

THURSTON ROAD, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report Number: 1121 December 2015



THURSTON ROAD, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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December 2015

Site Code Event Number	LWT345 ESF 23310	NGR	TM 548 937	
Planning Ref.	DC/12/1300	OASIS	britanni1-232256	
Approved By: Matt Adams	MA	Date	December 2015	



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Abstract

On the 8th December 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation at Thurston Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk (TM 548 937), (Fig. 1) in advance of the construction of 6 flats and 2 houses.

The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for medieval and post medieval features and finds relating to the expansion and consolidation of the medieval core of the town. No archaeological features were encountered in Trench 1.

The evaluation revealed three phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site was Concrete Yard Surface 1000. This relates to recent adoption of the site as a builders yard. Made Ground Layer 1001 is associated with this phase.

The second, earlier phase of activity relates to Demolition Layer 1002 and Modern Building Footprint, which was encountered in the trench. The construction of the building and is subsequent demolition represents the second phase of activity.

The final phase of activity is Subsoil 1003 which represents a former medieval – post medieval plough soil. The site lies in an area which was on the periphery of settlement activity until the expansion of the town in the post medieval period. Given the level of modern truncation within the trench, the survival of archaeological remains under the current standing buildings on the remainder of the sire is considered unlikely.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 8th December 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation Thurston Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk (TM 548 937), (Fig. 1) in advance of the construction of 6 flats and 2 house. A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Antrobus, A. Dated 9th November 2015) required one trial trench measuring 10.00x1.80m to be excavated in the north of the site with an extra 13x1.80m of trenching held in contingency (Fig. 6).

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located on Thurston Road, in the town of Lowestoft, Suffolk. It is located 200m west of the A12 and less than a kilometre west of the sea. On the land currently are buildings (due to be demolished) and a poured concrete yard surface immediately adjacent to Thurston Road (Fig. 1). The bedrock geology is described as Crag Group – Sand, a sedimentary bedrock formed up to 5 million years ago in either the Quaternary or Neogene Periods, when the local environment was previously dominated by warm chalk seas. (BGS, 2015).

Superficial deposits at the site are described as Corton Woods Sand and Gravel Member - Sand and Gravel. These superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was shaped by glacial movement and seasonal and post-glacial outwash. (BGS, 2015).

2.1 Site Visit

A site visit was carried out on 24th November 2015 by the author. On this date, it was determined that the originally proposed location of the south trench on the site was unsuitable for pre-demolition excavation, due to the presence of live services connected to a residential care home. Once these services have been re-routed post-demolition, the area may become suitable for trial trenching, although this has yet to be determined.

As a result of this, the agreed length of trenching has been reduced from $18.00 \times 1.80 \text{m}$ of trenching with $5.00 \times 1.80 \text{m}$ contingency to the current length of $10.00 \times 1.80 \text{m}$ with a $13.00 \times 1.80 \text{m}$.

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation is to be carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, 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 development framework is the *Waveney Local Development Framework Core Strategy* (2009-2021).



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2, 3, 4 & 5)

The following archaeological background utilises the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), Historic England PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2, 3 & 4). 108 monument entries, 17 events and 59 listed building entries were returned within the 1km search area. Due to the high number of listed buildings returned, only those within 150m of the site have been referred to in detail.

The site is located in the town of Lowestoft Suffolk, located on the North Sea coast and is approximately 70km north east of Ipswich and 45km south east of Norwich.

The SHER search returned seven entries dating to the prehistoric period. All but one of these entries, (MSF 20765) refer to find spots. The earliest records returned by the search are Neolithic in date. MSF20765 refers to a pit, located during an evaluation in 2002 approximately 620m south west of the site. MSF1655, MSF 1657, MSF 1663 and MSF1666 all refer to find scatters of flint. All have been dated to the Neolithic period and include such implements as a partly polished axe (MSF1655) and two transverse arrowheads, two leaf arrowheads, one hollow based arrowhead and an assortment of flint knives (MSF1663). One record (MSF7530) dating to the Bronze age was returned and refers to two barbed and tanged arrowheads found tighter along with Neolithic flints on Water Lane, approximately 280m north west of site.

