

16 ALMA ROAD, SNETTISHAM, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING



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March 2017



16 ALMA ROAD, SNETTISHAM, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Prepared on behalf of: Stuart Lightbody Acting for: Coastal Veterinary Group 16 Alma Road Snettisham Kings Lynn Norfolk PE31 7NY

By: Adam Leigh BA (Hons) (Fieldwork & Report) Matt Baker MA, BA (Hons) (Graphics)

Britannia Archaeology Ltd

UNIT 2 The Old Wool Warehouse St Andrews Street South Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 3PH T: 01449 763034 info@brit-arch.com

www.britannia-archaeology.com Registered in England and Wales: 7874460

Site Code	ENF141356	NGR	TF 68240 34240
Planning Ref.	15/01850/F	OASIS	Britanni1-264219
Approved By:	14-	Date	March 2017



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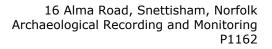
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Abstract

Between 27th February and 1st March 2017, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of monitoring and recording during the excavation of footings for a new veterinary practice building at 14 Alma Road, Snettisham, Norfolk (TF 68240 34240). The monitoring work was conducted in accordance with a design Brief issued by James Albone of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service which required the continuous monitoring of any intrusive groundwork.

The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for features and finds from the late Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval periods.

The monitoring revealed no archaeological finds or features. While the footings covered only a relatively small area of ground, it is probable that the site remained agricultural and that no settlement activity occurred until the development of the land in the 20th Century.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between 27th February and 1st March 2017, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of monitoring and recording during the excavation of footings for a new veterinary practice building at 14 Alma Road, Snettisham, Norfolk (TF 68240 34240) (Fig.1), in advance of the demolition of the existing veterinary practice building. The monitoring work was conducted in accordance with a generic design Brief (Albone, J.) issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) and a Written Scheme of Investigation by BA (dated September 2016) and approved by NCC HES.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

Snettisham is a village located in the north-west of Norfolk, approximately 3km from the coast and 14km north of Kings Lynn. The site lies at the northern end of the village on a roughly rectangular parcel of land covering 853m² and to the south of Alma Road.

The bedrock geology is described as Dersingham formation mudstone which formed up to 134 million years ago when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas (BGS 2017).

The superficial deposits are described as head deposits comprising clay, silt and gravel which were formed up to 3 million years ago on subaerial slopes (BGS 2017).

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 replaces *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, DCLG 2010). The relevant local planning policy is the *Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council Complete Core Strategy 2011.*

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figs. 2, 3 & 4)

The following archaeological background utilises the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), Historic England PastScape (<u>www.pastscape.org.uk</u>), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2, 3 & 4).

The site is located in a rich historic landscape with significant pre-historic and roman archaeology located within the 1km search radius. The NHER search returned over 100 records and this background considers those with most relevance to the site. The NHER preferred reference has been used where possible.



4.1 Pre-historic (814000BC – 43AD)

There is sparse evidence of occupation activity in the search area until the Bronze Age. A socketed axe head (28827) was found 100m to the south and several possible Bronze Age features were identified 900m to the south-east (51717).

However, Iron Age activity in the vicinity of the site was considerable. Evidence of an extensive late Iron Age complex comprising both settlement and ritual activity (1544, 1487, 41936, 1490, 36989 and 27735), lies between 180m and 1km to the north of the site.

Late Iron Age finds and features have also been recorded 900m to the south-east (25796) and 300m to the south-west.

The density and distribution of Iron Age finds and features suggests extensive occupation activity across the search area, but with a particular focus to the north.

4.2 Roman (43AD – 410AD)

The primary potential and most significant period in relation to the site dates to the Roman period. The majority of Iron Age sites noted above were later developed during the Roman period.

In addition to the continuity of Iron Age activity, an extensive settlement and industrial area emerged to the south and south-west of the site. Cropmarks relating to a Roman road and associated boundaries (26634) lie 80m to the south of the site and an industrial and funerary area containing kilns, quarry pits, a road, field systems and burials lies approximately 320m to the south-west.

More cropmarks (11993 and 18236), probably relating to field systems, lie 800m to the south-west and an extensive late Iron Age and Roman settlement (26626, 1515 and 60996) was located around 1km+ to the south and south-west. This complex covers a very large area, comparable in size to the modern settlement of Snettersham.

