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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT THE OLD HALL HOTEL
CAISTER ON SEA
NORFOLK (37421CBY)
COH02**

Work Undertaken For
Mr M. Gilbert

February 2003

Report Compiled by
James Albone MA AIFA

National Grid Reference: TG 5209 1214
Planning Application Ref. 06/01/0663/F

A.P.S. Report No. **232/02**

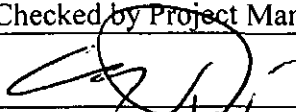
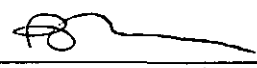
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COH02

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at The Old Hall Hotel, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk in advance of the construction of a proposed leisure centre extension. The site lay immediately to the southeast of an area where a complex of ditched enclosures, associated with the vicus of the Roman fort, had recently been excavated.

Ditches and pits, mostly dating to the 3rd century, were identified within the evaluation trench. These features appeared to indicate the eastwards continuation of the system of enclosures previously recorded. Pottery, tile and a small quantity of animal bone were recovered from the Romano-British features.

Foraminiferal analysis of soil samples indicated that material derived from the adjacent estuary was accumulating in the features as a result of storm action. However, the features themselves did not appear to have been directly connected to the saline estuary environment.

Post-Roman activity was limited although a pit of possible post-medieval date was identified and 17th to 18th century artefacts were recovered from the subsoil layer.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application for the construction of an extension to The Old Hall, Norwich Road, Caister-on-Sea has been submitted to Great Yarmouth Borough Council (Planning Ref. 06/01/0663/F). The proposed development comprises a leisure and fitness

centre including an extension to an existing swimming pool. As the site lies within an area of known archaeological remains Norfolk Landscape Archaeology requested the excavation of a single evaluation trench.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr M. Gilbert of The Old Hall to undertake the evaluation of the proposed development site. The archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with a Project Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Appendix 1), and a specification produced by Archaeological Project Services.

2.2 Definition of an Archaeological Field Evaluation

Archaeological Evaluation is defined as: 'A limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, and relative quality; and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1999).

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Caister-on-Sea is located on the east coast of Norfolk just north of the river Bure, 5km north of Great Yarmouth (Fig. 1). The site is situated approximately 170m south of Holy Trinity Church (Fig. 2). It is centred on National Grid Reference TG 5209 1214 and lies at c.3m OD.

Local soils at the site comprise Newchurch 2 Association, pelo-calcareous alluvial gleys

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(Hodge *et al.* 1984, 263). Underlying this deposit is the Norwich Brickearth, a till deposited during the Anglian glaciation (Funnell 1994, 14).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The earliest archaeological evidence from the immediate vicinity is of Neolithic date (4500 - 2250 BC). A flint arrowhead of this period was found during excavations at the fort site and other worked flints have been found further to the west. Excavations, prior to the construction of a supermarket immediately to the north of the present site revealed a sizeable assemblage of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (2250 - 1500 BC) pottery and worked flint, associated with a group of posthole features (Albone forthcoming). Further pottery of this date was also recovered during the fort excavations (Darling and Gurney 1993, 6).

Late Bronze Age (1500 - 800 BC) activity is represented by a hoard of four Irish gold bracelets discovered at Belstead Avenue c.250m west of the site in 1955 (*ibid.*). Pottery from the fort excavations, and metalwork found during the 19th century, have been tentatively identified as being of Iron Age (800 - 43AD) date. However, no unequivocal evidence of this period has been recorded in the vicinity of the site (*ibid.*). An enclosure dating from the mid-1st century was identified during the construction of the by-pass, c.700m west of the site. This represents the earliest Romano-British (43 - 410AD) evidence from Caister-on-Sea.

The Roman fort, which lies 350m northwest of the site, was constructed on previously unoccupied ground in the early 3rd century AD. The site may well be equated with the place-name *Gariannonum*. The fort commanded a defensive position on the

southeast side of the island of Flegg, overlooking the Yare estuary. In the later 3rd century it was complemented by the construction of Burgh Castle on the south side of the estuary. Excavations at the fort, principally in its southwest corner, established its chronology, showing it functioned through to the late 4th century. Evidence of cavalry troops and apparently domestic activity was also recorded (*ibid.*).

Evaluation and subsequent excavation adjacent to the present site during 2001 revealed a complex pattern of ditched enclosures dating principally to the 3rd and 4th centuries. Although only limited structural remains were encountered, the remains appear to be associated with a civilian settlement, or *vicus*, associated with the fort. Trench 5 of the earlier evaluation, which was located 20m southwest of the present evaluation trench, contained ditches of 3rd to 4th century date (Albone 2001; Albone forthcoming).

Immediately north of Norwich Road, approximately 130m from the site, a mosaic floor was reputedly found in the garden of Church Cottage. However, it was buried without any recording and the details of the find have never been confirmed. Isolated finds of Romano-British date have also been recorded elsewhere in the vicinity.

A significant amount of mid-Saxon (650 - 850 AD) evidence has been recorded at Caister-on-Sea. The interior of the fort appeared to have been occupied during this period with finds including pottery and coins. Immediately south of the fort was a large inhumation cemetery that remained in use from the 8th to mid-11th centuries (Darling and Gurney 1993, 6). The evidence for a large mid-Saxon population at Caister is taken as indicating that it may be the site

of Fursa's monastery of *Cnobheresburg* recorded by Bede (*ibid.*, xvii).

The settlement is recorded in the Domesday Survey as *Castre* when land was held there by King William and St. Benedict's monastery at Holme. Prior to the Norman Conquest the King's manor had been held by 80 freemen. Recorded among the holdings of the King and St. Benedict's were 2 mill, 45 salt-houses and 92 half acres of meadow (Morris 1984, 1.201; 17.63).

The medieval church of the Holy Trinity is located just north of the site on Norwich Road. The earliest surviving part is the nave, which dates from the early 13th century (Pevsner and Wilson, 1997, 424). Despite the proximity of the church, evidence of the medieval settlement was absent during the investigations at the adjacent supermarket site. However, pits containing medieval pottery were identified during an evaluation at number 3 West Road, immediately to the south of the site (Penn 1993).

Caister remained a small fishing village and harbour throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, with only a single vessel recorded in a survey of 1580 (Rutledge 1994, 78). From the start of the 20th century it began to develop as a resort, undergoing massive expansion during the 1960s (Pevsner and Watson, 1997, 425).

3. PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the archaeological remains at the site.

4. METHODS

4.1 Evaluation Trench

An evaluation trench, measuring 15m x2m, was excavated to the southwest of the existing swimming pool in the proposed development area (Fig. 3). The fieldwork was carried out between the 13th and 15th November 2002. The trench was excavated under archaeological supervision to the surface of undisturbed archaeological deposits by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

Each archaeological deposit or feature identified was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. The recording of archaeological features was carried out according to Archaeological Project Services' standard practice. A black and white and colour slide photographic record was compiled and sections and plans were drawn at appropriate scales.

A programme of environmental sampling had been undertaken during the earlier evaluation and excavations at the adjacent site. These had revealed a relatively low potential for palaeoenvironmental remains. However, the proximity of the site to the Romano-British coastline had raised the possibility that some of the features present in the southern part of the two sites may have been linked to the estuary and periodically contained saltwater. To test this hypothesis samples were taken during the present evaluation to determine the presence or absence of foraminifera in the deposits encountered. Artefactual remains recovered during the evaluation were submitted for specialist analysis and reports on these are included as Appendices 4 and 5.

4.2 Post-Excavation Analysis

Post-excavation analysis consisted of an examination of the written and drawn records. Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 3. Context numbers are identified in the text by brackets.

5. RESULTS

The written, drawn and photographic records of the trial trench were analysed and phasing of deposits based on their stratigraphic relationships and the artefacts recovered from them. A total of five phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Undated deposits
- Phase 3 Romano-British deposits
- Phase 4 Post-Roman deposits?
- Phase 5 Modern deposits

5.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the evaluation was natural light reddish brown clayey sand containing frequent gravel (003).

5.2 Phase 2: Undated Deposits

Two undated features were identified in the evaluation trench. Pit (018) was sub-rectangular in plan and located in the central part of the trench (Fig. 3). It had a shallow rounded profile that survived to a depth of 0.10m and contained a medium brown silty clay fill (017) (Fig. 5, Sect. 5).

The second undated feature was a small pit or channel terminus (021) located in the

southern part of the trench (Fig. 4). It contained medium brownish grey slightly sandy silty clay (020) within a shallow rounded profile (Figs. 5 and 6, Sect. 1 and 6). Although (021) was much shallower than the adjacent Roman ditch (011 / 009), the spatial relationship between these two features suggests that they may have been contemporary.

5.3 Phase 3: Romano-British Deposits

Ditch (011 / 009) was aligned northwest to southeast in the southern part of the evaluation trench (Fig. 4). It had a steep sided profile with a rounded to flat base (Fig. 6, Sections 2 and 3). The lower fill comprised medium brownish grey sandy silty clay (023) from which animal bone and an iron bolt were recovered. Sealing this deposit was a thin layer of medium brownish grey and light yellowish brown clayey silt and sandy clay redeposited natural (022). Sherds of mid to late 3rd century pottery were recovered from the medium greyish brown clayey silt upper fill (010 / 008) of this feature. An iron clenched nail was also recovered from this deposit (Pl.7). Whilst this artefact is very similar to nails found during the excavation of the mid to late Anglo-Saxon cemetery adjacent to the fort (Mould 1993, 104), it could equally be of Romano-British date.

Cutting ditch (011 / 009) was a wider shallower ditch (007) with a northeast to southwest alignment (Fig. 4). It had a rounded profile up to 0.48m deep (Fig. 5, Sect. 1; Fig. 6, Sect. 2). The primary fill of this feature comprised a thin layer of mixed yellowish brown and greyish brown redeposited natural clayey silt and silty clay (029). The main fill (006) consisted of medium greyish brown clayey silt. Sherds of early to mid 3rd century pottery, including a

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT THE OLD HALL HOTEL, CAISTER-ON-SEA, NORFOLK

fragment of a samian mortarium, and a second clenched nail were recovered from this deposit.

At the northern end of the trench was part of a ring gully (016) with an overall diameter of c.2.4m (Fig. 4). This feature had a shallow rounded profile (Fig. 6, Sect. 4) and contained medium grey clayey sand (015). The only artefact recovered from this deposit was a piece of heat-affected flint. Inside the gully was mottled reddish brown and medium grey clayey sand (012) from which two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. This deposit appeared to represent the interface between the activity within the ring gully and the underlying natural deposits.

All of the five soil samples (contexts 004, 006, 010, 013, 023) taken for examination were found to contain foraminifera in varying quantities. However, the range of species present indicated that these remains had originally been deposited in tidal channels of the adjacent estuary. This material had subsequently been reworked and deposited in the archaeological features at the site as a result of storm action. Consequently, the site must have been situated immediately adjacent to the edge of the estuary when this material was deposited. However, there was no evidence to suggest that the features sampled had been directly connected to the estuary environment (Appendix 5).

