

40 MARSHLAND STREET, TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT, NORFOLK

INFORMATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING



Report Number: 1274 October 2020



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INFORMATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

Prepared on behalf of:

David Warnes

By:

Report - Louisa Cunningham MSc, MA (Hons)

Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Unit 2, The Old Wool Warehouse St Andrews Street South Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 3PH

T: 01284 630057

info@brit-arch.com

<u>www.britannia-archaeology.com</u> Registered in England and Wales: 7874460

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5	Site Code	ENF 149416		
Project No.	P1318	NGR	TF 5499 2018	
Consultation No.	CNF48845	Museum ACC	NWHCM 2020.130	
Planning Ref.	19/01788/0	OASIS	britanni1-402284	
Approved By:	Left -	Date	October 2020	



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Abstract

On the 28^{th} of September 2020 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a programme of informative archaeological trial trenching at 40 Marshland Street, Terrington St Clement, Norfolk (TF 5499 2018) on behalf of David Warnes. The archaeological work was undertaken as a condition of planning application 19/01788/O in advance of the construction of three new dwellings and associated works. The trenching comprised of two trenches measuring $30.00m \times 1.80m$.

There was a moderate to high potential for finds and features relating to the Medieval and post-medieval periods, a moderate potential for Saxon finds, and a low potential for finds and features from all remaining periods.

Despite the above potential the evaluation revealed no archaeological finds or features. It did reveal that a substantial amount of topsoil was imported onto the site for the garden centre that previously occupied the site and that the prior topsoil and agricultural subsoil were preserved beneath this layer. This indicates that had archaeological features been present within the site bounds they would have been preserved below these layers, however their absence suggests that the site was most likely in use as agricultural fields prior to its use as a garden centre.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 28th of September 2020 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a programme of informative archaeological trial trenching at 40 Marshland Street, Terrington St Clement, Norfolk (TF 5499 2018) on behalf of David Warnes. The archaeological work was undertaken as a condition of planning application 19/01788/O in advance of the construction of three new dwellings and associated works (Fig. 1).

The informative archaeological trial trenching was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Norfolk County Council Environment Service (NCC ES) (Hickling, 2020) which required a programme of archaeological mitigatory work starting with linear trial trenching to sample 5% of the area threatened by the development.

The trenching comprised of two trenches measuring $30.00 \,\mathrm{m} \times 1.80 \,\mathrm{m}$ (Fig. 5). The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.



2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site was located within the historic core of Terrington St Clement and was recently in use as a garden centre. It was bound on the northwest side by Marshland Street and on all other sides by residential properties and associated gardens.

2.1 Site Geology

The Bedrock geology was described as Kimmeridge Clay Formation - Mudstone. This Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 152 to 157 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas (BSG, 2020).

The superficial deposits were recorded as Tidal Flat Deposits – Clay and Silt. These Superficial Deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by shorelines (U) (BSG, 2020).



3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation is to be carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority and Historic England, following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2019). The relevant local development framework is the *King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council Local Development Framework – Core Strategy (Adopted December 2015*).



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2 & 3)

The following archaeological background uses the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and Record Office (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS).

4.1 Romano-British

The only Roman record returned from the HER search is that of some sherds of Roman pottery found during fieldwalking in 1987 by the Fenland Survey c.780m south of the site (NHER 2216). This is also the earliest period of activity recorded within the search area.

4.2 Saxon

Evidence of Saxon activity within the search area is limited. A test pit in a field south of St Clement's Church, and c.230m east of the site, revealed fragments of late Saxon pottery alongside medieval pottery (NHER 54162). The site is partially bounded by ditches suggesting it may have been a moated site. Inside St Clement's Church (NHER 2194) are reused carvings of possible Saxon and Norman date. Metal detecting in 2002 c.430m south of the site found a very worn and corroded late Saxon copper alloy stirrup-strap mount (NHER 37567). In addition, fragments of Saxon pottery have also been found during a programme of fieldwalking by the Fenland Survey c.500-1km from the site in several fields surrounding the town (NHER 22389, 22114, 22390).