Park Piece Roman Villa (1514) lies 700m to the south-east and various finds and field systems in this area (39825 and 32135) are likely associated with it.

The enormous volume of finds, cropmarks and features identified in the search area suggests extensive and sustained occupation, industrial and funerary activity in the vicinity of the site during the Roman period.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon (410AD – 1066AD)

The settlement patterns that often persisted through the Iron Age and into the Roman period, did not generally extend into the Anglo-Saxon period. The origin of many modern settlements in East Anglia date to the late Anglo-Saxon period and the focus of this activity is usually some distance from earlier activity.



Snettisham can certainly trace its modern origins to this period. The name first appears in Domesday (1086AD) as *Snetesham* and is derived from Old English (Anglo-Saxon) meaning 'Homestead of a man called *Sn*æt or *Sneti*'.

The NHER turned up five distinct Anglo-Saxon records, the closest of which was located 90m north of the site. This recorded a cremation (1529) suggesting funerary activity close to the site. The focus of the settlement was probably at least 900m further to the east where scatters of pottery sherds and other finds have been identified (12547 and 1532).

Evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the search area is relatively sparse compared with previous periods, however the origins of the modern settlement are certainly Anglo-Saxon and much of this evidence has been built over during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

4.4 Medieval (1066AD – 1540AD)

Snettisham was well established by the medieval period and the entry in Domesday (1086AD) shows that there were 78 households comprising 66 villagers, 129 smallholders, 14 slaves and 37 freemen. This was considered very large.

The NHER search also recorded significant levels of settlement activity focused 660m to the south-east of the site (1534). Large areas of field enclosures, plot boundaries and quarrying are evident to the north-west (26822, 31046 and 27736).

Numerous finds spots are noted across the search area indicating widespread activity during the medieval period.

4.5 Post-medieval and Modern (1540AD – Present)

Post-medieval activity is noted throughout the search area. An evaluation in 2004 adjacent to the site (40706) recorded post-medieval drainage or boundary ditches, postholes and an earthwork bank. The lack of earlier activity was attributed to the area being used exclusively for grazing prior to this period.

The focus of earlier post-medieval activity lies 300m to the east of the site, however there are records spread across the entire search area. The majority of these are buildings dating from the 18th century onwards and show a sustained period of growth to the modern period.

Given the above records the site had a specific potential for **late Iron Age**, **Roman** and **post-medieval** features and finds.



5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The NCC brief stated that provision should be made for the monitoring of the development including where appropriate:

- All areas of below ground disturbance, including excavations, foundation trenches, service trenches drains and soakaways.
- Above ground remains when the development affects a building of historic importance.
- Pipeline and cable trenches.

6.0 **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The 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).

Project objectives will cover the following:

• To recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. Also that the state of preservation of archaeological features and deposits should be determined.

7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The NCC brief required archaeological monitoring and recording of all excavations associated with groundworks conducted in advance of the construction of a new extension (landscaping, services, etc).

The excavation of the foundation trenches and associated intrusive ground works was undertaken by a 1 tonne 360° mechanical excavator with a suitably qualified driver.

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 7 - 9)

Three monitoring visits were made to site on the 27th and 28th of February and on the 1st March. All the footings were excavated under archaeological monitoring. In areas not covered by the brick car park associated with the current veterinary practice, topsoil **1000**, a garden soil, overlay subsoil **1001**, which in turn overlay natural geology **1002**.

In the area of the carpark in the northern part of the site (which had its brick surface removed prior to the excavation of the footings) the stratigraphy consisted of a sand levelling layer **1003** for the now absent brick surface, overlaying a concrete layer **1004**, which in turn overlay a levelling layer, **1005**.



In the footing trench closest to the rear of the existing veterinary practice, a modern layer, **1006**, was identified in the stratigraphic sequence under the topsoil, but overlaying the subsoil.

No archaeological features or finds were encountered during the monitoring.

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figs. 7 - 9)

The deposit model was consistent across the majority of the site.

Topsoil **1000** was a loose, dark grey-brown garden soil consisting of silty sand and containing frequent organic matter and occasional modern debris. The layer was at the top of the stratigraphic sequence in all sample sections apart from Sample Section 3. It was present to a maximum depth of 0.29m in Sample Sections 2 and 5.

