No.</b>	IPS 770	<b>NGR</b>	TM 142 469
<b>Event Number.</b>	ESF 23025		
<b>Planning Ref.</b>	n/a	<b>OASIS</b>	Britanni1-208186
<b>Approved By:</b>	Matt Adams	<b>Date</b>	April 2015



## **DISCLAIMER**

***The material contained within this report was prepared for an individual client and solely for the benefit of that client and the contents should not be relied upon by any third party. The results and interpretation of the report cannot be considered an absolute representation of the archaeological or any other remains. Britannia Archaeology Ltd will not be held liable for any error of fact resulting in loss or damage, direct, indirect or consequential, through misuse of, or actions based on the material contained within by any third party.***



## CONTENTS

	<b>Abstract</b>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Site Description</b>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Planning Policies</b>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Archaeological Background</b>	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Project Aims</b>	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Project Objectives</b>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Fieldwork Methodology</b>	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Description of Results</b>	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Deposit Model</b>	
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Discussion &amp; Conclusion</b>	

## Bibliography

<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>Sample Section Table</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>OASIS Sheet</b>

<b>Figure 1</b>	<b>General Location Plan</b>	<b>1:1000</b>
<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>HER Data Plan</b>	<b>1:10000</b>
<b>Figure 3</b>	<b>HER Data Plan</b>	<b>1:10000</b>
<b>Figure 4</b>	<b>Trench Plan &amp; Development</b>	<b>1:300</b>
<b>Figure 5</b>	<b>Trench 1: Trench plan, Sections and Photographs</b>	<b>1:10 &amp; 1:100</b>
<b>Figure 6</b>	<b>Trench 2: Trench plan, Sections and Photographs</b>	<b>1:10 &amp; 1:100</b>



## **Abstract**

*On the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site at the Skate Park, White House Park, Ipswich, Suffolk (NGR: TM 142 469). A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Antrobus, A. Dated 11th March 2015) required a trial trench evaluation totalling 40 x 1.80m trenches in order to adequately archaeologically evaluate the site.*

*Background research for the project indicated that evidence for Roman, Saxon and medieval activity was most likely to be encountered, with a particular potential for Roman and medieval remains.*

*Despite the archaeological potential, no archaeological finds or features were present within the evaluation trench.*



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site at the Skate Park, White House Park, Ipswich, Suffolk (NGR: TM 142 469). A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Antrobus, A. Dated 11th March 2015) required a total trial trench meterage measuring 40.00m x 1.80m (Fig. 4) to be excavated by using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Two trenches measuring 20 x 1.80m were excavated in order to adequately evaluate the site.

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located within the north western bounds of Ipswich, within White House Park, to the west of Waterford Road (Figs 1 & 4). The bedrock geology is described as Thames Group Formation – a silty/clay mudstone of marine origin (BGS, 2014).

Superficial deposits have been recorded at the site – Lowestoft Formation comprised of chalky till with outwashed sands and gravels (BGS, 2014).

## 3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological evaluation is to be carried out on the recommendation of the county council (SCCAS/CT), following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaced *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, DCLG 2010) in March 2012. The relevant local planning policy is contained the *Ipswich Local Plan; Core Strategy 2011* and is Policy CS4: *Protecting our Assets*.

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figures 2 and 3)

The following archaeological background utilises the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape ([www.pastscape.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.org.uk)), and the Archaeological Data Service ([www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)) (ADS) (Figs 2 & 3). There are seventy four monument entries within and just outside the 1km search radius. Seven listed building entries were also returned within the 1km search area as well as one scheduled ancient monument. Below are the relevant entries to the current site found within the SHER data.