5.4 Phase 4: Post-Roman Deposits?

Truncating the Roman-British ditch (011 / 009) was a large pit (005) (Fig. 4). This feature was not fully exposed within the trench but appeared to be sub-circular in plan with a diameter of c.3m and a depth greater than 1.5m (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, Sect. 1;

Fig. 7, Sect. 7). The upper fill of this pit comprised medium brownish grey clayey sand (004) sealing light brown clayey sand (030). Pottery of Roman date was recovered from the upper fill. Below these deposits on the north side of the pit was light greyish brown sandy silty clay (031), with medium grey clayey sand present on the south side (013 / 014). The lowest deposit exposed within pit (005) comprised light grey clayey sand (019). Two fragments of tile were recovered from this deposit, one of Roman date the other being post-medieval.

Sealing the pit (005) and the Romano-British features was a thick medium brown clayey silt subsoil deposit (002) (Fig. 5, Section 1). Pottery of Romano-British and post-medieval date was recovered from this deposit. The subsoil deposit encountered during the adjacent excavation site was found to have accumulated between the Roman period and the late 19th century.

5.5 Phase 5: Modern Deposits

Overlying the subsoil (002) was a buried topsoil layer (024) comprising dark brownish grey silty clay (Fig. 5, Section 1). Cut into this layer were a number of shallow rubble filled features (027, 032 and 033) that were probably associated with the former caravan site or the construction of the adjacent swimming pool. Sealing these features was the present dark greyish brown slightly sandy clayey silt topsoil (001).

6. DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation trench at The Old Hall, Caister-on Sea, revealed ditches and pits of undated, Romano-British and post-medieval date, sealed by a subsoil layer and modern features.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT THE OLD HALL HOTEL, CAISTER-ON-SEA, NORFOLK

The northeast – southwest and northwest – southeast alignment of the two ditches (007 & 011) reflected the grid pattern revealed during the previous adjacent investigations and supports their Roman date. This suggests that the ditched enclosures recorded to the northwest and west continue across the present evaluation area.

Dating of the features identified during the present evaluation also supported the results of previous work, with pottery of 3rd century date being recovered. Undated features were also recorded, but their position below the subsoil suggests that they are also likely to be of Romano-British date.

Foraminiferal analysis indicated that material derived from the adjacent estuary was accumulating within the lower fills of the archaeological features at the site as a result of storm action, confirming their close proximity to one another. This is further confirmed by the absence of Romano-British features at evaluation on West Street less than 50m to the south (Penn 1993). However, there was no evidence to suggest that any of the Romano-British features at the present evaluation site had been linked to the estuary.

The earliest dated post-Roman evidence comprised a 17th century clay pipe fragment and sherds of 18th century pottery from the subsoil. Few features of post-Roman date were recorded during the present evaluation or the earlier excavations and the lack of artefacts of these periods suggests a low level of activity at the site. However, medieval deposits have been recorded immediately to the south of the site. Post-Roman features that have been identified at the site to the west frequently contain residual Romano-British artefacts often making them difficult to distinguish from

Roman features. This is well illustrated at the current investigation area by the presence of only a single fragment of post-medieval tile in the lower fill of pit (005) compared with 42 sherds of Roman pottery and tile from the whole feature.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological trial trenching at The Old Hall, off Norwich Road, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, was undertaken as a requirement of a planning application for a proposed extension to the hotel complex. Prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval remains were known to be located in close proximity to the proposed development site.

Archaeological remains occurred at a depth of c.0.4m below modern ground level. Romano-British remains dated to the 3rd century appeared to represent a continuation of the probable *vicus* remains identified in previous excavations adjacent to the site. The results of the foraminiferal analysis confirmed the close proximity of the site to the estuary. Evidence of post-Roman activity was limited.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge Mr M. Gilbert who commissioned the fieldwork and this report. Jan Allen and Edwin Rose kindly provided access to the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record.

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10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
NAU Norfolk Archaeology Unit

Darling, M. J. and Gurney, D., 1993 *Caister-on-Sea: Excavations by Charles Green 1951 - 1955*. East Anglian Archaeology **60**

Funnell, B., 1994 Glaciers change the landscape, in P. Wade-Martins (ed), *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk*. (Second Edition). pp.14-15.