The Romano-British period marked a significant change in development for the wider area with Camulodunum (Colchester) becoming the Roman Capital of Britannia. Glemsford is located approximately 34km north-west of Camulodunum. Six monument records were returned by the SHER search dating to this period. All of the Roman records returned relate to fid spots and also all relate to the discovery of coins. The closest and most relevant record lies 500m south west of the site six silver and one gold coin (MSF1717) were found during the excavation of a drain in 1877.

The main development of Lowestoft is believed to have occurred in the Saxon period however no records dating to this period were returned by the SHER search pertaining to anything within 1km of the site.

The medieval period is represented by nine monument records within the 1km search area and one listed building record within 150m of the site. The most significant record relating to the sit and Lowestoft itself is MSF18346 which refers to the Lowestoft area of archaeological importance. This record defines the areas of the medieval and early post medieval town core. This information is based on a map, prepared by D Butcher, of the town in circa 1618 based on a manorial survey. Another record of relevance to the site is MSF1669 which relates to the possible remains of the Priory of St Bartholomew. The record is located approximately 245m north east of the site, there is reference to vaulted crypts below 41, 42 and 160 High Street. The crypts underneath 160 High Street were filled in when Anchor Hotel built over it in 1897. While most the other records of medieval date refer to individual find spots MSX27594 refers to cropmarks of a fragmentary field system located on the periphery of the search area, 900m west of the site. It is possible that these crop marks have an earlier date. The listed building



(391279) relating to the medieval period returned by the SHER search lies only 100m north east of the site. The origins of the building known as Crown Street Motors, is as a Tithe barn to the Church of St Margaret. The structure is 15th century in origin and is Grade II listed. The building has a Timber-frame and a pantile roof and is a 3-bay aisled barn. There is a square section of timber posts with arched braces to the aisle plates and tie beams. The medieval period saw Lowestoft become an increasingly important fishing town. This industry grew quickly and the trade, particularly fishing for herring, continued to act as the town's main identity until the 20th century.

The post-medieval period returned 16 monument records from the 1km search and 1 listed building within 150m of the site. MSF16773 relates to a probable clay pipe production site suggested in the 1851 census of Thomas Brookes and is located approximately 240m south west of the site. The closest post medieval monument record to the site refers to listed building 391280. Crown Street Hall lies approximately 50m north of the site and was originally in use as a theatre but is now empty. Built in 1812 the building is constructed of rendered and colour washed brick. It has a pantiled roof, 2 storeys in 3 bays, rusticated quoins to the ground floor and flanking the central 6panelled double-leaf doors. One of the most significant records locally is MSF18195 which relates to the former Lowestoft Porcelain Factory. Located 50m to the east of the site the factory began production in 1757 and closed in 1801. It was the third-longestlived English soft-paste porcelain factory after Worcester and Derby. In 1950 Windsor & Newton purchased the property and in 1955 demolished most of the surviving remnants and remains of the kiln. The post medieval expansion of the town was achieved largely through the increased production in the immediate area of porcelain, ship building and repair as well as the still functioning fishing industry.

The SHER search returned 50 records relating to the modern period the vast majority of which refer to World War 2 defences such as earthen covered air raid shelters (MSX27439, MSX27432 and MSX27404) as well as pillboxes, (MSX27391, 27401 and 27425). The town was heavily targeted for bombing by the Luftwaffe during the war due to its engineering industry and role as a naval base. It is sometimes claimed that it became one of the most heavily bombed towns per head of population in the UK

Given the above records the site has a specific potential for **medieval** and **post-medieval** features and finds, relating to the expansion and consolidation of medieval core of the town.

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 3.1).

Section 3.2 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:

- To provide for the absolute dating of critical contacts.
- To make the results of the investigation available through suitable reportage.

7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The SCCAS/CT brief required the excavation of a potential 23.00m of trial trenching prior to the demolition of existing buildings and the subsequent construction of 6 flats and 2 houses. The 23.00m of trenching covered 5% of the site area, however, 13.00m of this is to be kept as contingency to be excavated after demolition, should results from the initial trenching merit further archaeological investigation of the site. The initial evaluation will therefore comprise of one trench measuring $10.00 \times 1.80m$.