The next layer in the sequence over the majority of the site was Subsoil layer **1001**. This layer comprised mid-grey brown, loose silty sand and potentially represents a buried garden or agricultural soil. It was present to a maximum depth of 0.77m and a maximum thickness of 0.50m in Sample Section 1.

The final layer in the stratigraphic sequence across the site was Natural Geology **1002**. This layer comprised mid yellow-brown, loose silty sand. It was present from a minimum depth of 0.58m in Sample Section 2 and from a depth of 0.77m in Sample Section 1.

In Sample Section 3 (Fig. 8), the stratigraphy had been affected by the construction of a brick-surfaced car park. Below the bricks (removed prior to the excavation of the footings), and at the top of the stratigraphic sequence was sand levelling layer **1003**, consisting of loose, mid orange-brown sand present to a depth of 0.03m. This layer overlay **1004**, a layer of concrete which was uniformly 0.08m thick. Concrete layer 1004 overlay levelling layer **1005**, which consisted of of a compact, mid grey-brown silty sand, with frequent CBM debris and rubble. This layer was present to a depth of 0.24m to a maximum thickness of 0.13m.

In Sample Section 4 (Fig. 9), an additional layer, modern layer **1006**, was present to a depth of 0.39m at a maximum thickness of 0.19m. It lay under topsoil 1000, overlaying the subsoil, and is likely associated with disturbance during the installation of nearby 20^{th} Century Services.

10 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for features and finds from the late Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval periods.

The monitoring revealed no archaeological finds or features and only encountered remains associated with the modern developments at the site. While the footings



covered only a relatively small area of ground, it is probable that the site remained agricultural and that no settlement activity occurred until the development of the land in the 20th Century.

11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Mr Stuart Lightbody for commissioning the project and the Coastal Veterinary Group for funding the work.

Britannia Archaeology would also like to thank James Albone at NCC HES for his advice and assistance throughout the project.

The site was excavated by Adam Leigh of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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English Heritage PastScape www.pastscape.org.uk

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) <u>www.ads.ahds.ac.uk</u>

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

HER Data

Provided and licenced by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record.



APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

Sample Section 1

Trench No n/a	Orientation N-S	Heigh	t aOD 12.14m	Shot No DP 1
Sample Section No	Location	,	Facing	
1	r	n/a		E Facing
Context No	Depth Deposit Descript		iption	
1000	0.00-0.18m	Topsoil – dark grey-brown, loose silty sand		silty sand
1001	0.18-0.77m	Subsoil – mid grey-brown, loose silty sand		
1002	0.77m+	Natural – mid-y	ellow brown, loose	, sand

Sample Section 2

Trench No n/a	Orientation E-W		Height a	OD L2.09m	Shot No DP 2
Sample Section No 2	Location	n/a		Facing	N Facing
Context No	Depth	Depth Deposit Descrip		ion	
1000	0.00-0.28m	Topsoil	- dark grey	y-brown, loose	e silty sand
1001	0.28-0.59m	Subsoil	Subsoil – mid grey-brown, loose silty sand		silty sand
1002	0.59m+	Natural	- mid-yelle	ow brown, loos	se, sand

Sample Section 3

Trench No n/a	Orientation E-W		Height a	OD .2.11m	Shot No DP 3
Sample Section No 3	Location	n/a		Facing	N Facing
Context No	Depth	Depth Deposit Description			
1003	0.00-0.03m	Sand Levelling Layer – mid orange-brown, loose sand		e-brown, loose sand	
1004	0.03-0.11m	Concrete Layer			
1005	0.11-0.24m	Levelling Layer – mid grey-brown, compact silty sand with frequent CBM debris and concrete rubble.			
1001	0.24-0.59m	Subsoil – mid grey-brown, loose silty sand			
1002	0.79m+	Natural – mid yellow-brown, loose, sand			

Sample Section 4

Trench No n/a	Orientation E-W	Height a	3OD 12.08m	Shot No DP 4
Sample Section No 4	Location n	ı/a	Facing	N Facing
Context No	Depth	Deposit Descrip	tion	
1000	0.00-0.20m	Topsoil – dark gre	ey-brown, loose si	Ity sand
1006	0.20-0.39m	Modern Layer – occasional sub-ro		n, loose silty sand with
1001	0.39-0.61m	Subsoil – mid gre	y-brown, loose sil	ty sand
1002	0.61m+	Natural – mid-yel	low brown, loose,	sand