The SHER returned nine entries dating to the Roman period of particular relevance to the site. A large villa complex active from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Castle Hill, Whitton - now built over) with associated features such as tessellated flooring, road, hypocaust and



cremations (IPS015, excavated by Brown) is located directly to the current sites east and was investigated during the former half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (ESF151182 & ESF16037). Various find spots associated with the villa complex also have been uncovered to the current area of investigations east, such as a cinerary urn (IPS039) at Castle Road, further structural evidence to the south west of the villa (IPS044 – MSF4776), and a Constantine coin (IPS045) at Highfield Road. More Roman building debris has also been uncovered within Castle Hill meadow (IPS204) suggestive of the villa complex extending to the south west. Investigations undertaken by The Time Team in 2003 within modern back garden plots (IPS421) established that much of the villa complex within the area to the east of the site has been truncated by earlier excavation and construction of the modern housing estate. Three find spots surrounding the current investigation area to its south and west have revealed Roman coins dating from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD (IPS 040, 041 and 042).

Saxon evidence is also present to the east of the assessment site, within the area of the earlier Roman villa (IPS015). Pottery sherds and a possible hearth were uncovered during Browns excavations hinting at a continuation of use into the early medieval period of the villa site. Further to the sites east, more Saxon pottery sherds were found at Beechcroft Road (IPS099), and also at Chesterfield Drive (IPS200). Excavations 1km to the current sites west at Whitehouse Road (IPS247 – MSF14086) uncovered an small Saxon settlement site with associated inhumation cemetery and rubbish pits.

Directly to the east of the site is a former medieval moated complex (IPS711) appearing on OS mapping until the 1920's, when the site was built over.

Given the above records the site has a specific potential for **Roman, Saxon and medieval** features and finds.

## 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief states that an evaluation is required to enable archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified (Antrobus, A: Brief, Section 4.1).

Section 4.2 of the brief states that the archaeological evaluation is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.



## 6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

The brief also states that the project will need to consider the following objectives:

- The characterisation of the sequence.
- To make the results of the investigation available through suitable reportage.

## 7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The SCCAS/CT brief required the excavation of 40.00 meters of trial trenching in advance of the construction of a skate park and associated works. The trenches were located to cover the footprint of the proposed development area and two trenches measuring 20.00 x 1.80m were excavated to fulfil the requirements of the Brief.

A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to machine down to the first archaeological horizon, thereafter all excavation work was undertaken by hand (Fig. 4).

All spoil generated and surfaces uncovered were scanned using a metal detector.

The archaeology was recorded using pro-forma record sheets, drawn plans and section drawings and appropriate photographs were taken.

## 8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figures 4, 5 and 6)

The trenches were located in the eastern area of the park. Trench 1 was located in the western area of the site while Trench 2 was located 10.00m south east of the Trench 1.

### 8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north-east to south-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.49m. Topsoil layer 1000 was present to a depth of 0.31m. This layer overlay subsoil layer 1001 and was 0.18m thick to a depth of 0.49m. A layer of natural geological deposits 1002 was present below this.

No archaeological features or finds were encountered.





## 8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m. The greater depth of this trench, closer to the eastern boundary of the park and the former gate house, is most likely due to modern landscaping when the park was remodelled to accommodate the existing play area, public toilets to the north and the widening of Norwich Road to the east. Topsoil 1000 was present to a depth of 0.39m. Subsoil layer 1001 was present underneath topsoil 1000 and was 0.31m thick. Finally, a layer of natural geological deposits 1002 was present from 0.70m onwards.

No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

## 9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figure 5 and 6)

The deposit model was consistent across the site.

At the top of the sequence was topsoil Layer 1000, comprising a mid-grey brown, firm, sandy silt to a maximum thickness of 0.39m in Sample Section 2. No finds were present within this layer.

Beneath 1000 was subsoil layer 1001, comprising mid-orange brown, firm silty sand to a maximum thickness of 0.31m in Sample Section 2.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence, beneath subsoil Layer 1001 was a layer of natural geological deposits 1002, comprising a mid-orange brown, compact, silty clay with frequent sub-angular flint Inclusions.

## 10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Despite the potential for Roman, Saxon and medieval remains, in particular those relating to the nearby Roman villa site and medieval moated site to the east no features or finds were encountered.

The most recent phase of activity on site was topsoil Layer 1000. This was formed as the current park surface and is the result of landscaping and soil movement in the modern period.