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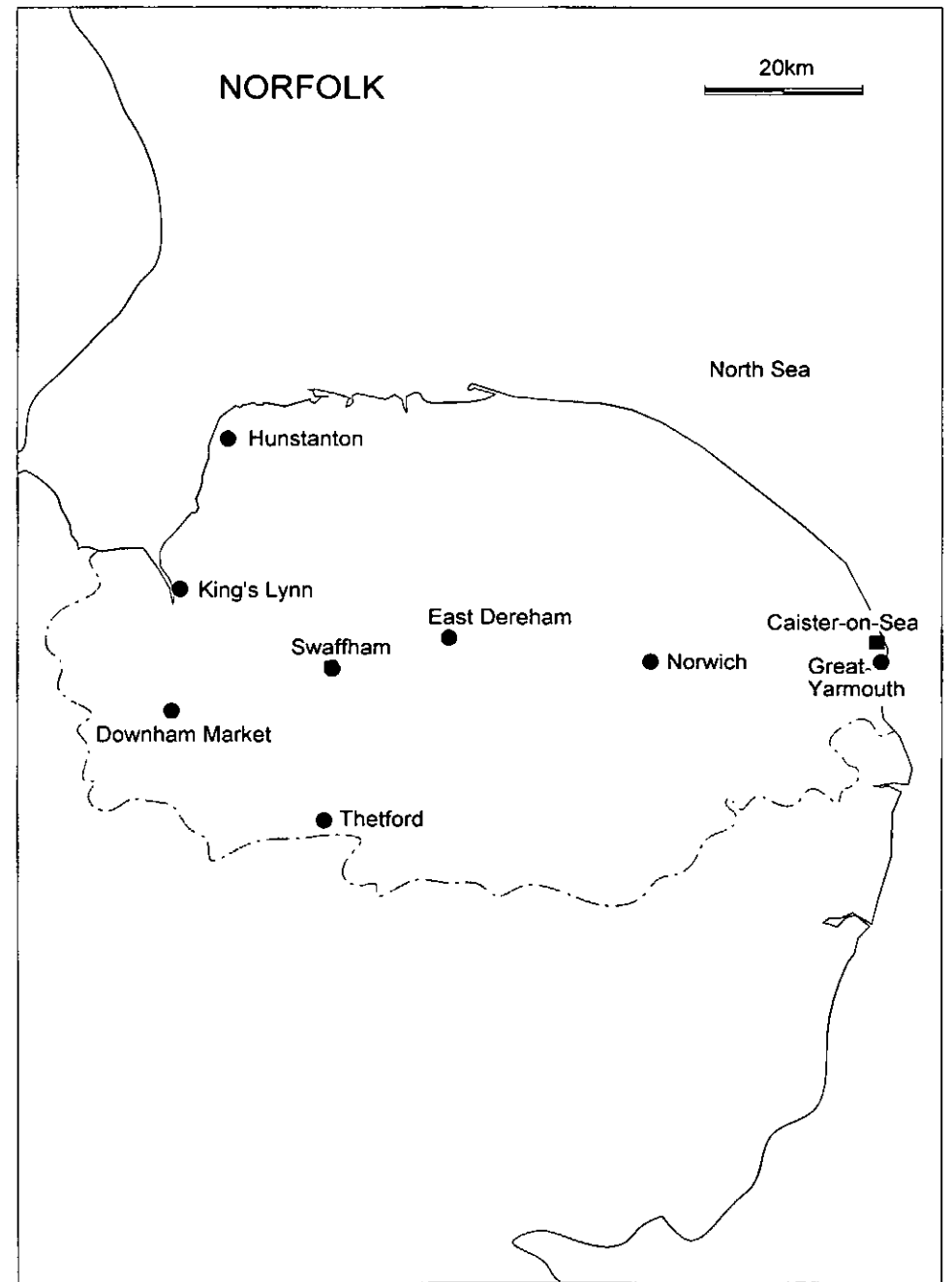
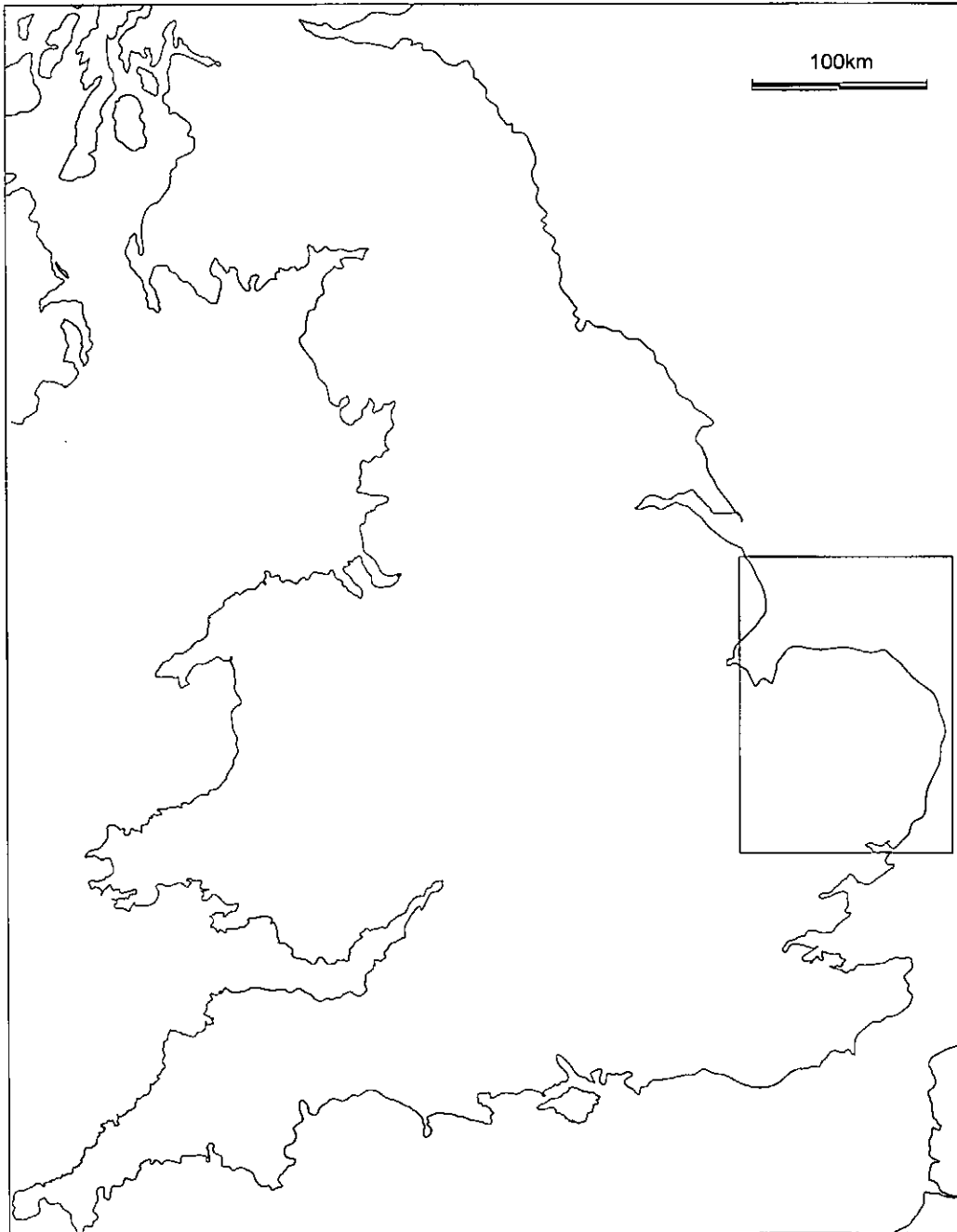
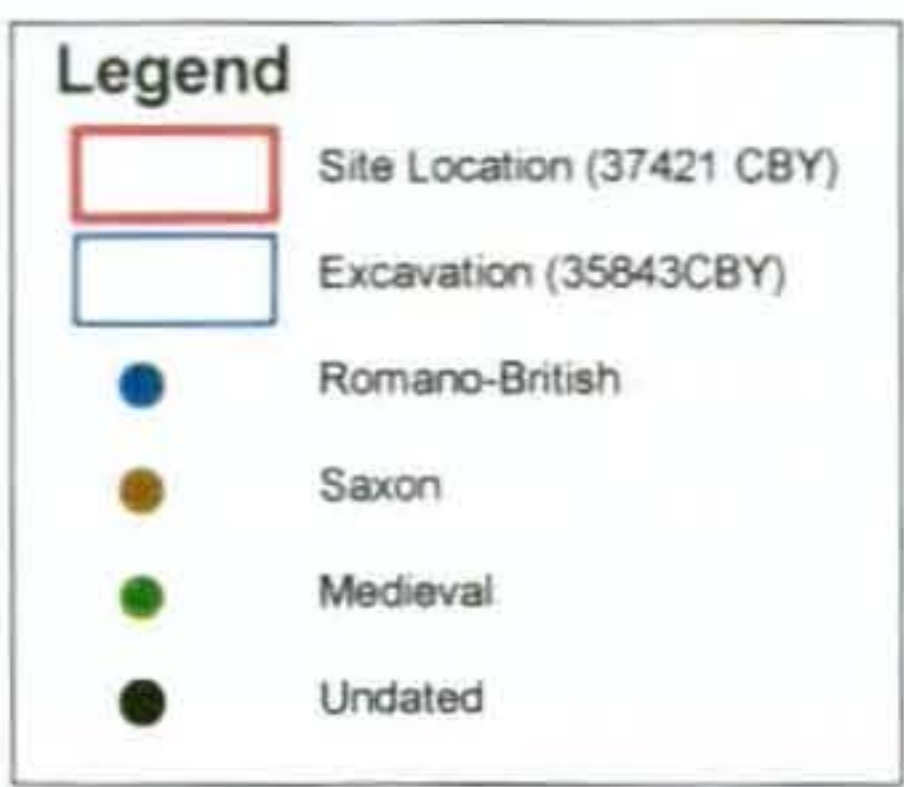
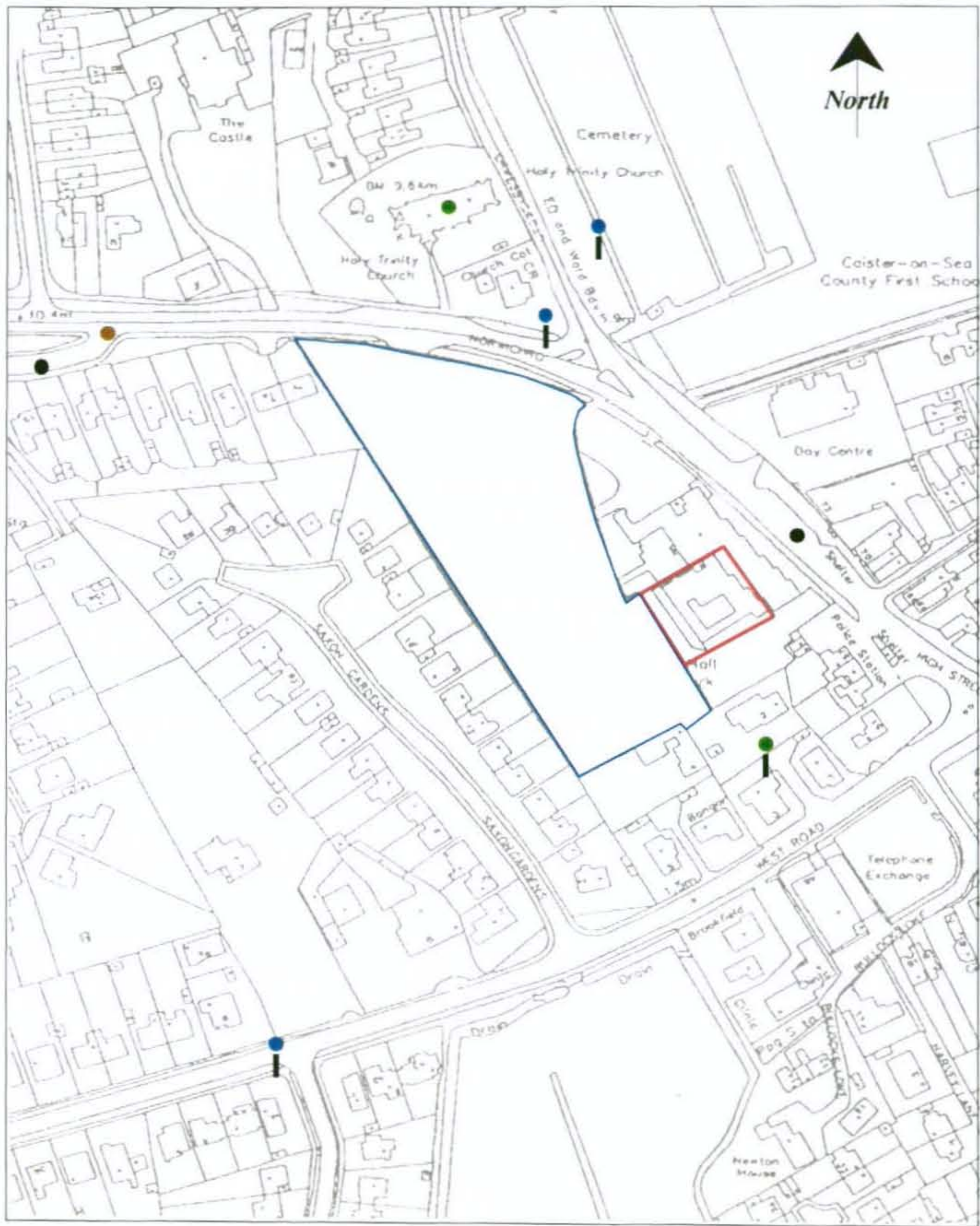


Figure 1 General Location Plan



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Figure 2 Site location plan showing archaeological finds within c.100m