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 be undertaken by hand (Fig. 4).

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 6 & 7)

Trench 1 was located in the north of the site in a yard that had been turned over to the storage of building materials.

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m. No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench. Two modern drains were present in the western end of



the trench. The majority of trench 1 contained the remains of Modern Building Footprint 1005. The footprint measured $6.50 \times 1.40 \text{m}$ and was constructed from early 20^{th} century brick bonded with modern mortar and cement. The construction cut for the building was not visible in the trench however the remains of the construction backfill (1006) was present adjacent to the remaining wall foundations. Demolition of the building appears to have occurred in the later part of the 20^{th} century due to the material recovered from interior Demolition Backfill 1007 located within the building footprint. It contained plastic sheeting, broken reinforced concrete and assorted plastic food wrappers. No finds were retained.

Concrete Yard Surface 1000 was present to a depth of 0.05m. This layer overlies made Ground layer 1001 which was 0.31m thick to a depth of 036m. Next in the stratigraphic sequence was Demolition Layer 1002 which was present to a depth of 0.51m. This overlay Subsoil 1003 which was 0.20m thick. The final layer in the sequence was Natural Clay 1004 at a depth of 0.71m.

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 7)

The deposit model was consistent across Trench 1.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was Concrete Yard Surface 1000. The layer was 0.05m thick in Sample Section 1.

Beneath Concrete Yard Surface 1000 was Made Ground layer 1001, comprising light grey brown, loose sand, silt and clay with frequent rubble inclusions. This layer represents a period of material redistribution and levelling on the site before the concrete forming the yard surface was poured. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.36m in Sample Section 1.

Demolition Layer 1002 was present throughout the trench and is associated with the former building that was present on the site and is represented in the trench by Modern Building Footprint 1005. It was comprised of dark brown – black, compact sand, silt and clay with frequent rubble inclusions. The layer was present to a depth of 0.51m.

The next layer in the sequence was Subsoil 1003, which comprised light grey brown, compact, silty clay. It is likely that this represent a former medieval – post medieval plough soil given the sites location and the known medieval town core. The layer was 0.20m thick to a depth of 0.71m in sample section 1.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 1, was Natural Clay 1004, comprising a light yellow brown, compact, sandy clay with infrequent sub-angular flint pebbles.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for medieval and post medieval features and finds relating to the expansion and



consolidation of the medieval core of the town. No archaeological features were encountered in Trench 1.

The evaluation revealed three phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site was Concrete Yard Surface 1000. This relates to recent adoption of the site as a builders yard. Made Ground Layer 1001 is associated with this phase.

The second, earlier phase of activity relates to Demolition Layer 1002 and Modern Building Footprint, which was encountered in the trench. The construction of the building and is subsequent demolition represents the second phase of activity. This building is present on the current OS map so could only have been demolished relatively recently.

The final phase of activity is Subsoil 1003 which represents a former medieval – post medieval plough soil. The site lies in an area which was on the periphery of settlement activity until the expansion of the town in the post medieval period. Given the level of modern truncation within the trench, the survival of archaeological remains under the current standing buildings on the remainder of the sire is considered unlikely.

11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thanks Mr Carl Bagshaw for commissioning the project.

We would also like to thank Dr Abby Antrobus at Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service / Conservation Team for her advice and assistance throughout the project.

The site was excavated by Martin Brook of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

English Heritage National List for England www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england

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



APPENDIX 1 - DEPOSIT TABLES

Deposit Tables

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation	on W - E		Height AOD 19.54m		Shot ID DP 1
Sample Section No	I	Location N Side W End		Facing S Facing		
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description				
1000	0.00 - 0.0	0.00 – 0.05m Concrete Yard Surface				
1001	0.05 - 0.3	0.05 – 0.36m Made Ground: light grey frequent rubble inclusion			rown, loc	se sand, silt and clay with
1002	0.36 - 0.5	51m	1m Demolition Layer: dark brown – black, compact sand, silt and clay with frequent rubble inclusions			
1003	0.51 - 0.6	58m	Modern Drains			
1004	0.68m +		Natural Clay: light yellow brown, compact, sandy clay with infrequent sub-angular flint pebbles			