Sample Section 5

Trench No n/a	Orientation N-S	Heigh	t a OD 12.08m	Shot No DP 5
Sample Section No 5	Location	n/a	Facing	W Facing
Context No	Depth	Deposit Descr	iption	
1000	0.00-0.27m	Topsoil – dark grey-brown, loose silty sand		e silty sand
1001	0.27-0.63m	Subsoil – mid grey-brown, loose silty sand		
1002	0.78m+	Natural – mid-y	ellow brown, loo	ose, sand



APPENDIX 2 – OASIS SHEET

5/17/2017

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: britanni1-264219

Project details

Project name 16 Alma Road, Snettisham, Norfolk Short description Monitoring of building foundation: Between 27th February and 1st March 2017, Britannia of the project Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of monitoring and recording during the excavation of footings for a new veterinary practice building at 14 Alma Road, Snettisham, Norfolk (TF 68240 34240). The monitoring work was conducted in accordance with a design Brief issued by James Albone of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service which required the continuous monitoring of any intrusive groundwork. The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for features and finds from the late Iron Age, Roman and postmedieval periods. The monitoring revealed no archaeological finds or features. While the footings covered only a relatively small area of ground, it is probable that the site remained agricultural and that no settlement activity occurred until the development of the land in the 20th Century. Start: 27-02-2017 End: 01-03-2017 Project dates Previous/future No / No work Any associated P1162 - Contracting Unit No. project reference codes Type of project Recording project Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential Monument type N/A None Significant Finds N/A None Investigation type "Watching Brief" Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK SNETTISHAM 16 Alma Road
Postcode	PE31 7NY
Study area	200 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 68240 34240 52.878904343636 0.500385868682 52 52 44 N 000 30 01 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0.79m

Project creators

http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

1/3



5/17/2017	OASIS FORM - Print view
Name of Organisation	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Matthew Adams
Project director/manager	Matthew Adams
Project supervisor	Adam Leigh
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Stuart Lightbody

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk HER
Digital Archive ID	ENF141356
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk HER
Paper Archive ID	ENF141356
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