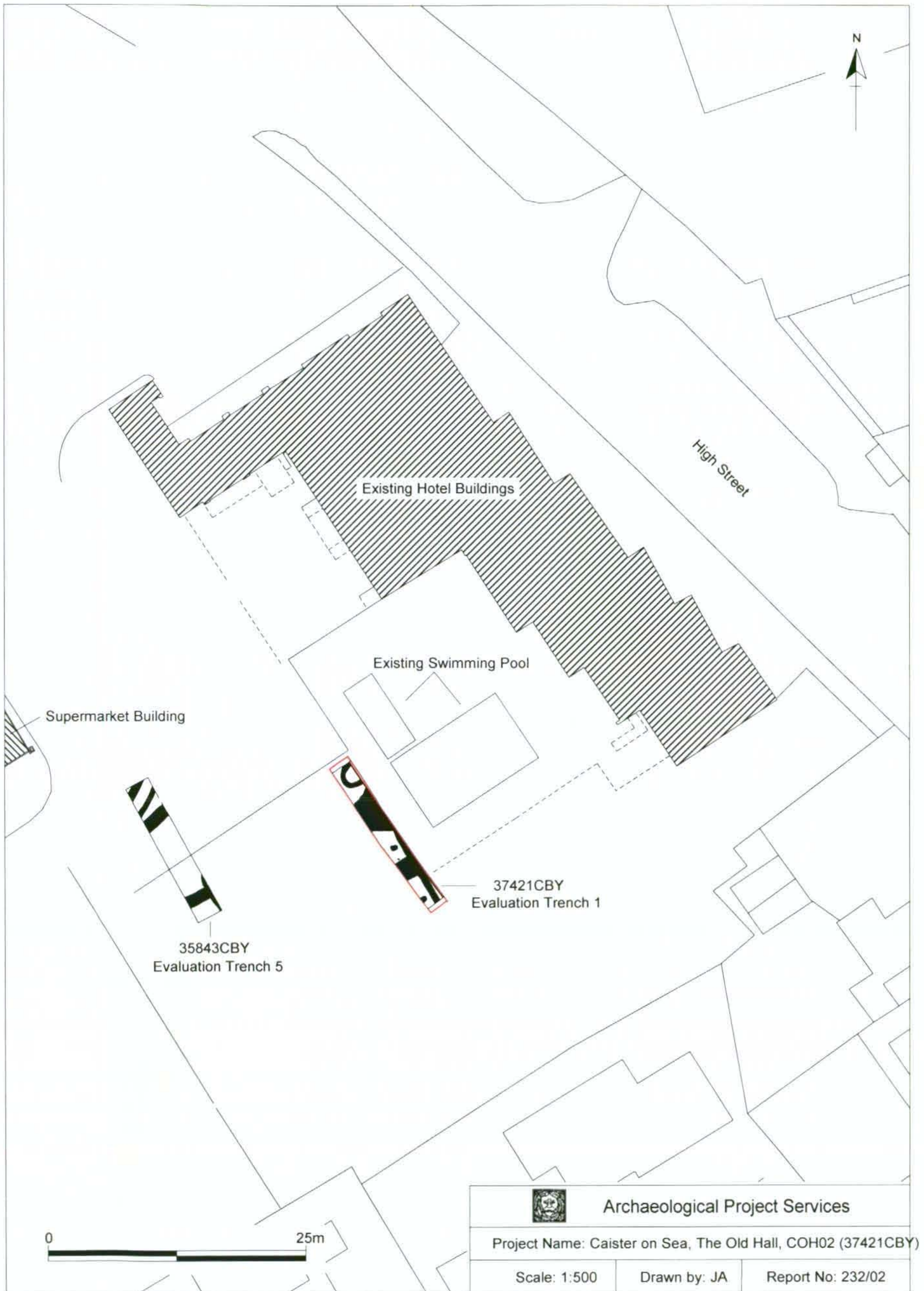
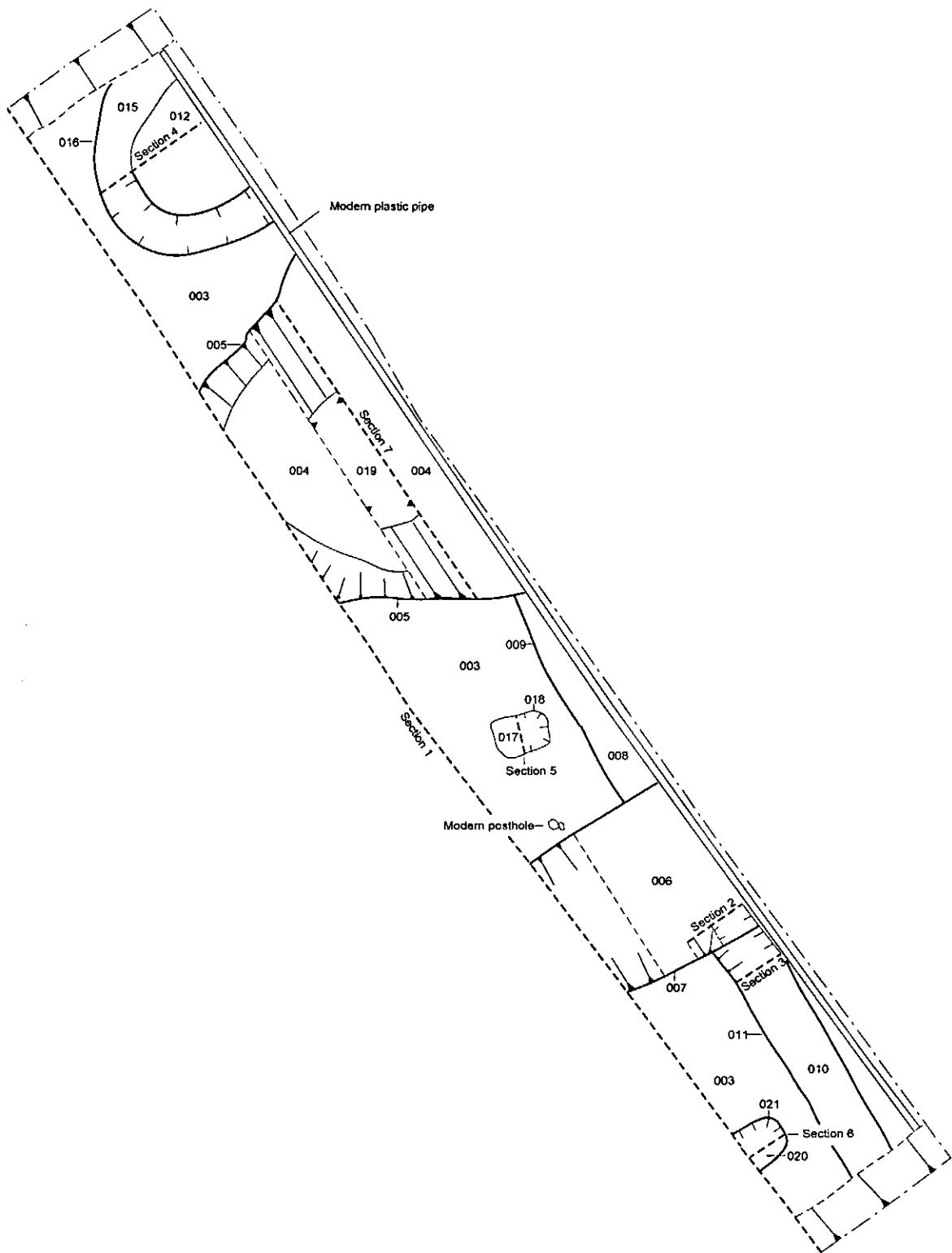


Figure 3 Site plan showing trench location.




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Figure 4. Plan of Trench 1

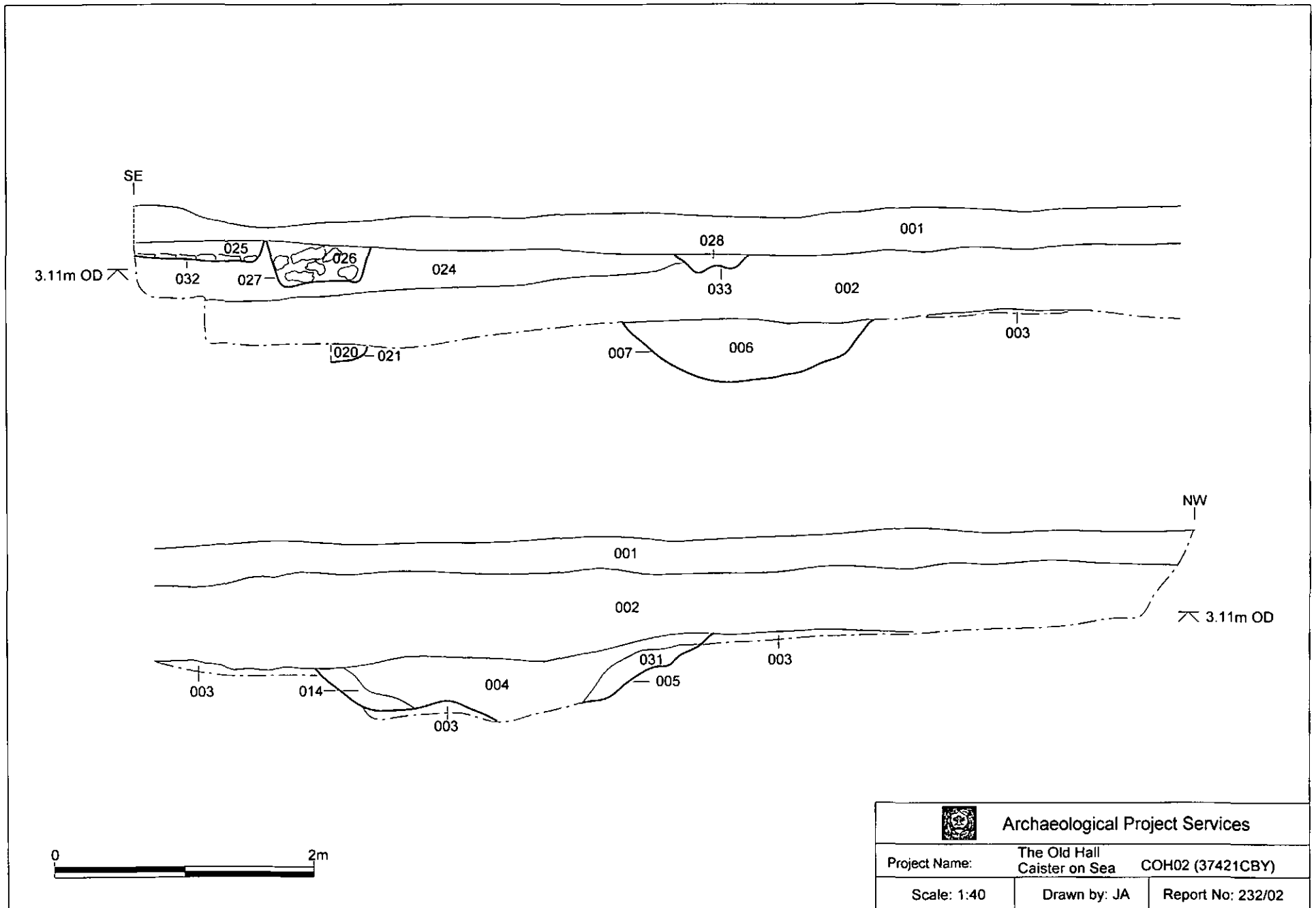
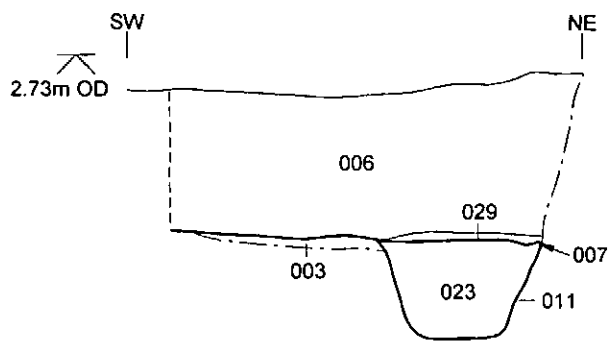
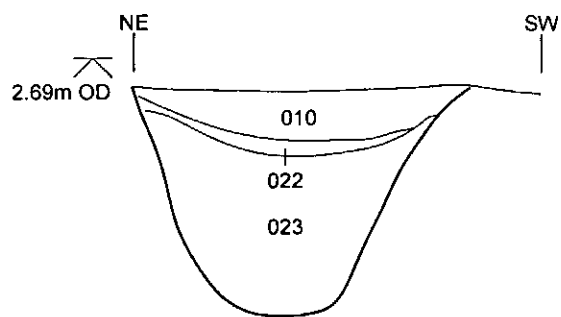