APPENDIX 2 - 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: britanni1-232256

Project details

Project name Thurston Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk

Short description of the project

On the 8th December 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation at Thurston Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk (TM 548 937), (Fig. 1) in advance of the construction of 6 flats and 2 houses. The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for medieval and post medieval features and finds relating to the expansion and consolidation of the medieval core of the town. No archaeological features were encountered in Trench 1. The evaluation revealed three phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site was Concrete Yard Surface 1000. This relates to recent adoption of the site as a builders yard. Made Ground Layer 1001 is associated with this phase. The second, earlier phase of activity relates to Demolition Layer 1002 and Modern Building Footprint, which was encountered in the trench. The construction of the building and is subsequent demolition represents the second phase of activity. The final phase of activity is Subsoil 2003 which represents a former medieval - post medieval plough soil. The site lies in an area which was on the periphery of settlement activity until the expansion of the town in the post medieval period. Given the level of modern truncation within the trench, the survival of archaeological remains under the current standing buildings on the remainder of the sire is considered unlikely.

Project dates Start: 14-12-2015 End: 15-12-2015

Previous/future

work

No / No

Any associated project reference

LWT345 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over

COMMERCIAL RESIDENCE Modern Monument type

Significant Finds NONE None Methods & "Sample Trenches"

techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.) Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 Position in the

planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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OASIS FORM - Print view

Project location

Country England

SUFFOLK WAVENEY LOWESTOFT Thurston Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk Site location

Postcode NR32 1SF Study area 0 Hectares

Site coordinates TM 548 937 52.481006295961 1.752974512454 52 28 51 N 001 45 10 E Point

Project creators

Name of Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Organisation

Project brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

originator

Project design Martin Brook

originator

Project Martin Brook

director/manager

Project supervisor Martin Brook Type of Developer

sponsor/funding

body

Name of Bagshaw Builders

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive No

Exists? Digital Archive

Suffolk HER

recipient

Digital Archive ID LWT345

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Database", "GIS", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

available

Paper Archive Suffolk HER

recipient

Paper Archive ID LWT345

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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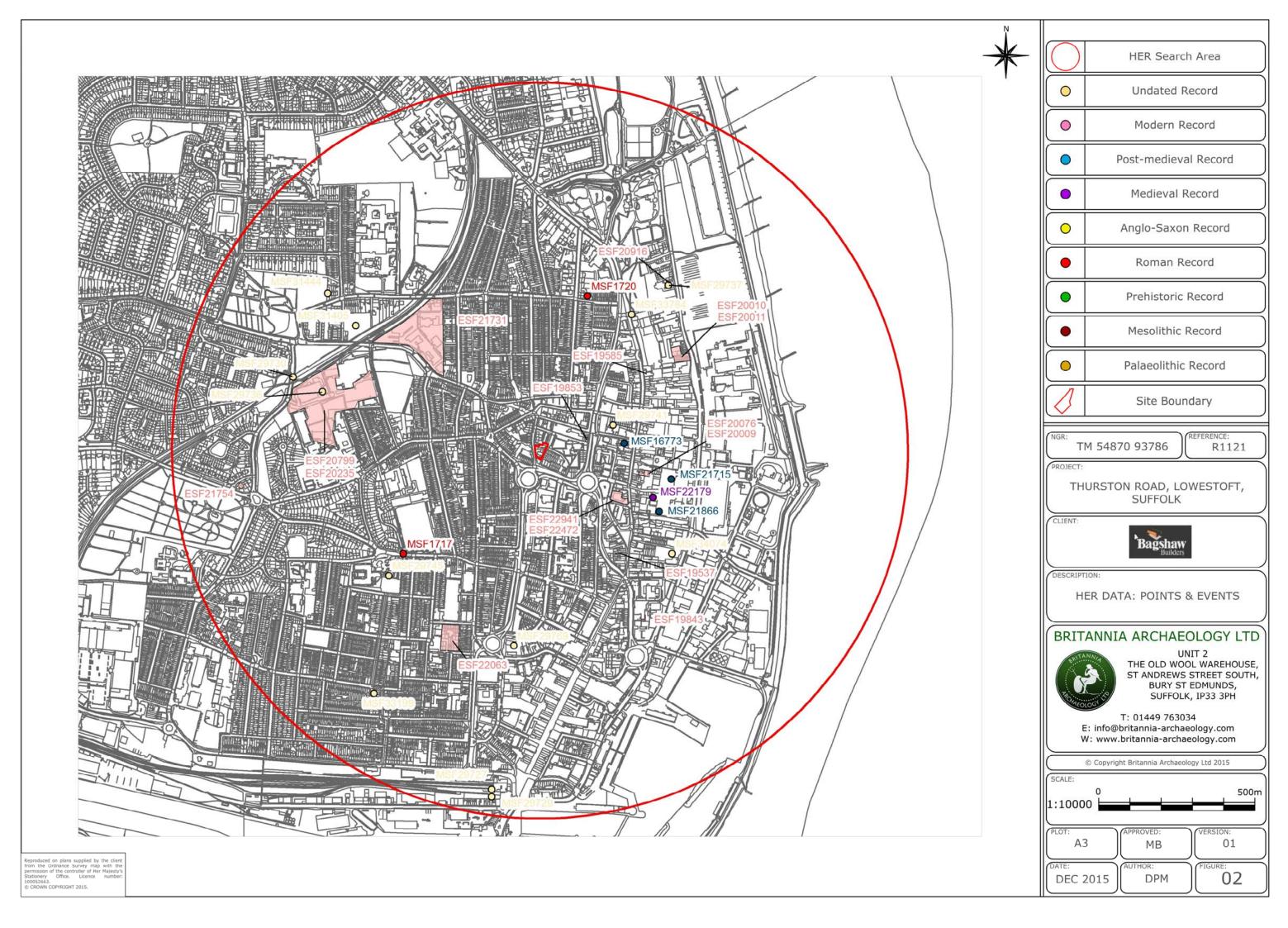
Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