Subsoil layer 1001 beneath layer 1000 and above the Natural Sub Soil layer 1002 showed little evidence of disturbance through ploughing and therefore it can be surmised this layer has changed little and although this layer was devoid of any archaeological features or finds its apparent lack of disturbance would therefore give it some archaeological potential in other parts of the site if present.

The lack of Roman, Saxon and medieval archaeological features, despite the potential for these within the site bounds, may be due to the limited area of investigation rather than



a true reflection of the archaeological remains in the area. However, this may also be a result of landscaping in the post medieval period when The White House was a private residence and its gardens and lands were undergoing transformation to something more in keeping with styles at the time.



## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Brown, D.H. 2007. *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*; Archaeological Archives Forum.

Brown, N. And Glazebrook, J. 2000. *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*; East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 8.

Gurney, D. 2003. *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*; East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2010. *Code of Conduct*.

Institute for Archaeologists. October 2008. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

Medlycott. 2011. *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*; East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.

Mills. A. D, 2003. Oxford Dictionary of British Place Names. Oxford University Press.

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1983. *Packaging and Storage of Freshly-Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites*; Conservation Guidelines No. 2.

### **Websites:**

The British Geological Survey (Natural Environment Research Council) – Geology of Britain Viewer - [www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion2=1#maps](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion2=1#maps)

English Heritage PastScape [www.pastscape.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.org.uk)

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) [www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)

English Heritage National List for England  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england)

DEFRA Magic <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic>



## APPENDIX 1 – SAMPLE SECTION TABLES

### Sample Section 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height aOD	Shot No
1	SW-NE	32.18m	SS 1
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1	SW End	SE Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.31m	Topsoil. Mid Grey Brown, Firm, Sandy Silt.	
1001	0.31 – 0.49m	Subsoil. Mid Orange Brown, Firm Silty Sand.	
1002	0.49m+	Natural Sub Soil layer. Mid Orange Brown, Compact, Silty Clay with Frequent Sub-Angular flint Inclusions.	

### Sample Section 2

Trench No	Orientation	Height aOD	Shot No
2	NW-SE	32.36m	SS 2
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
2	NW End	NE Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.39m	Topsoil. Mid Grey Brown, Firm, Sandy Silt.	
1001	0.39 – 0.70m	Subsoil. Mid Orange Brown, Firm Silty Sand.	
1002	0.70m+	Natural sub-soil layer. Mid Orange Brown, Compact, Silty Clay with Frequent Sub-Angular flint Inclusions.	



## APPENDIX 3 – OASIS SHEET

OASIS FORM - Print view

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: britanni1-208186

### Project details

Project name Skate Park at White House Park, Ipswich, Suffolk

Short description of the project On the 28th April 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site at the Skate Park, White House Park, Ipswich, Suffolk (NGR: TM 142 469). A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Antrobus, A. Dated 11th March 2015) required a trial trench evaluation totalling 40 x 1.80m trenches in order to adequately archaeologically evaluate the site. Background research for the project indicated that evidence for Roman, Saxon and medieval activity was most likely to be encountered, with a particular potential for Roman and medieval remains. Despite the archaeological potential, no archaeological finds or features were present within the evaluation trench.

Project dates Start: 27-04-2015 End: 29-04-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes IPS 770 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Amenity area (e.g. public open space)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country England

Site location SUFFOLK IPSWICH IPSWICH Skate Park at White House Park, Ipswich, Suffolk

Postcode IP1 5LS

file:///C:/Users/Work/Desktop/OASIS%20FORM%20-%20Print%20view.htm[09/06/2015 09:59:52]



OASIS FORM - Print view

Study area 1600.00 Square metres  
Site coordinates TM 14220 46933 52.0787092893 1.1266164205 52 04 43 N 001 07 35 E Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator Dan McConnell  
Project director/manager Dan McConnell  
Project supervisor Dan McConnell  
Type of sponsor/funding body County Council  
Name of sponsor/funding body Concertus Design and Property Consultants Ltd