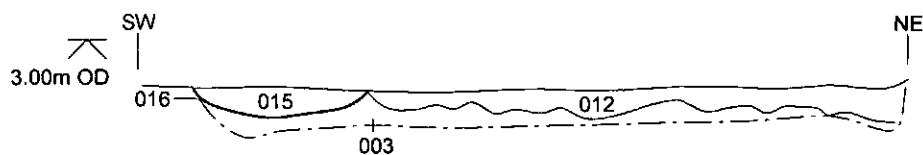
Figure 5. Section 1



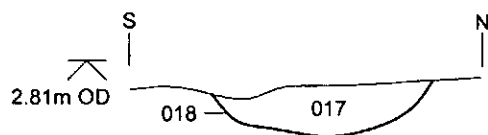
Section 2



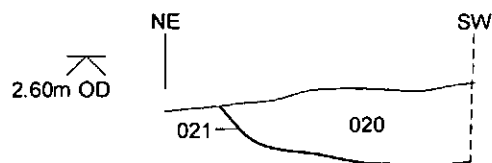
Section 3



Section 4



Section 5



Section 6




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Figure 6. Sections 2 - 6

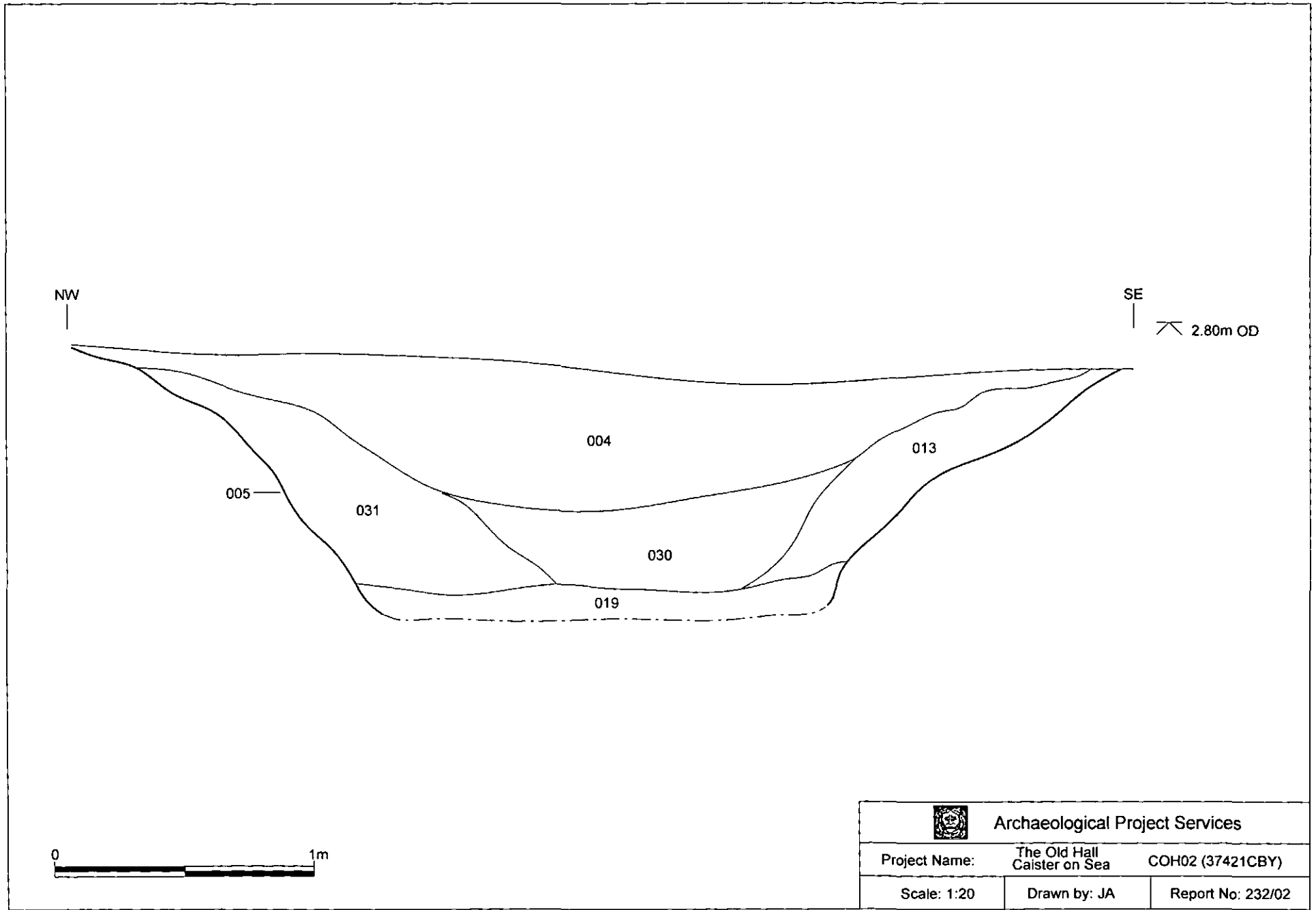


Figure 7. Section 7


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Scale: 1:20	Drawn by: JA	Report No: 232/02



Plate 1 General view of the site looking north with the Old Hall in the background.



Plate 2 Post-excavation view of the evaluation trench looking southeast.



Plate 3 Pit 005 looking southeast.



Plate 4 Ditch 007
looking southwest.



Plate 5 Ditch 011
looking southeast.

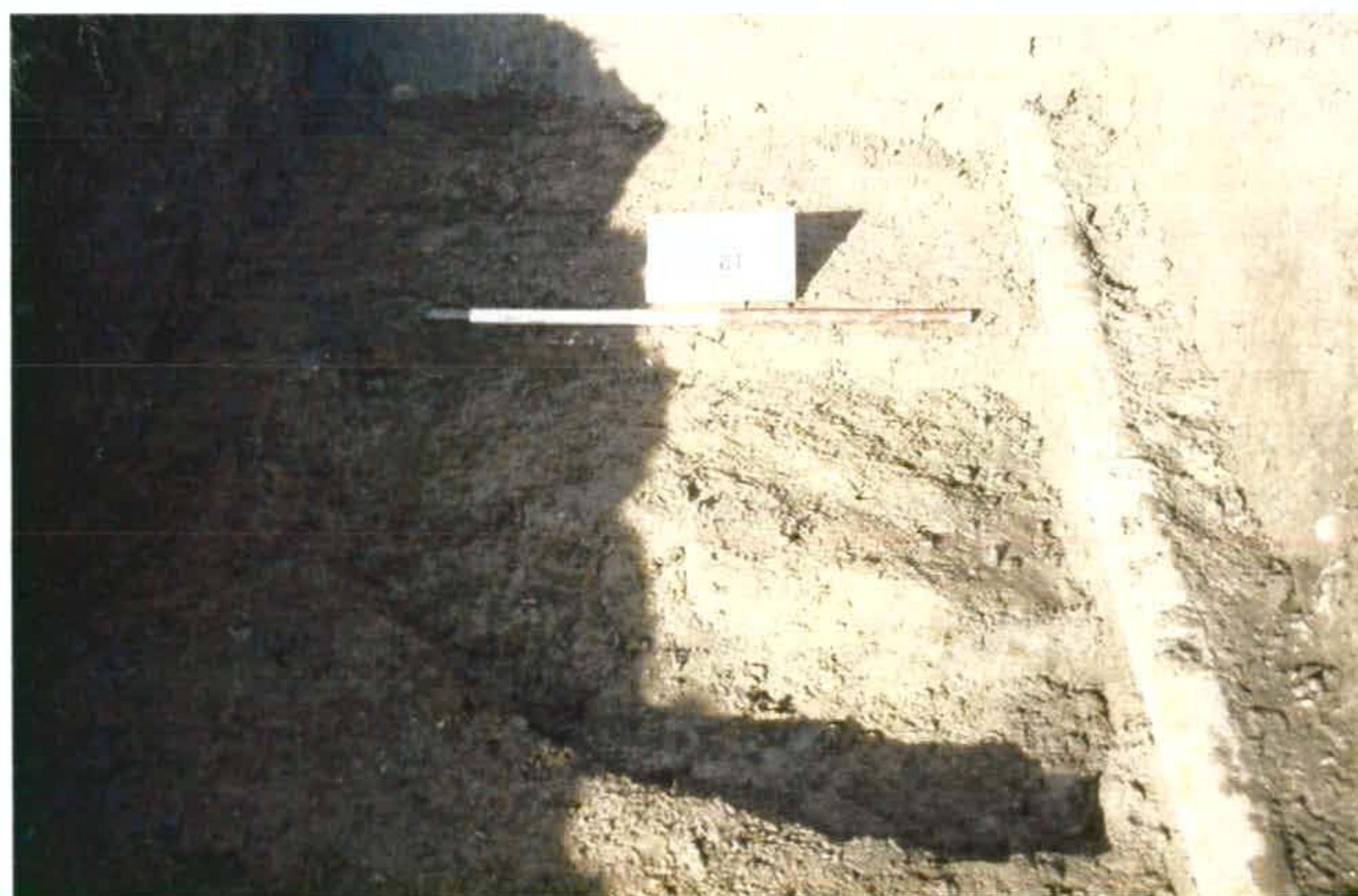


Plate 6 Ring gully 016
looking northwest.

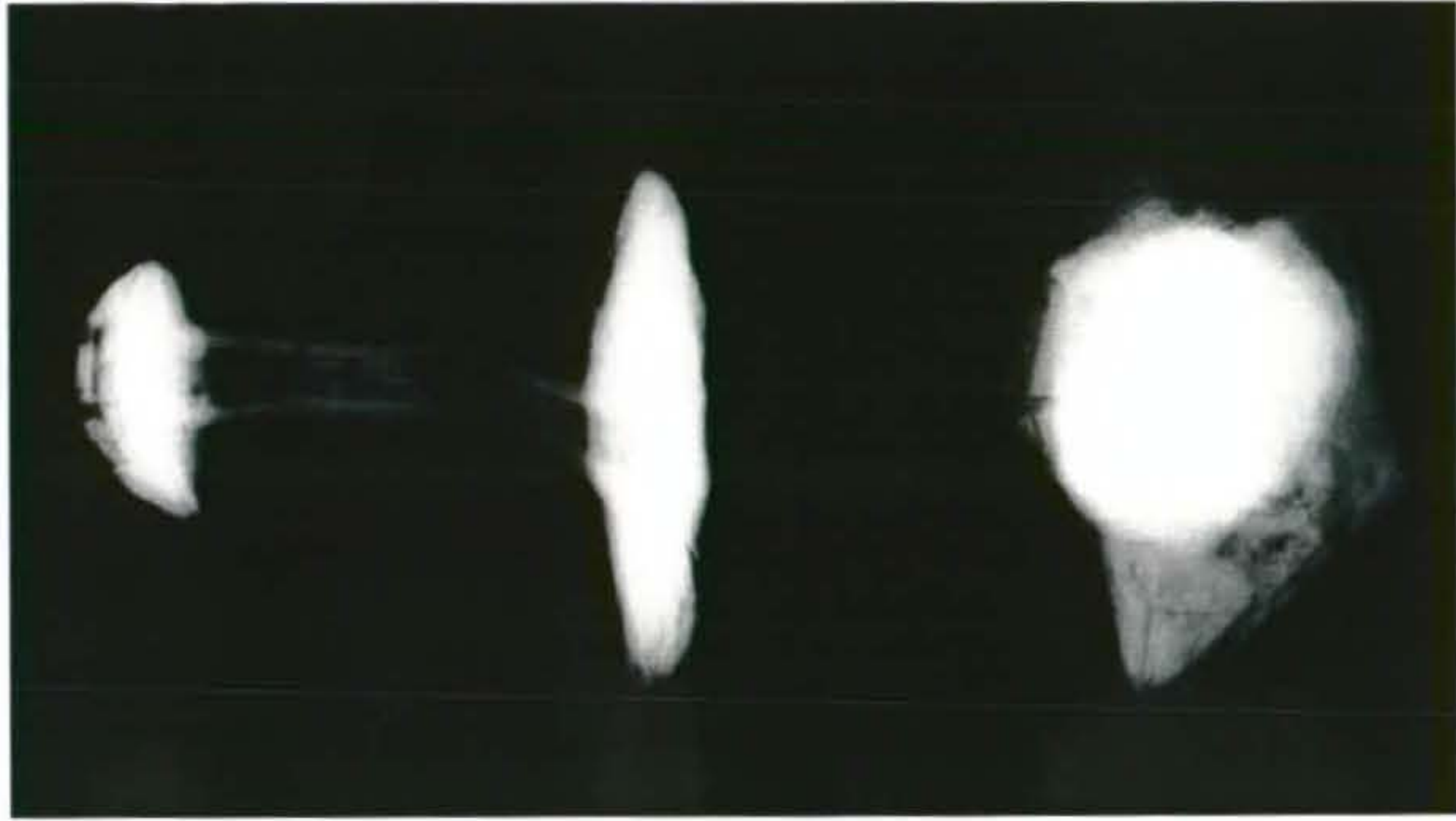


Plate 7 Two X-ray views of the clench bolt from context (010). Actual size.