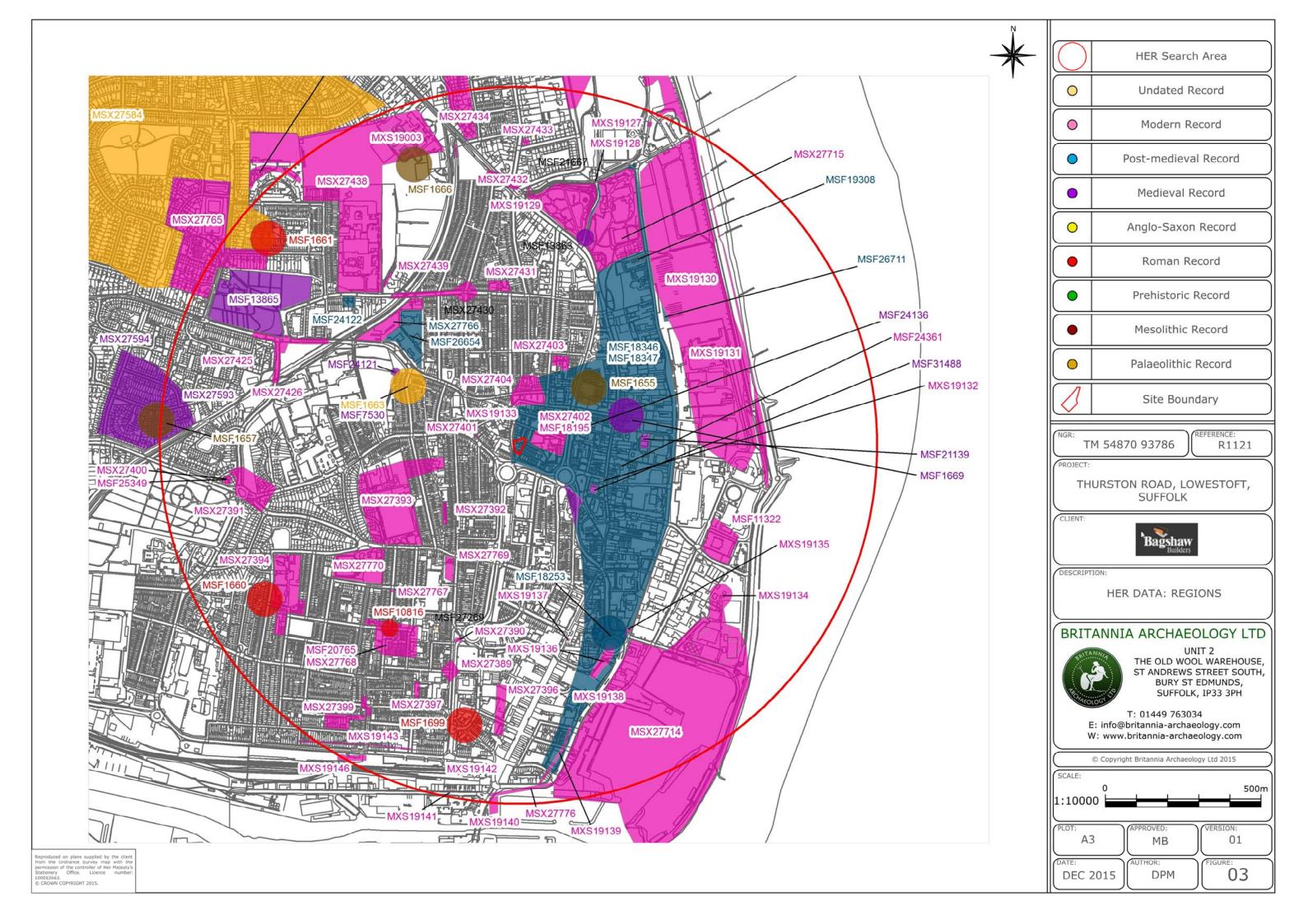
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OASIS:

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HER Search Area Grade II Site Boundary

TM 54870 93786

THURSTON ROAD, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK

R1121

CLIENT:



DESCRIPTION:

HER DATA: LISTED BUILDINGS

BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



SCALE:

UNIT 2 THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE, ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK, IP33 3PH

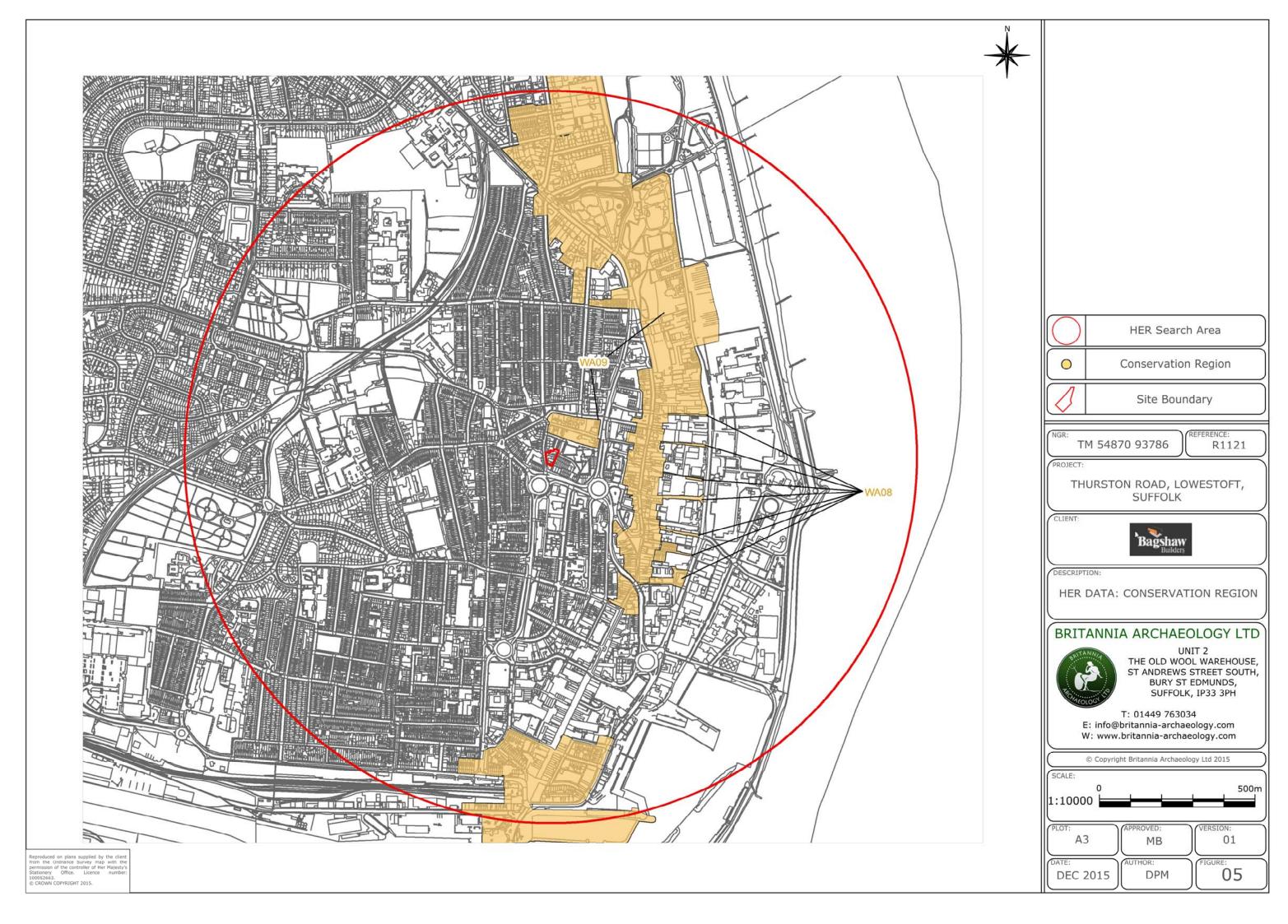