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
Digital Archive ID IPS 770  
Digital Contents "Survey"  
Digital Media available "Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
Paper Archive ID IPS 770  
Paper Contents "Survey"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title SKATE PARK AT WHITE HOUSE PARK, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Brook. M  
Other bibliographic details R1095  
Date 2015

file:///C:/Users/Work/Desktop/OASIS%20FORM%20-%20Print%20view.htm[09/06/2015 09:59:52]



OASIS FORM - Print view

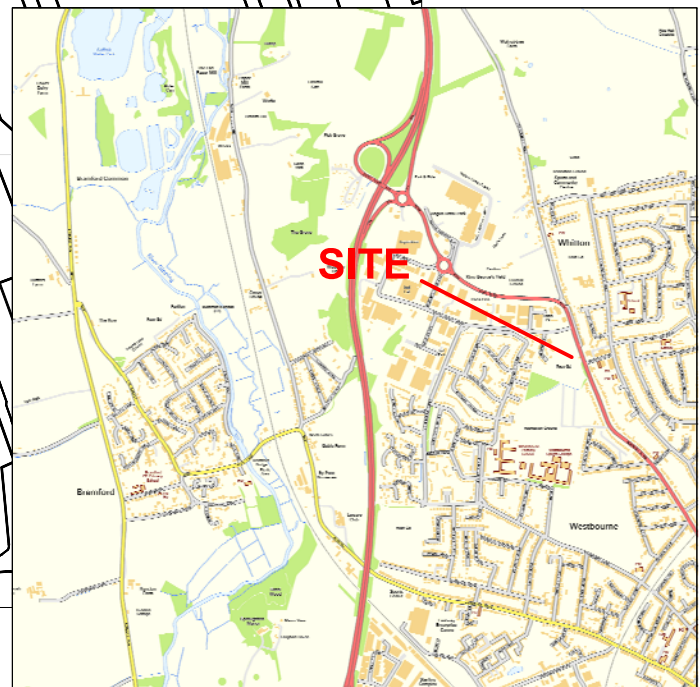
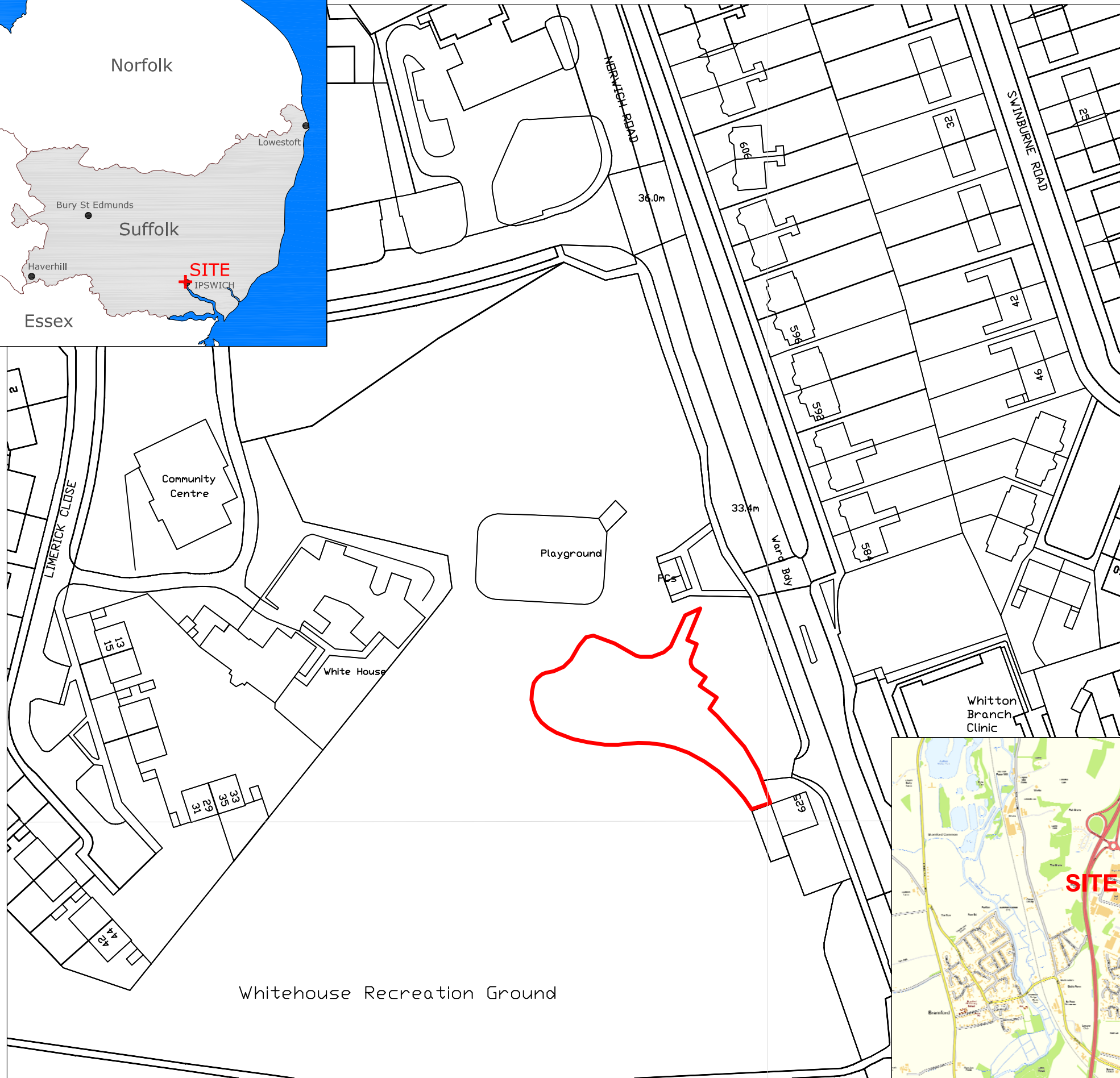
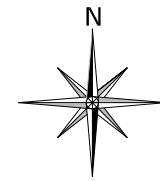
Issuer or publisher Britannia Archaeology LTD  
Place of issue or publication Stowmarket, Suffolk  
Description A4 bound report with A3 pull-out figures  
URL [www.britannia-archaeology.com](http://www.britannia-archaeology.com)