5 1 3	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	16 ALMA ROAD, SNETTISHAM, NORFOLK: ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING and RECORDING
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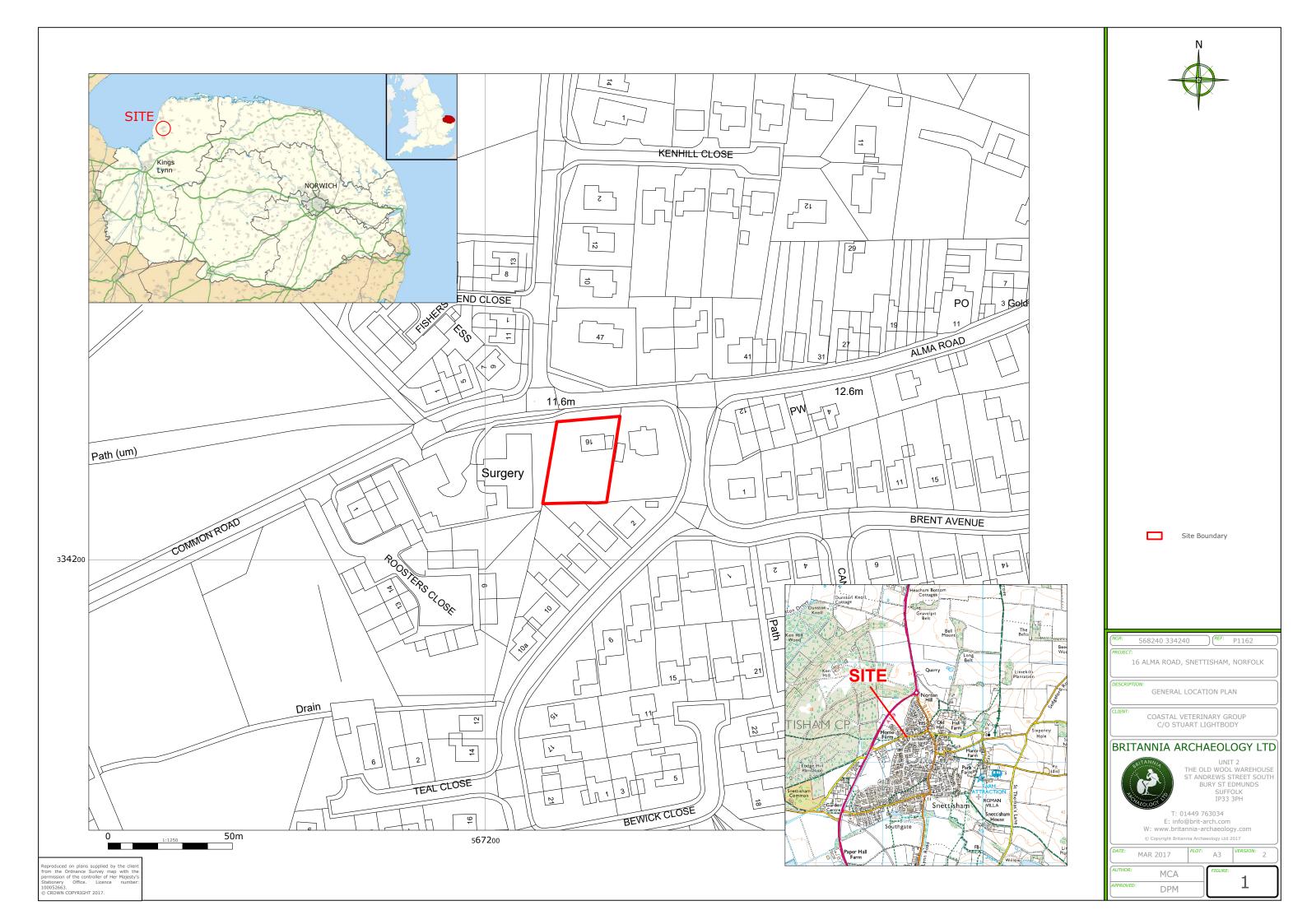
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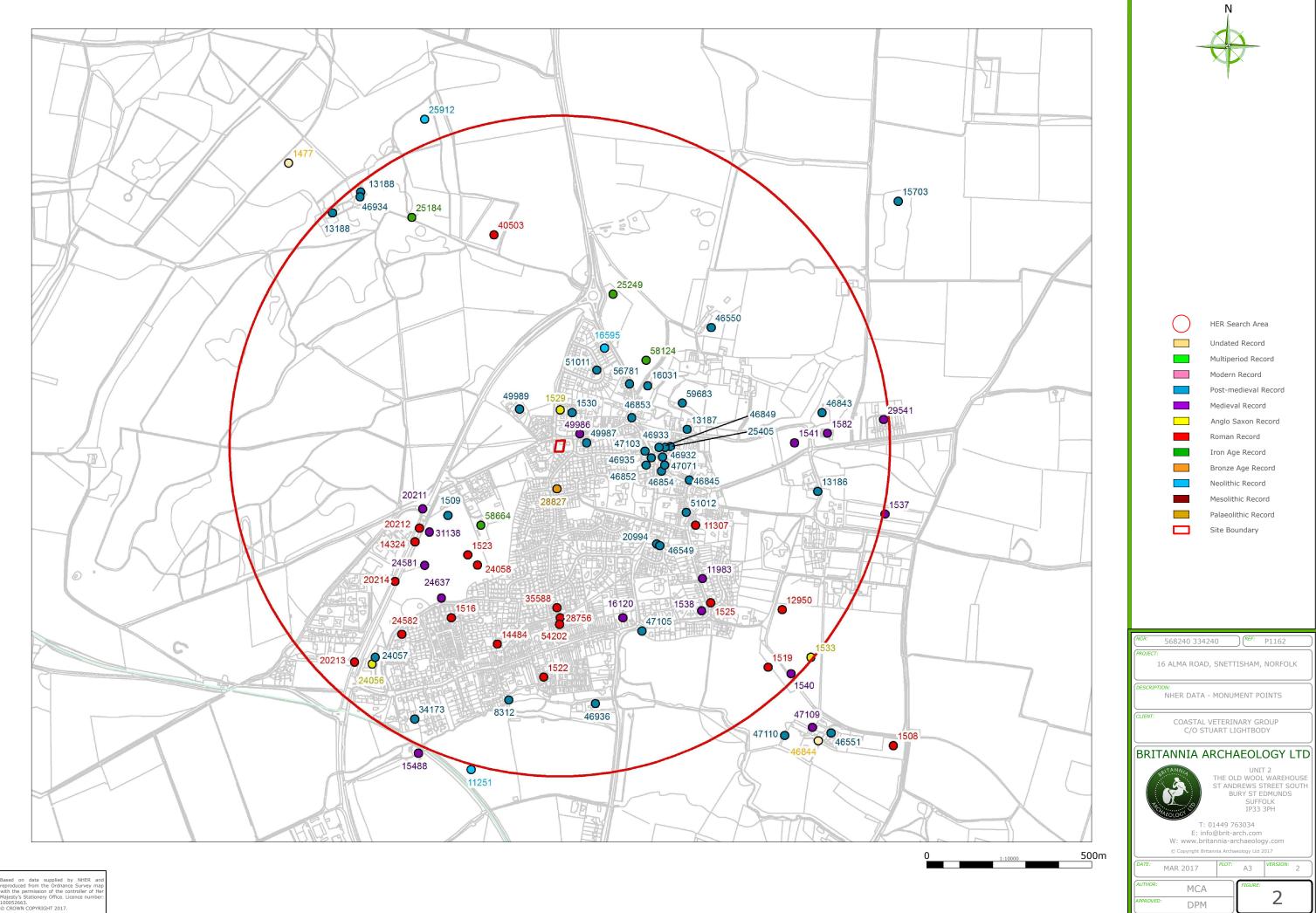