4.3 Medieval

Medieval activity is well-represented within the search area and accounts for a large portion of the records present. Test pits just 60m north, 45m west, 140m southwest, 240m southwest, and 175m west of the site revealed sherds of medieval pottery (NHER 52983, 52984, 52987, 52988, 52985). A test pit to the south of St Clement's Church also revealed sherds of early medieval pottery alongside Saxon finds in a possible moated site (NHER 54162). The Grade I St Clement's Church itself was built around the 15th or 16th centuries and has been referred to as the 'Cathedral of the Marshes' due to its size and elaborate



appearance (NHER 2194). Earthworks of a probable medieval field system have been identified c.290m east of the site (NHER 33328) and an excavation c.600m north of the site identified a possible medieval farm or smallholding (NHER 51397). Medieval refuse pits and numerous pig burials of medieval date were found as well as early brick fragments suggesting the presence of a moderate-high status structure. The remaining medieval records refer to a programme of fieldwalking in the 1980s by the Fenland Survey in the surrounding fields which revealed scatters of medieval pottery and other artefacts. Findings also included a possible medieval trackway (NHER 22492, c.660m south of the site), a possible extinct medieval watercourse (NHER 22390, c.580m north of the site), and a series of interlinked medieval saltern mounds (NHER 2185, c.800m north of the site).

4.4 Post-medieval

Immediately adjacent to the northeast side of the site a large quantity of butchered animal bone was found during de-turfing activity (NHER 48886). The bone was found beneath 20th century bricks alongside tarred roofing felt and pieces of sewage pipe and was most likely previously disturbed during groundwork activity and redeposited. The bone itself was interpreted as likely of late post-medieval date and was waste from industrial or food processing activities nearby. Additional post-medieval pottery sherds were also found in test pits located 60m north, 45m west, and a 140m southwest of the site (NHER 52983, 52984, 52987). The site of a possible post-medieval Manor House, Howards Manor, is located c.170m southwest of the site and is currently occupied by 17th century Grade II listed structures (NHER 29178). Manor Farm, c.190m northeast of the site, was also reportedly a manorial site (possibly of medieval origins) and currently is mostly of 19th century date with earlier subsidiary wings some of which contain brick dated c.1600 and ceilings of possible 1520 date (NHER 33216). An interesting find of early post-medieval date within the search area is a gold ring with a finely carved seal matrix of the coat of arms of Matthew Pratt of Tittleshall and his wife Catherine Reymes (buried 1619) found c.370m north of the site (NHER 15229). In addition, post-medieval pottery has also been found in the surrounding fields during a fieldwalking programme by the Fenland Survey.

4.5 Archaeological Potential



Given the above information there was a **moderate** to **high** potential for finds and features relating to the Medieval and post-medieval periods particularly in the form of refuse pits and find scatters. There was a **moderate** potential for Saxon finds, and a **low** potential for finds and features from all remaining periods.



5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The Norfolk County Council Environment Service brief (Hickling, S. 2020) stated that trial trenching was required to recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site, and determine the states of preservation of archaeological features or deposits within the area indicated.

The trenching sampled 5% of the threatened area and took the form of two trenches measuring $30.00m \times 1.80m$ laid out across the site in a grid array (Fig. 4).

All aspects of the archaeological work were undertaken in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2020 and Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, 2003 and Standards for Development-Led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk, NCC Environment Service 2018.



6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project were 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).

Specific objectives were that particular importance be placed on:

- the assessment of the archaeological resource in terms of character, quantity, quality and state of preservation;
- · amount of truncation to buried deposits;
- the presence or absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon;
- · the preservation of deposits within negative features;
- site formation processes.



7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The brief issued by Norfolk County Council Environment Service (NCC ES) required an informative trial trench investigation as a condition of planning application 19/01788/O.