Entered by Martin Brook ([martin@britannia-archaeology.com](mailto:martin@britannia-archaeology.com))  
Entered on 9 June 2015

**OASIS:** Please e-mail [Historic England](http://www.historicengland.gov.uk) for OASIS help and advice  
© ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012  
Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

file:///C:/Users/Work/Desktop/OASIS%20FORM%20-%20Print%20view.htm[09/06/2015 09:59:52]





 Site Boundary

NGR: 614220 246933      REPORT NUMBER: 1095

PROJECT:  
SKATE PARK AT WHITE HOUSE PARK,  
IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

CLIENT:  
CONCERTUS

DESCRIPTION:  
SITE LOCATION PLAN

**BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**



115 OSPREY DRIVE, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK  
IP14 5UX  
T: 01449 763034  
E: info@britannia-archaeology.com  
W: www.britannia-archaeology.com

© Britannia Archaeology Ltd 2015

SCALE: 1:1000      0      50m

PLOT: A3      APPROVED: MB      VERSION: 01

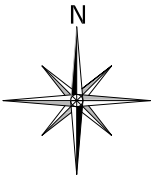
DATE: APRIL 2015      AUTHOR: DPM      FIGURE: 01








Reproduced on plans supplied by the client from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Licence number: 100052663.  
© CROWN COPYRIGHT.









	HER Search Area
	Scheduled Monument
	Event (Archaeology)
	War Memorial (Grade II)
	Grade II*
	Grade II
	Site Boundary

NGR: 614220 246933      REPORT NUMBER: 1095

PROJECT:  
SKATE PARK AT WHITE HOUSE PARK,  
IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

CLIENT:  
CONCERTUS

DESCRIPTION:  
HER DATA - EVENTS, LISTED  
BUILDINGS & SCHEDULED  
MONUMENTS

**BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**



115 OSPREY DRIVE, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK  
IP14 5UX  
T: 01449 763034  
E: info@britannia-archaeology.com  
W: www.britannia-archaeology.com