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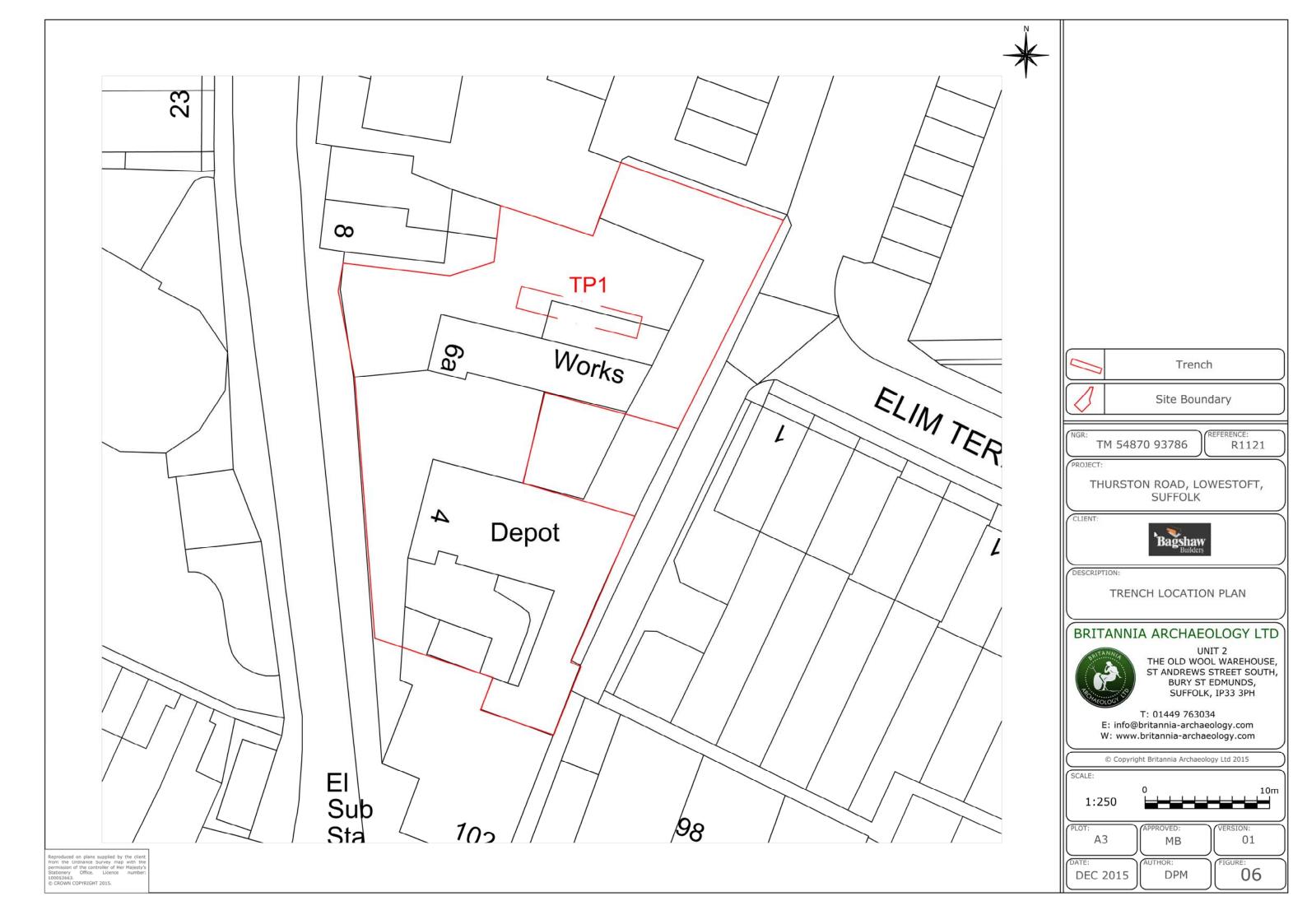
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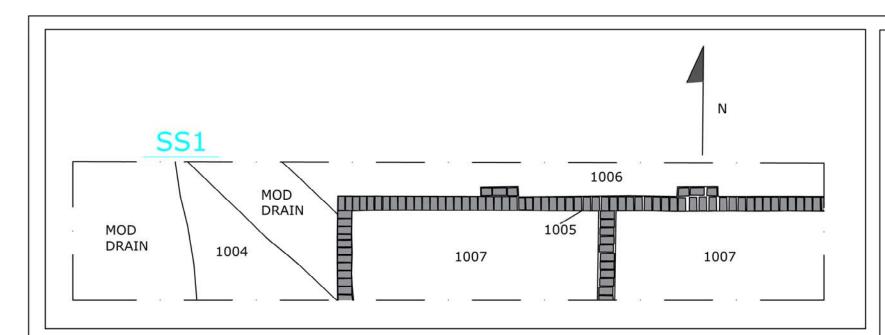
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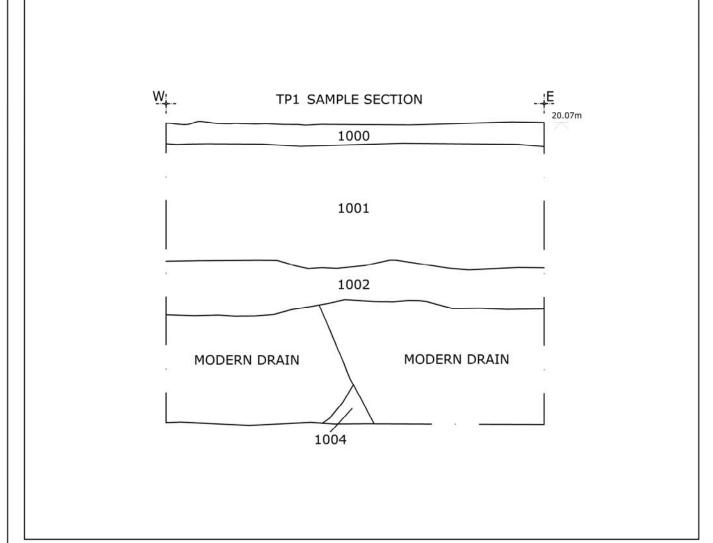






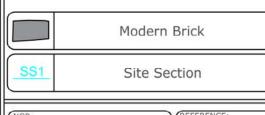


DP2: TP1 FACING EAST





DP1: SS1 FACING NORTH



TM 54870 93786

ROJECT:

THURSTON ROAD, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK

CLIENT



DESCRIPTION:

SITE PLANS, SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS

BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



UNIT 2
THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE,
ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH,
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R1121

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SCALE:
Plans 1:50

Sections 1:10

PLOT:
A3

APPROVED:
MB

VERSION:
O1

DATE:
DEC 2015

DPM

FIGURE:
DPM

O7