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.

The trenches characterised the full archaeological sequence down to the natural deposits. In the interests of reproduction of the results, a single context planning methodology was used.

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



8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 5 & 6)

A professional metal detector was used to scan the trench locations prior and post excavation along with the spoil heaps. All stratigraphic layers were scanned for metal and non-metal finds. No finds were recovered.

8.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 5 & 6)

Trench 1 was located in the northern area of the site on a NE-SW orientation. It contained a single natural feature, a paleochannel fragment, at the NE end of the trench which lacked a clear form and contained a diffuse fill. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

8.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 5 & 6)

Trench 2 was located in the southern area of the site on a NW-SE orientation. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.



9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 6)

The deposit model was consistent across the site.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was topsoil **1000** which was present to a maximum depth of 0.20m in sample section 2. It comprised a dark, brownish grey, soft silty clay and represented an imported topsoil for the former garden centre which previously occupied the site.

Beneath layer 1000 was former topsoil **1001** present to a maximum depth of 0.50m in with a maximum thickness of 0.31 in sample section 1. The layer comprised a light orangish brown, soft, silty clay and represented the former topsoil present across the site prior to the garden centre.

Below was former subsoil **1002** which was present to a maximum depth of 0.97 with a maximum thickness of 0.53m in sample section 1. The layer comprised a dark brownish grey, firm, silty clay and represented a former agricultural subsoil.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was natural geology **1003** which comprised a light yellowish brown, firm, sandy clay.



10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

There was a moderate to high potential for finds and features relating to the Medieval and post-medieval periods, a moderate potential for Saxon finds, and a low potential for finds and features from all remaining periods.

Despite the above potential the evaluation revealed no archaeological finds or features. It did reveal that a substantial amount of topsoil was imported onto the site for the garden centre that previously occupied the site and that the prior topsoil and agricultural subsoil were preserved beneath this layer. This indicates that had archaeological features been present within the site bounds they would have been preserved below these layers, however their absence suggests that the site was most likely in use as agricultural fields prior to its use as a garden centre.



11.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The final archive will be deposited following the acquisition of the transfer of title. The deposition will be made with Norfolk Museum Service, subject to agreement with the legal landowner where finds are concerned. A Museum Accession number will be obtained well in advance of deposition. The digital archive will be stored with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank David Warnes for commissioning and funding the project.

We would also like to thank Steve Hickling of NCC ES for his help and advice throughout the project.

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



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English Heritage PastScape <u>www.pastscape.org.uk</u>

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

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orienta	Orientation		Height AOD		Shot ID
1		NE-SW		2.85		1
Sample Section No		Location		Facing		
1		NE end, N		NW side	W side SE	
Context No	Depth	Depth Deposi		it Description		
1000	0.00-0.3	0.00-0.19m Impo		ed topsoil: Dark brownish grey, soft, silty clay.		
1001	0.19-0.	0.19-0.50m For		Former topsoil: Light, orangish brown, soft, silty clay.		
1002	0.44-0.9	0.44-0.97m Forme		ner subsoil: Dark brownish grey, firm, silty clay.		
1003	0.97m+	0.97m+ Natural: Light yellowish brown, firm, sandy			ı, sandy clay.	

TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orientation		Height AOD		Shot ID	
2	NW-SE		2.80		4	
Sample Section No	Location		Facing			
2	SW side		side	NE		
Context No	Depth Deposit		t Description			
1000	0.00-0.20m Importe		ed topsoil: Dark brownish grey, soft, silty clay.			
1001	0.20-0.42m Fo		Former topsoil: Light, orangish brown, soft, silty clay.			
1002	0.42-0.88m Forme		Former	er subsoil: Dark brownish grey, firm, silty clay.		
1003	0.88m+ Natural:			: Light yellowish brown, firm, sandy clay.		