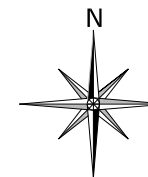
© Britannia Archaeology Ltd 2015



SCALE: 1:10000      0      500m

PLOT: A3      APPROVED: MB      VERSION: 01

DATE: APRIL 2015      AUTHOR: DPM      FIGURE: 03





	Proposed Trial Trench
	Site Boundary

NGR: 614220 246933	REPORT NUMBER: 1095
--------------------	---------------------

PROJECT:  
SKATE PARK AT WHITE HOUSE PARK,  
IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

CLIENT:  
CONCERTUS

DESCRIPTION:  
TRENCH PLAN & DEVELOPMENT  
BOUNDARY

**BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**



115 OSPREY DRIVE, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK  
IP14 5UX  
T: 01449 763034  
E: info@britannia-archaeology.com  
W: www.britannia-archaeology.com

© Britannia Archaeology Ltd 2015

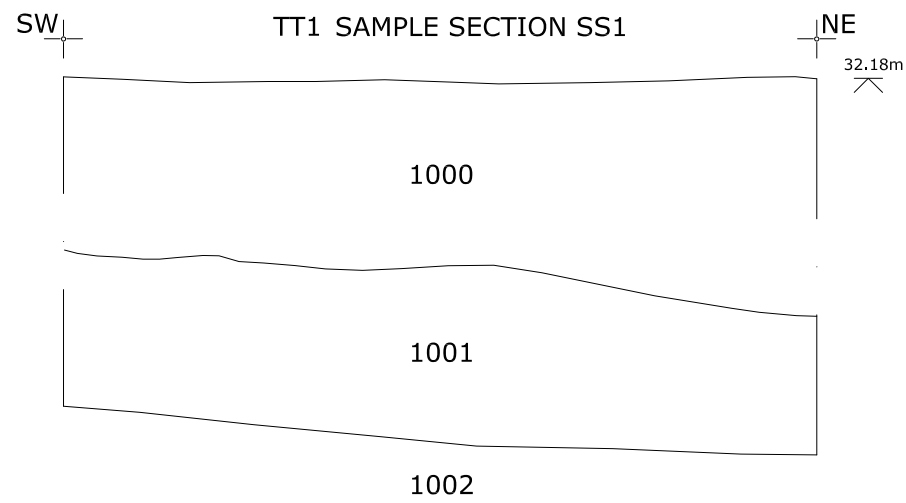
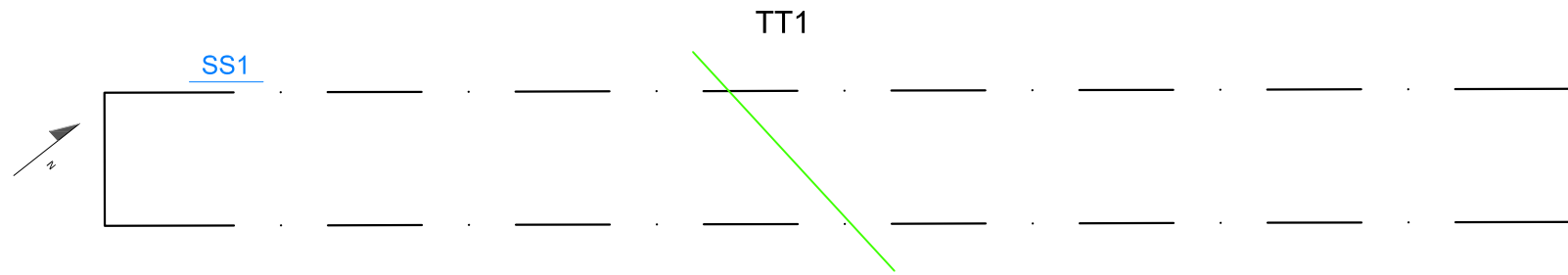
SCALE:	0	40m
1:300		

PLOT:	APPROVED:	VERSION:
A3	MB	01

DATE:	AUTHOR:	FIGURE:
APRIL 2015	DPM	04

Reproduced on plans supplied by the client from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Licence number: 100052663.  
© CROWN COPYRIGHT.