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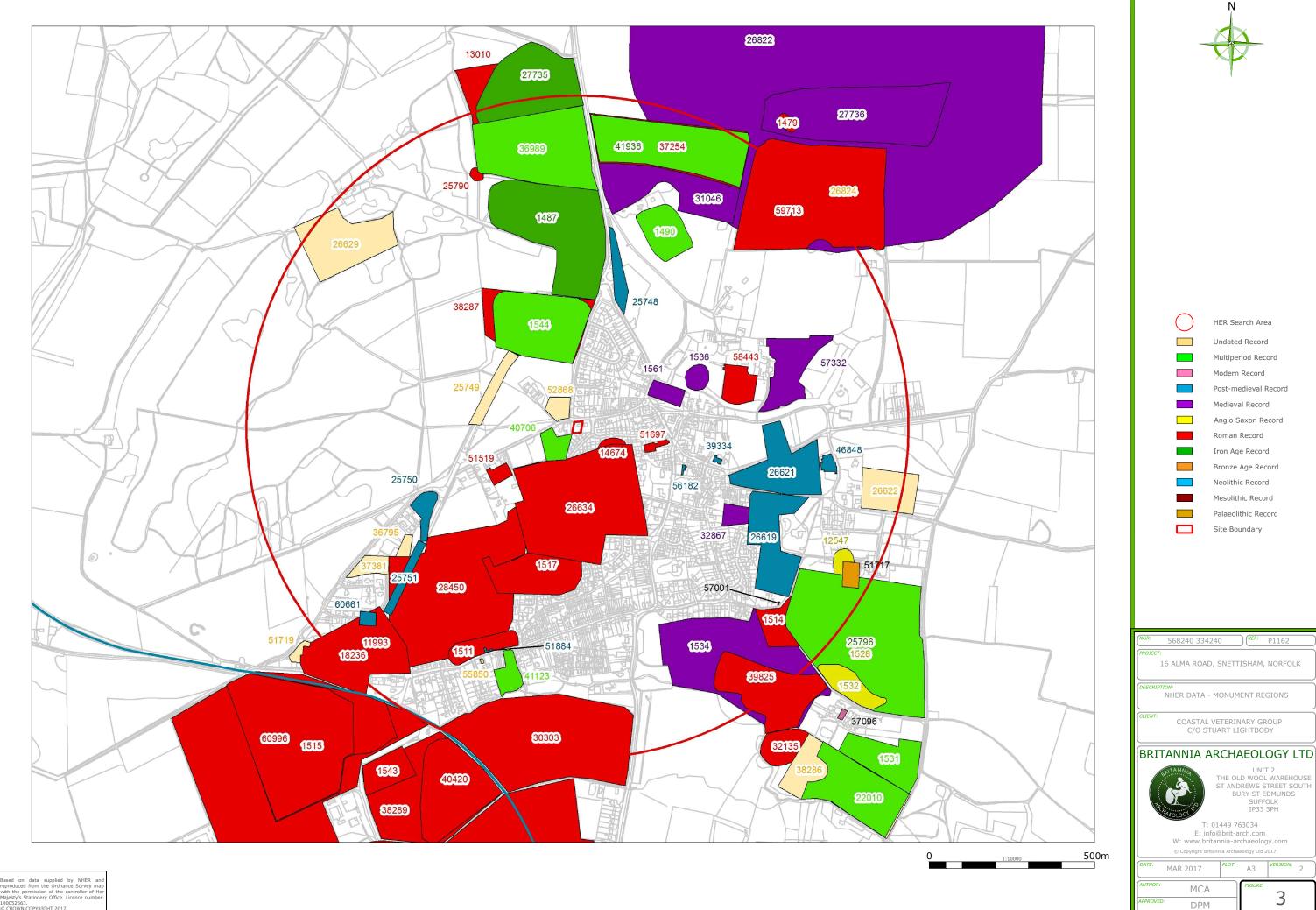
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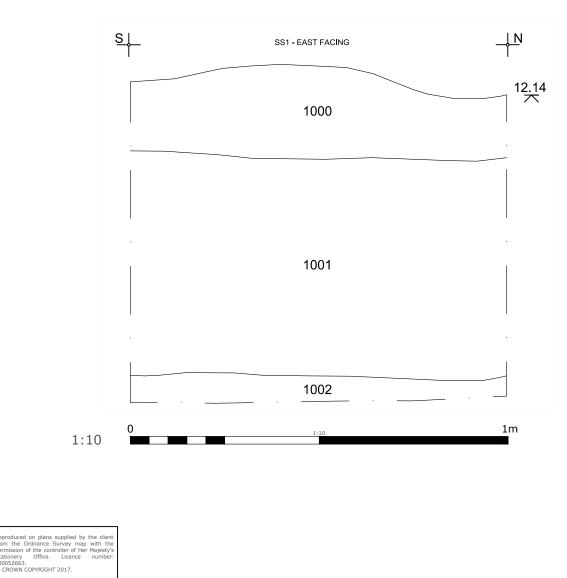