APPENDIX - 2 OASIS FORM

OASIS FORM - Print view

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

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: britanni1-402284

Project details

Project name

40 Marshland Street, Terrington St Clement, Norfolk: Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project

On the 28th of September 2020 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a programme of informative archaeological trial trenching at 40 Marshland Street, Terrington St Clement, Norfolk (TF 5499 2018) on behalf of David Warnes. The archaeological work was undertaken as a condition of planning application 19/01788/O in advance of the construction of three new dwellings and associated works. The trenching comprised of two trenches measuring 30.00m x 1.80m. There was a moderate to high potential for finds and features relating to the Medieval and postmedieval periods, a moderate potential for Saxon finds, and a low potential for finds and features from all remaining periods. Despite the above potential the evaluation revealed no archaeological finds or features. It did reveal that a substantial amount of topsoil was imported onto the site for the garden centre that previously occupied the site and that the prior topsoil and agricultural subsoil were preserved beneath this layer. This indicates that had archaeological features been present within the site bounds they would have been preserved below these layers, however their absence suggests that the site was most likely in use as agricultural fields prior to its use as a

garden centre.

Project dates

Start: 28-09-2020 End: 28-09-2020

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

P1318 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference

ENF 149416 - HER event no.

codes

Field evaluation Type of project

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing

NONE None Monument type Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques """Sample Trenches"""

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.) Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)

planning process

Country

Project location

1 of 3 13/10/2020, 09:29

England



OASIS FORM - Print view

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

Site location NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT 40

Marshland Street, Terrington St Clement, Norfolk

Postcode PE34 4NE

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TF 5499 2018 52.756594805786 0.296972377009 52 45 23 N 000 17 49 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 1.88m Max: 1.92m

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

sponsor/funding

body

Name of David Warnes

client

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive No

Exists?

nive Norfolk HER

Digital Archive recipient

Digital Archive ID ENF149416

Digital Contents "Survey", "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available

ve Norfolk HER

Paper Archive recipient

Paper Archive ID ENF149416

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey

available ","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title 40 Marshland Street, Terrington St Clement, Norfolk: Informative Archaeological Trial