Appendix 1



Norfolk Landscape Archaeology

BRIEF FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING
AT

~~THE OLD HALL~~
CAISTER ON SEA
GREAT YARMOUTH
NORFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Great Yarmouth
PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: 06/01/0663/F

NORFOLK SITES AND
MONUMENTS RECORD NO.: Adj. To 35843, 8675 etc
SMR NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be issued

GRID REFERENCE: TG 52 12
MAP EXTRACT ATTACHED: Yes

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Leisure and fitness centre including swimming
pool, gym, beauty centre and additional
bedrooms

AREA: 1045 sq. m. of extensions
CURRENT LAND USE: Restaurant and former caravan park

ISSUED BY: David Gurney
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DATE: 24th September 2001



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Summary

The development proposal affects a site of archaeological interest and potential, especially for the Roman period.

Planning Permission has been or may be granted subject to a condition for a Programme of Archaeological Work (hereafter PoAW). Trial trenching is required to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological layers or subsoil archaeological features. This Evaluation may indicate a need for a further phase of Archaeological Excavation or an Archaeological Watching Brief during the development if features of importance are found and these cannot be preserved *in situ*.

Archaeological Contractors are reminded that they should submit a copy of their Method Statement or Specification to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) for approval, *before* costs are prepared for commissioning clients; in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidance.

1. Policy Background.

The relevant planning policies can be found in :-

Great Yarmouth Borough Council's *Great Yarmouth Borough-Wide Local Plan Modifications* (Spring 1999). Policies BNV 1-3.

Norfolk County Council's *Norfolk Structure Plan Deposit Version* (January 1998), policy ENV 12.

and

The Department of the Environment's *Planning Policy Guidance 16, Archaeology and Planning* (November 1990).

2. Archaeological Background.

The proposed development is within an area of archaeological interest and potential, especially for the Roman period.

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and a subsequent archaeological excavation on the adjacent site of the Lidl supermarket have revealed evidence of prehistoric activity and Romano-British settlement. For details, see Albone, J., 2001, *Archaeological Evaluation at Land South of Norwich Road, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk (35843 CBY)* (Archaeological Project Services Report 031/01). At the time of writing, the excavation phase of the Lidl site is still in progress, and therefore the report is not yet in preparation.

However, Trench 5 of the evaluation on the Lidl site lies approximately 50m to the north-west of the proposed extension, and may be indicative of the potential for the discovery of further archaeological remains in this area.

Evaluation Trench 5 contained two groups of Roman linear features, comprising two ditches and one gully at the north end of the trench, and a ditch/pit and a ditch at the south end of the trench. Finds included Roman pottery including samian ware, and tiles.

3. Planning Background.

Planning Permission has been or may be granted, subject to a condition for a PoAW. This Brief provides an outline of the first phase of the PoAW, the results of which will be assessed by NLA to determine whether further investigations (excavation) are necessary should archaeological remains be found to exist on the site and these cannot be preserved *in situ*.

4. Requirement for Work.

Trial trenching is required to recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. The states of preservation of archaeological features or deposits within the area indicated should be determined.

The Archaeological Contractor will prepare a Method Statement or Specification for this phase of the PoAW and submit this to NLA for approval *before* costs are prepared for the commissioning client. The PoAW will include, as appropriate, background research, fieldwork, assessment, analysis, preparation of report, publication and deposition of the project archive.

The archaeological research aims and objectives of the project will be clearly stated, and the Method Statement or Specification will demonstrate how these will be met. Appropriate reference will be made to the following documents:-

Glazebrook, J. (ed) 1997, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource assessment*. (E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 3).

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy* (E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8).

In this instance, a trial trench should be excavated across the site of the proposed extension, ~~aligned east-west, and not less than 25m in length.~~

as shown on the plan.

5. Standards.

Method Statements or Specifications prepared by Archaeological Consultants or Contractors should state that all works will be carried out in full accordance with the *County Standards for Field Archaeology in Norfolk* (NLA 1998) unless otherwise stipulated. Where alternative approaches or techniques are proposed, these should not be employed without the prior written approval of NLA.

Contractors who have not yet worked in Norfolk but who wish to tender for a project may obtain a copy of the *Standards* by writing to the Principal Landscape Archaeologist.

For Trial Trenching projects, the following sections of the *Standards* document are especially relevant:-

1	General Requirement
2.1-2.2	Background Research
4.1-4.23	Trial Trenching and Area Excavation
5	On-Site Recording
6	Finds and Conservation
7	Palaeoenvironmental
8.1-8.11, 8.18-8.26	Reports
9	Project Review
10	Archives

Archaeological Contractors should note that the *Standards* document stipulates basic *methodological* standards. It is considered axiomatic that all contractors will strive to achieve the highest possible *qualitative* standards, with the application of the most advanced and appropriate techniques possible within a context of continuous improvement aimed at maximising the recovery of archaeological data and contributing to the development of a greater understanding of Norfolk's historic environment. Monitoring officers will seek and expect clear evidence of commitment to the historic resource of Norfolk, with specifications being drawn up within a context of added value.

6. Other matters

Archaeological Contractors are reminded that they should submit a copy of their Method Statement or Specification to NLA for approval, *before* costs are prepared for commissioning clients, in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidance.

The Method Statement or Specification should indicate the number of person days allocated to the fieldwork stage of the project.

NLA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. The archaeological contractor will give NLA not less than two week's written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

Trenches must not be backfilled without the agreement of NLA.

Any subsequent variation to a Detailed Project Specification or Method Statement must be agreed with NLA prior to its implementation.

This brief is valid for a period of one year from the date of issue. After that time, it may need to be revised to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

Three copies of the Evaluation Report should be supplied to NLA for the attention of the Principal Landscape Archaeologist within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork on the understanding that this will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months). Two copies will be deposited with the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record, and the third will be forwarded to the Local Planning Authority.

Appendix 2

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT NORWICH ROAD,
CAISTER ON SEA,
NORFOLK**

**PREPARED FOR
Mr M Gilbert**

BY

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Archaeological Organisation No: 21**

OCTOBER 2001



SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: CAISTER ON SEA, OLD HALL

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for archaeological field evaluation of land at The Old Hall, Caister on Sea, Norfolk.*
- 1.2 *The site lies within an area of archaeological interest and potential, close to a late Roman 'Saxon Shore Fort' and many Roman artefacts have been found in the area. Evaluation and subsequent Excavation on an adjacent plot in advance of construction revealed numerous Romano-British ditches and gullies, along with prehistoric pits containing late Neolithic pottery. Saxon burials have also been found in the area and these might suggest the presence of a nearby Middle Saxon church or minster. A medieval church is located close by and probably provided a focus of settlement in the medieval period.*
- 1.3 *A planning application has been submitted for development of the site. Permission may be granted, subject to a condition for a programme of archaeological work. This work will in the first instance consist of the excavation of a single 15m long trench.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing and interpreting the archaeological deposits located during the trenching. The text will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at The Old Hall, Main Road, Caister on Sea, Norfolk.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Caister on Sea is located approximately 30km east of Norwich in the Great Yarmouth Borough of the county. The site is near the centre of the town, on the west side of High Street, at National Grid Reference TG 52 12. It comprises an irregular-shaped plot of land of approximately 1045sq. m.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (No. 06/01/0663/F) has been submitted to Great Yarmouth Borough Council for the development of the site for a leisure and fitness centre. Permission may be granted subject to a condition for a programme of archaeological work. Norfolk Landscape

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: CAISTER ON SEA, OLD HALL

Archaeology have advised that an archaeological evaluation of the site is required to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, preservation and significance of any archaeological remains at the site. A brief for a programme of trial trenching was produced by the Principal Landscape Archaeologist, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. The trial trenching may indicate a need for further investigation if significant remains are found and these cannot be preserved *in situ*.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Caister on Sea is located on the east coast of Norfolk. The site slopes down to the south from about 9m at the north edge to 3m at the south, toward the river Bure. The site is at the junction of two soil types. In the south are Newchurch 2 Association, pelo-calcareous alluvial gleys on stoneless, clayey marine alluvium. In the northern part of the area are Wick 2 Association typical brown earths on thin aeolian drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 263; 346).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Caister on Sea incorporates the site of one of the late Roman 'Saxon Shore Forts', a network of coastal defences in the 3rd and 4th century AD, with this East Anglian stretch of the network being perhaps the most significant length of the system (Going in Glazebrook 1997). This fort, part of which is a scheduled ancient monument, is located about 300m to the west-northwest of the proposed development site. The fort was located on the south side of the island of Flegg and overlooked, in the Roman period, a wide estuary. Many finds of Roman date have been found around the fort and an extensive spread of Romano-British material occurs south and east of the fort and encompasses the proposed development site. The Roman fort/settlement would have had cemeteries and it has been suggested that the area east of the fort may be the location of such a Romano-British burial ground (M. Darling, per comm), though this is probably north of the proposed development area. Excavations outside the fort on its east side have revealed cobbling and a gutter, and small-moderate amounts of pottery. Some of the pottery was of the 1st-2nd century, suggesting the possibility of pre-fort settlement (Darling and Gurney 1993). An Evaluation and Excavation on land immediately to the north of the site revealed a complex of ditches and gullies of Romano-British date, along with pits and post holes. In particular, Trench 5 of the adjacent Evaluation, some 50m north west of the present application site, contained two groups of Romano-British linear features, comprising two ditches and a gully at the north end of the trench and a ditch/pit and a ditch at the south end. Finds included Roman tiles and pottery, the latter category including samian ware (Albone 2001).
- 6.2 Immediately outside the Roman fort about 150 Middle Saxon burials have been found. These burials cover a large area to the south and east of the fort and, together with other Middle Saxon finds, suggest the possibility that Caister may be the location of an early church, monastery or perhaps a minster (Wade in Glazebrook 1997). Immediately to the north of the proposed development site is the church of Holy Trinity, perhaps early 13th century in origin (Pevsner and Wilson 1998). In the Late Saxon period Caistor on Sea was thriving and it became a royal manor after the Norman conquest. The Domesday Survey of c. 1086 recorded about 40 salt houses in the manor, and a shared mill (Norfolk Domesday). In addition, prehistoric remains have been found within and to the west of the Roman fort (Darling and Gurney 1993) and at the excavations immediately to the north (Albone, pers comm.).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains on site to determine the need, or otherwise, for further archaeological investigations or preservation measures.

**SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: CAISTER ON SEA,
OLD HALL**

- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
- 7.2.1 Determine the date of the archaeological remains present on the site.
 - 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent and spatial arrangement of archaeological remains present within the site.
 - 7.2.3 Establish the character of archaeological remains that may be present within the site.
 - 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of archaeological remains in the area.
 - 7.2.5 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological remains extend into the site.
 - 7.2.6 Identify the way in which the archaeological remains identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

8 TRIAL TRENCHING

8.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 8.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 8.1.2 The trial trenching will consist of the excavation of a sample of the proposed development site. This will be achieved by the excavation of a single trench 15m long by 2m wide. Should archaeological deposits extend below 1.2m depth then the trench widths may be extended or the sides may be stepped in, or shored, as appropriate. Augering may be used to determine the depth of deposits.

8.2 General Considerations

- 8.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the evaluation. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to site works.
- 8.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). Archaeological Project Services is an IFA registered archaeological organisation (no. 21).
- 8.2.3 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *County Standards for Field Archaeology in Norfolk, 1998*, and any revisions of such received up to the acceptance of this specification.
- 8.2.4 The work will also be undertaken with reference to, and consideration of, the regional archaeological research frameworks (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: CAISTER ON SEA, OLD HALL

- 8.2.5 Any artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and the discovery promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 8.2.6 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will necessarily be excavated. However, the evaluation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 8.2.7 The open trench will be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.
- 8.2.8 The trench, all exposed surfaces, excavation horizons, and spoil, will be regularly and repeatedly metal-detected to ensure optimum recovery of artefacts. Any identified artefacts will be excavated from its parent context in normal stratigraphic sequence.
- 8.2.9 Prior to commencement of site operations, Archaeological Project Services will liaise with the Norfolk SMR to ensure that the Site Code and Context Numbering system is compatible with the Norfolk SMR.
- 8.3 Methodology
- 8.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. Thereafter, the trench will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 8.3.2 A metal detector will be used during normal hand excavation in order to maximise artefact retrieval. The spoil heap will also be scanned with a metal detector.
- 8.3.3 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 8.3.4 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn. All context and site numbering used will be compatible with the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record.
- 8.3.5 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: CAISTER ON SEA, OLD HALL

- 8.3.6 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations.
 - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
 - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important.
 - the site on completion of field work
- 8.3.7 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. The archaeological curator, local environmental health department and, if appropriate, the coroner and the police will be informed. If removal proves necessary, appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and before excavation of human remains commences.
- 8.3.8 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later washing and analysis. All finds work will be carried out to accepted professional standards and the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work* (1992).
- 8.3.9 Conservation of artefacts will be carried out by Lincoln City and County Museum. The resources available for conservation is dependent on the quantity and type of artefacts recovered from the site.
- 8.3.10 The spoil generated during the evaluation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trench with the top soil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 8.3.11 The precise location of the trench within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey or tape survey to established features recorded on Ordnance Survey maps, as appropriate.
- 8.3.12 Samples will be taken from all waterlogged feature fills. Otherwise, samples will be taken from primary and secondary fills of ditches and pits, the level of sampling being appropriate to the content of the individual feature. Samples will be retained from approximately 50% of half-sectioned postholes. All sampling will follow the procedures in *A Guide to Sampling Archaeological Deposits for Environmental Analysis* (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994).
- 8.3.13 Representative samples of structural masonry will be retained. The retention of unworked structural stone and plain ashlar will be determined by the number of geological types present. All dressed, inscribed or moulded stone masonry will be retained except where there are logistical, or archaeological considerations, not to do so.

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: CAISTER ON SEA, OLD HALL

9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 If relevant, during the evaluation specialist advice may be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. If necessary, the specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of any such specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report.

10 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

10.1 Stage 1

10.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

10.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum.

10.2 Stage 2

10.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

10.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

10.3 Stage 3

10.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the evaluation will be prepared. This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the findings of the evaluation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site - to include results of desktop research into the history and former land-use of the site.
- Description of the topography and geology of the evaluation area
- Description of the methodologies used during the evaluation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the findings of the investigation.
- Text describing the findings of the evaluation.
- Plans of the trench showing the archaeological features exposed. If a

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: CAISTER ON SEA, OLD HALL

sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

- Sections of the trench and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.
- A consideration of the significance of the archaeological remains encountered, in local, regional and national terms.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums* (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited with the receiving museum as soon as possible after completion of the project, and within 12 months of that completion date.
- 11.2 Microfilming of the archive will be carried out at Lincolnshire Archives. The silver master will be transferred to the RCHME and a diazo copy will be deposited with the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record.
- 11.3 Prior to the project commencing, Norfolk Museums Service will be contacted to obtain their agreement to receipt of the project archive and to establish their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive.
- 11.4 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

12 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 12.1 Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to: the client and the Principal Landscape Archaeologist, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (3 copies); two copies for Norfolk County Sites and Monuments Record and the third for Great Yarmouth Borough Council Planning Department. A fourth copy of the report will be supplied to the Historic Buildings Team, Department of Planning and Transportation, Norfolk County Council.

13 PUBLICATION

- 13.1 A report of the findings of the excavation will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Norfolk Archaeology*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Post-medieval Archaeology*, *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date. Reports on this Evaluation may be included with reports on the adjacent, larger, excavation site.

**SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: CAISTER ON SEA,
OLD HALL**

14 CURATORIAL MONITORING

- 14.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. As much notice as possible, ideally fourteen days, will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements. However, the curator will be contacted at the earliest opportunity to seek reduction, or waiving, of this notification period.

15 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 15.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptability from the archaeological curator.
- 15.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

16 STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The work will be directed by Tom Lane MIFA, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Project Services. The on-site works will be supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological evaluations of this type. Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.
- 16.2 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust Roman: M. Darling, independent specialist, or local specialist if required by archaeological curator Anglo-Saxon-medieval: D Hall or H Healey independent specialists, or local specialist if required by archaeological curator.
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist (formerly City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit)
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: CAISTER ON SEA, OLD HALL

Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Soil Assessment	Dr Charly French, independent specialist
Pollen Assessment	Pat Wiltshire, independent specialist
Wood Assessment	Maisie Taylor, Soke Archaeological Services Ltd
Masonry/dressed stone Assessment	Jeremy Ashbee, independent specialist
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

17 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

- 17.1 The site works are timetabled to take about 3 days, depending on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. Post-excavation work is timetabled to take about 8 days, depending on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered, and external specialists' programmes.

18 INSURANCES

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

19 COPYRIGHT

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 19.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 19.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.
- 19.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

**SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: CAISTER ON SEA,
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Appendix 3

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark greyish brown slightly sandy clayey silt with sparse flint pebbles and cobbles. c.0.30m thick	Topsoil
002	Medium brown clayey silt with flint and quartzite pebbles and cobbles. Up to 0.70m thick	Subsoil
003	Light reddish brown clayey sand	Natural deposit
004	Medium brownish grey clayey sand. c.1.00m thick	Upper fill of pit 005
005	Sub-circular cut. >3m diameter x >1.5m deep	Cut of large pit
006	Medium greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of ditch 007
007	Linear cut with gradual sloping sides. 1.80m wide x 0.48m deep x >1.80m long	Cut of ditch
008	Medium greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of 009 (Same as 010)
009	Linear cut (not excavated)	Cut of ditch (Same as 011)
010	Medium greyish brown clayey silt. 0.66m wide x 0.10m thick	Fill of ditch 011
011	Linear cut with steep sides and rounded base. 0.66m wide x 0.45m deep x >5.70m long (including 009)	Cut of ditch
012	Mottled reddish brown and medium grey clayey sand. c.1.30m diameter x up to 0.08m thick	Deposit inside ring gully 016
013	Medium grey clayey sand	Fill in pit 005
014	Medium grey clayey sand	Fill in pit 005
015	Medium grey clayey sand	Fill of ring gully 016
016	Curving cut with shallow rounded profile. c.0.35m wide x 0.08m thick.	Probable ring gully cut
017	Medium brown silty clay	Fill of pit 018
018	Sub-rectangular cut. 0.64m x 0.46m x 0.10m deep	Cut of pit
019	Light grey clayey sand	Fill in 005
020	Medium brownish grey slightly sandy silty clay	Fill of ditch 021
021	Linear cut with rounded terminus and shallow rounded profile. c.0.40m wide x >0.50m long x 0.15m deep.	Cut of ditch
022	Mixed medium brownish grey and light yellowish brown clayey silt and sandy clay	Redeposited natural in ditch 011
023	Medium brownish grey sandy silty clay	Lower fill of ditch 011
024	Dark brownish grey silty clay	Buried topsoil layer
025	Mixed dark grey and medium yellowish brown sand and gravel with brick and concrete fragments	Dumped deposit
026	Medium yellowish brown sand, gravel and concrete	Fill of ?pit 027
027	Irregular cut (only seen in section)	Cut of possible pit
028	Light and medium brownish yellow coarse sand and gravel	Dumped deposit
029	Mixed light yellowish brown and greyish brown silty clay and clayey silt	Primary fill of ditch 007
030	Light brown clayey sand	Fill in pit 005
031	Light greyish brown sandy silty clay	Fill in pit 005

Appendix 4

REPORT 125 ON THE POTTERY FROM OLD HALL, CAISTER-ON-SEA, NORFOLK, 37421 CBY 2002

for ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

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QUANTITY AND CONDITION

The total quantity of pottery from nine contexts amounted to 86 sherds, weighing 0.663kg. This has been archived to the standard recommended by the *Study Group for Roman Pottery*, with sherd count and weight measures; a copy of the computer archive is attached (and is available on disk), and will be curated for future research. The condition of the pottery is fairly poor, with some very abraded sherds, and a high level of fragmentation. There are no problems for long term storage.

The quantities and dates by context are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Quantities and dates by context

Cxt	Sherds	Weight	Date	Comments
002	12	124	PMED	STRANGE GRP;NO ORD COARSE? Same amph in 004
004	41	345	ML3+	Same amph. in 002
006	11	88	EM3?	Samian date
008	1	12	ROM	
010	3	9	ML3	
012	2	11	ROM	
013	13	65	ML3	
014	3	9	3C	
Total	86	663		

The only possible ceramic link between contexts is the occurrence of sherds of the same amphora in 002 and 004.