DP:01 - SITE PRIOR TO GROUNDWORKS

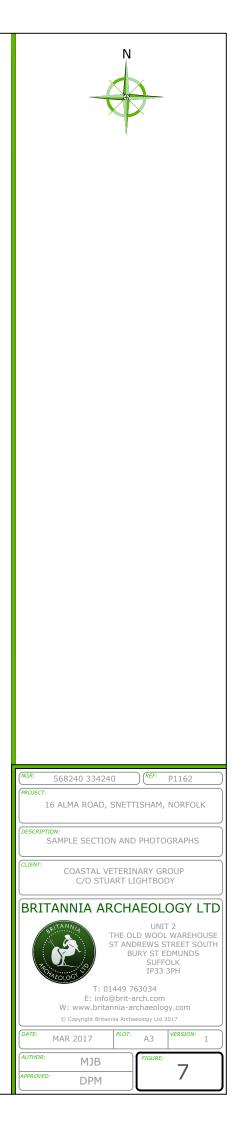


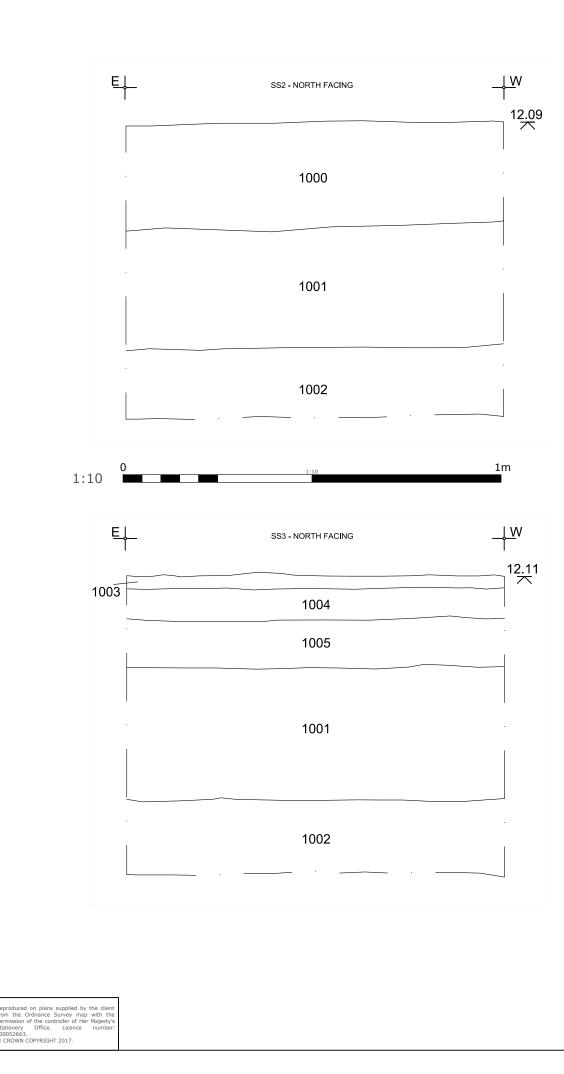


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DP:03 - SAMPLE SECTION 1



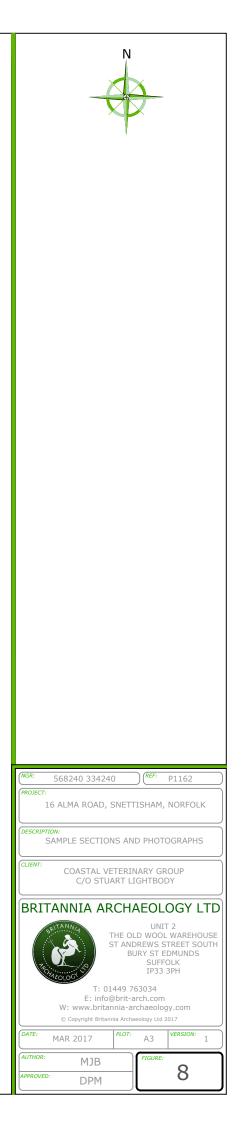


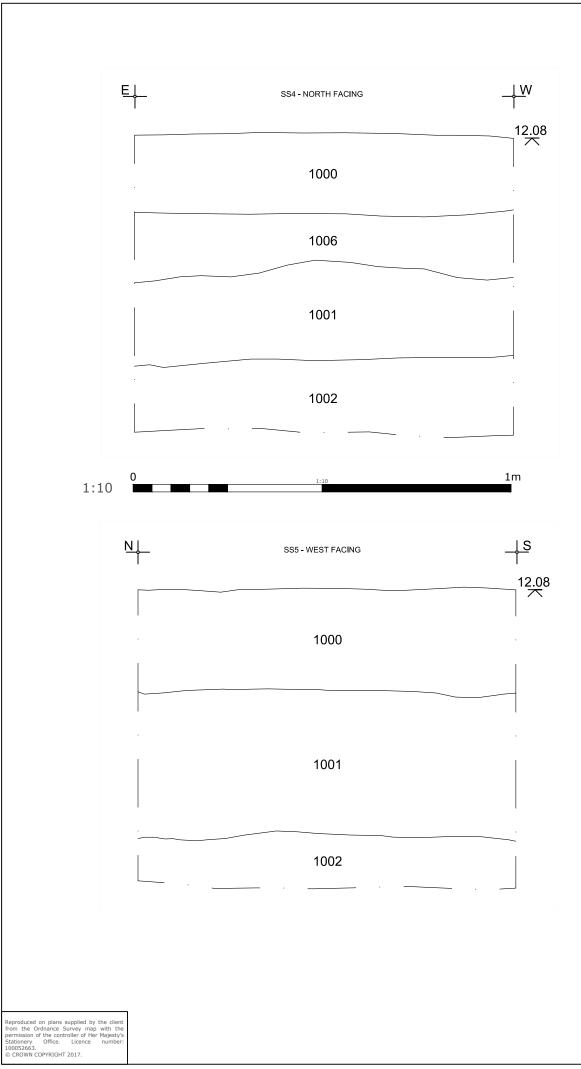


DP:04 - SAMPLE SECTION 2



DP:05 - SAMPLE SECTION 3







DP:06 - SAMPLE SECTION 4



DP:07 - SAMPLE SECTION 5



DP:08 - POST EXCAVATION OF FOOTINGS