"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

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2 of 3



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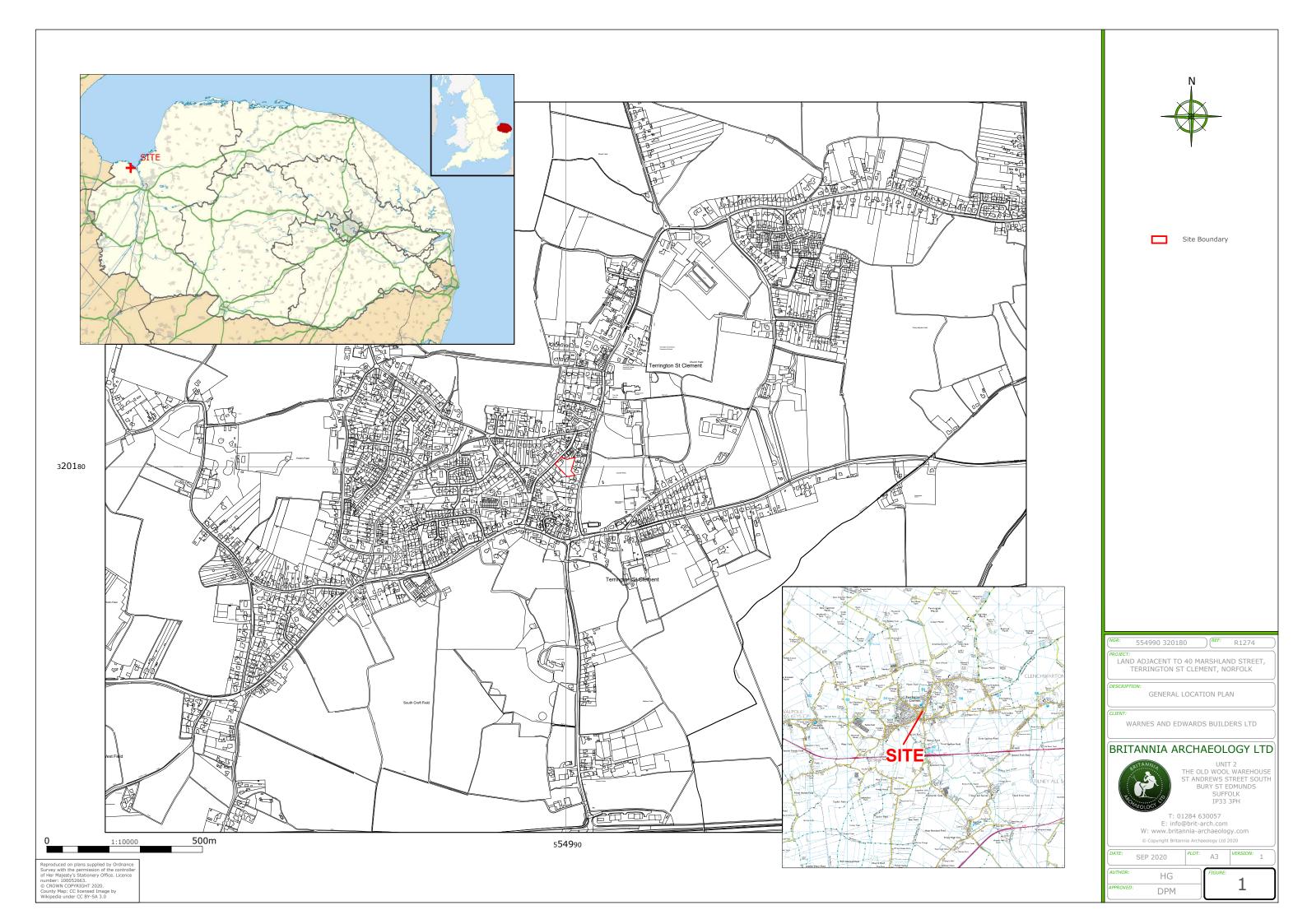
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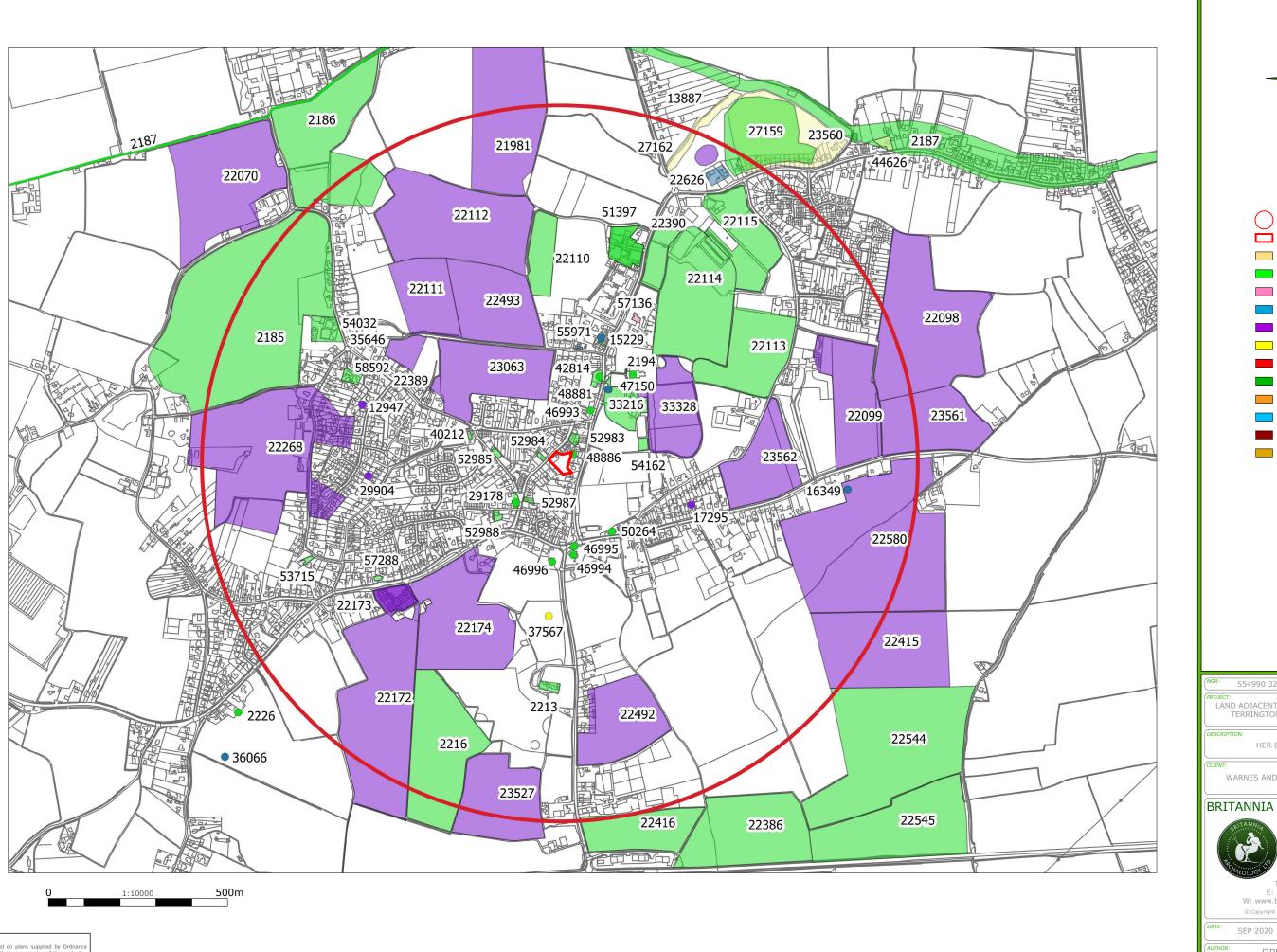
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HER Search Area Site Boundary Multiperiod Record Modern Record Post-medieval Record Medieval Record Anglo Saxon Record Roman Record Iron Age Record Bronze Age Record Neolithic Record Mesolithic Record Palaeolithic Record