TT1 - FACING NE



SS1 - FACING NW



	Modern Ceramic Drain
	Site Section
	Trial Trench

NGR: 614220 246933	REPORT NUMBER: 1095
--------------------	---------------------

PROJECT:  
SKATE PARK AT WHITE HOUSE PARK,  
IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

CLIENT:  
CONCERTUS

DESCRIPTION:  
TRENCH PLAN, SECTIONS &  
PHOTOGRAPHS

**BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**



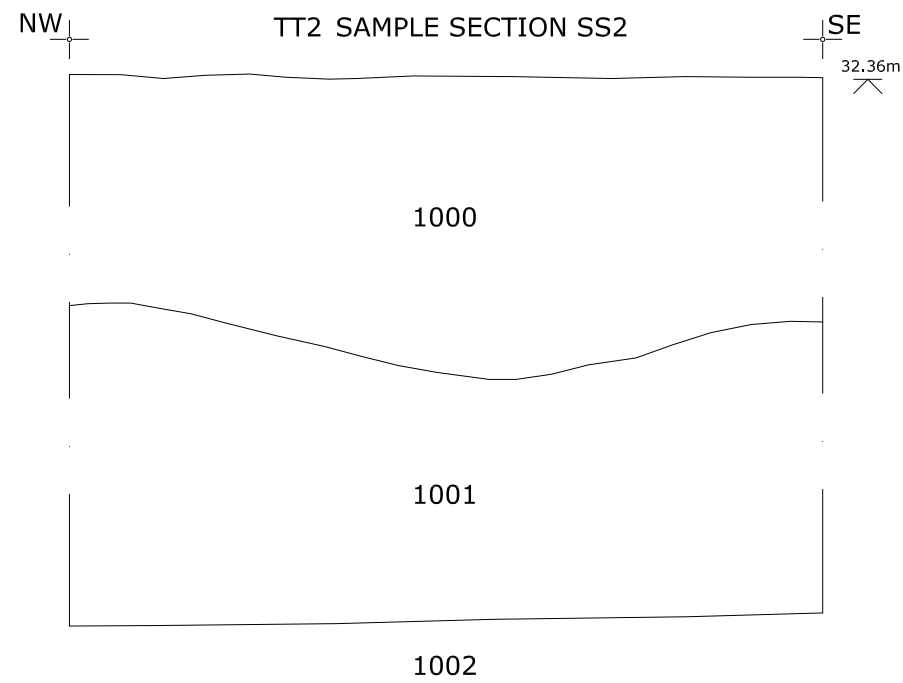
115 OSPREY DRIVE, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK  
IP14 5UX  
T: 01449 763034  
E: info@britannia-archaeology.com  
W: www.britannia-archaeology.com  
© Britannia Archaeology Ltd 2015

SCALE:	0	1:100	5m
TRENCHES:	0	1:10	0.5m
SECTIONS:			

PLOT: A3	APPROVED: MB	VERSION: 01
-------------	-----------------	----------------

DATE: APRIL 2015	AUTHOR: DPM	FIGURE: 05
---------------------	----------------	---------------







SS2 - FACING NE



TT2 - FACING SE



 SS1	Site Section
 TT1	Trial Trench

NGR: 614220 246933	REPORT NUMBER: 1095
--------------------	---------------------

PROJECT:  
SKATE PARK AT WHITE HOUSE PARK,  
IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

CLIENT:  
CONCERTUS

DESCRIPTION:  
TRENCH PLAN, SECTIONS &  
PHOTOGRAPHS

**BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**



115 OSPREY DRIVE, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK  
IP14 5UX  
T: 01449 763034  
E: info@britannia-archaeology.com  
W: www.britannia-archaeology.com  
© Britannia Archaeology Ltd 2015

SCALE:	0	1:100	5m
TRENCHES:	0	1:10	0.5m
SECTIONS:			

PLOT: A3	APPROVED: MB	VERSION: 01
-------------	-----------------	----------------

DATE: APRIL 2015	AUTHOR: DPM	FIGURE: 06
---------------------	----------------	---------------