554990 320180

LAND ADJACENT TO 40 MARSHLAND STREET. TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT, NORFOLK

HER DATA - MONUMENTS

WARNES AND EDWARDS BUILDERS LTD

BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH BURY ST EDMUNDS

T: 01284 630057 E: info@brit-arch.com W: www.britannia-archaeology.com

АЗ DPM 3 MB



DP2 - TRENCH 1 - VIEW NE

DP3 - TRENCH 1 - VIEW SW

DP5 - TRENCH 2 - VIEW NW





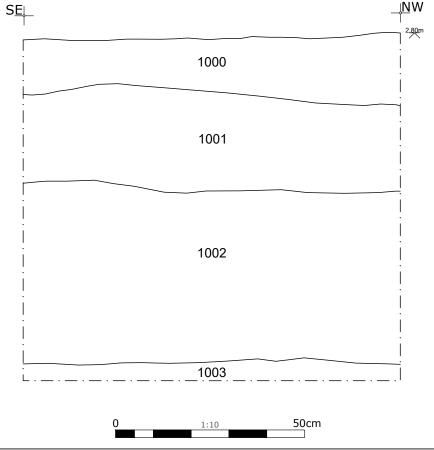




SAMPLE SECTION 1 S₩Ļ 1000 1001 1002 1003 SAMPLE SECTION 2 <u>|N</u>W 1000

DP1 - SAMPLE SECTION 1 - VIEW NW





DP4 - SAMPLE SECTION 2 - VIEW NE





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