FABRICS

The fabrics represented are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Fabrics

Fabric	Code	Sherds	Weight
Cream	CR	1	11
Amphora Gallic?	GAU?	2	61

Grey micaceous	GMIC	6	107
Grey	GREY	44	246
Nene Valley colour-coated	NVCC	6	19
Nene Valley grey ware?	NVGW?	1	8
Oxidized	OX	9	30
Post-Roman	PRO	5	79
Samian Central Gaul	SAMCG	7	16
Samian Central Gaul?	SAMCG?	1	11
Samian East Gaul	SAMEG	3	63
Samian East Gaul?	SAMEG?	1	12
	Total	86	663

DISCUSSION

Post-Roman sherds occurred in 002, a single glazed Post-Medieval open vessel. Six samian sherds came from the same 002 deposit, other sherds coming from 006 and 013. The highly fragmented state of the sherds is emphasized by the average weight of the commonest GREY sherds, only 5.5g. Virtually all had varying degrees of abrasion, much of the samian having little or no surviving surfaces. It is not impossible that some of the oxidized chips might be from post-Roman vessels, the abrasion having removed all surfaces (mostly from 004). The grey micaceous sherds (GMIC) are dishes and open forms, probably coming from Essex or the Thames estuary. The only larger group is the fragmented 004, while contexts 008 and 012 have no securely datable sherds.

Such dating evidence as occurs suggests a range from the earlier 2nd century, based on a bowl of form Curle 15 (from 002), to the mid to late 3rd century. The main dating comes from the Nene Valley colour-coated sherds, probably all from the beakers; no later bowls or dish sherds occurred. The few GREY vessels with identifiable forms are mostly bowls or dishes with triangular rims in the tradition of BB2, common from the later 2nd century through most of the 3rd century. There are no sherds which date to the 4th century.

Only two or three sherds would be suitable for illustration, but add no new information to the ceramic range already known from Caister (Darling with Gurney 1993).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Cxt	Fabric	Form	Manuf	Ves	D?	DNo	Details	Link	Shs	Wt
002	SAMEG ?	-	+	-	-	-	BS VVABR	-	1	12
002	SAMCG	37	-	-	-	-	BS; MINIMAL DECOR	-	1	5
002	SAMCG	CU15	-	-	-	-	RIM FRAG	-	1	4
002	SAMCG	18- 18/31	-	-	-	-	RIM FRAG	-	1	1
002	SAMCG	18- 18/31	-	-	-	-	RIM FRAG;VABR	-	1	1
002	SAMEG	-	-	-	-	-	BS;VABR;LIMEY ?TRIER	-	1	1
002	GAU?	A	-	-	-	-	BS;LTBN;MICA;SAME IN	004	1	21
002	PRO	OPEN	-	-	-	-	RIM/BSS;LTRB GLAZED	-	5	79
002	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	PMED	-	-	-
002	ZZZ	-	-	-	-	-	STRANGE GRP;NO ORD COARSE?	-	-	-
004	GAU?	A	-	-	-	-	BS;LTBN;MICA;SAME IN	002	1	40
004	CR	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS LGE FLAG?	-	1	11
004	NVCC	BKFO	-	-	-	-	BS CR FAB	-	1	3
004	NVCC	BKFO	-	-	-	-	BS GRY/LTBN FAB	-	1	5
004	NVCC	BK	-	-	-	-	BS LTRB FAB	-	1	4
004	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS;GRITTY MIXED FB;?IMPORT	-	1	10
004	GMIC	DTR	-	1	D?	-	RIM FR;BASE;DKGRY MICAC	-	4	90
004	GMIC	DTR	-	-	-	-	RIM FR;?DIFF VESS	-	1	12
004	GREY	DFL	-	-	-	-	RIM FR;SOME MICA;DKGRY	-	1	16
004	GREY	BIR	-	-	D?	-	RIM FR;THIN WALL;TRIANG.RIM INTURNED	-	1	9
004	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BSS;FRAGMENTARY;ABR	-	18	92
004	OX	-	-	-	-	-	BSS;FRAGMENTARY;ABR	-	7	22
004	GREY	-	-	1	-	-	BSS COARSER FB;MIXED INCLS	-	3	31
004	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ML3+	-	-	-
006	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BSS;ONE BURNT;ABR	-	5	17
006	OX	-	-	-	-	-	BS;VABR;NO SURFS	-	1	4
006	SAMEG	45	-	-	-	-	RIM FR;PT SPOUT ?LION HD	-	1	60
006	SAMCG	-	-	-	-	-	BS BASAL ZONE?	-	1	3
006	SAMCG	-	-	-	-	-	FLAKES	-	2	2
006	SAMEG	-	-	-	-	-	FLAKE	-	1	2
006	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	EM3?	-	-	-
006	ZZZ	-	-	-	-	-	DATE FROM SAMIAN ONLY	-	-	-
008	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BS ABR	-	1	12
008	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ROM	-	-	-
010	NVCC	BKFO	-	-	-	-	BS;LTRB FAB	-	1	3
010	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	RIM PL.FR;BS;VABR	-	2	6
010	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ML3	-	-	-
012	GMIC	OPEN?	-	-	-	-	BS THIN WALL	-	1	5
012	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BS ABR	-	1	6
012	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ROM	-	-	-
013	SAMCG ?	-	-	-	-	-	BS VABR;VIRT.NO SURF	-	1	11
013	NVCC	BK?	-	-	-	-	CHIP;GRYISH FAB	-	1	1
013	GREY	BDTR	-	-	-	-	RIM/PT WALL	-	1	24
013	GREY	CLSD?	NOTC	-	-	-	BS LTGRY W NOTC DEC	-	1	3
013	OX	-	-	-	-	-	BS LTRB	-	1	4
013	NVGW?	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS CR/LTGRY FAB;DK EXT;F.THIN WALL	-	1	8
013	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BSS;MOST ABR	-	7	14
013	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ML3	-	-	-

014	NVCC	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS THIN WALL;LGER VESS?;CR	-	1	3
							FAB			
014	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BSS VABR	-	2	6
014	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	3C	-	-	-

Appendix 5

THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY AND OTHER FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Tom Lane and Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001). A total of 5 fragments of Post-Roman pottery weighing 78g was recovered from a single context. In addition to the pottery, a moderate quantity of other artefacts, mostly brick/tile and metal objects, were retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

Provenance

The material was recovered from the fills of Romano-British ditches, a large post-medieval pit and the overlying subsoil layer.

The pottery was probably all made fairly locally to Caister in the eastern part of East Anglia. It is likely that most of the tile was also made in proximity to Caister.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
002	Local slipware, abraded, probably all same vessel, late 17 th -18 th century	3 (2 link)	56	18 th century
	Glazed red earthenware, separate vessels, 18 th century	2	22	

Table 2: Clay Pipe

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
002	Stem, rouletting at one end (near bowl junction), bore 6/64"	1	9	17 th century

Table 3: Ceramic Building Material

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
002	Brick, 43mm thick, sandy fabric, Roman	1	221	Post-medieval
	Tile, 13mm thick, ?post-medieval	1	25	
	Tile, 13mm thick, post-medieval	1	37	
004	Tile, 19mm thick, sandy fabric, Roman	4	221	Roman
	Fired clay, generally oxidized with slightly reduced upper surfaces, up to 30mm thick, sandy fabric	5	226	
	Brick/tile? Grittier fabric than all other pieces	1	3	
010	Tile, 16mm thick, sandy fabric, Roman	1	95	Roman
	Tile, extremely abraded (water worn), sandy fabric, Roman	1	53	
013	Tile, 32mm thick, abraded, sandy fabric	1	374	Roman
019	Tile, 28mm thick, abraded, sandy fabric	1	386	Post-medieval?
	Tile, 23mm thick, sandy fabric, slipped surface, post-medieval?	1	293	

Most of the brick/tile is Roman in date and these pieces, almost entirely, are in a visually identical sandy fabric. The fired clay from (004) is in the same fabric and this would tend to suggest that the Roman building materials were made locally in the Caister area. One of the pieces of tile from (010) is extremely water worn and thus almost certainly redeposited.

Table 4: Metals

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
004	Iron	Round headed wire nail, 80mm long, modern	1	3	Modern
	Iron	Nail shaft, rectangular section	2 (link)	5	
	Iron	Nail head and shaft, incomplete, square sectioned shaft	1	7	
006	Iron	Probable clenched bolt shaft (flanging at both ends), 58mm long, incomplete	1	21	
	Iron	Probable clenched bolt, 42mm long, incomplete, rectangular sectioned shaft, round slightly domed head 24mm across	1	26	
010	Iron	Clenched bolt, 54mm long, complete; round domed head 20mm across, diamond-shaped rove 45mm x 25mm, rectangular sectioned shaft	1	44	
012	Iron	Spike, 125mm long, complete, rectangular shaft	1	111	

Several apparent clenched bolts, one complete, were recovered. Numerous similar clenched bolts were found during excavations of an extensive Middle-Late Saxon cemetery immediately south of the Roman fort at Caister, about 300m northwest of the current investigation area. At the cemetery, the clenched bolts were used as coffin fittings, most of the bolts being recovered from graves (Mould 1993, 104). The cemetery evidence has been interpreted as the use of sections of boats used to form parts of coffins, mostly lids (Rodwell 1993, 254). These boat sections would have comprised several overlapping planks, fastened at the lap joint by a series of clenched bolts. There is no evidence from the small bone assemblage detailed below to suggest the presence of burials similar to the Saxon cemetery. Also, clenched bolts can be used in architectural timber where lap joints are employed. However, given the very close proximity of the coastline, it seems probably that these clenched bolts derive from boats and it is therefore possible that boat-breaking or repair took place in close proximity to the current site. Whether this was in any way related to the use of sections of boat timbering for the Middle Saxon cemetery is unclear.

In general terms, clenched bolts are functionally simple and did not vary greatly through time. However, those recovered from the cemetery have flat heads (Mould, 104; fig 78, no 499), whereas these have domed heads. Clenched bolts with similar domed heads, though with round-sectioned shafts, have been recovered from late medieval-early post-medieval deposits at Hull (Armstrong 1980, 66; fig 26 no 26). Flat-headed clenched bolts occur in 11th-13th century contexts at King's Lynn (Goodall and Carter 1977, 297-8). This might imply that domed headed clenched bolts are a later version of the form, but the evidence is too tenuous for this to be more than a suggestion.

Table 5: Stone

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Artefact Date
002	Stone, burnt	1	7	Prehistoric
	Flint	1	40	
	Large broken flint flake with some poor quality secondary working on one end	1	39	
	Natural unworked flint	1	52	
004	Flint flake. Possibly burnt. Max dimensions 30 x 15 x 5mm.	1	2	Prehistoric
	Broken flint flake. Max dimensions 35 x 20 x 5mm.			Prehistoric

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Artefact Date
	Possible struck flint flake. Max dimension 18 x 11 x 6mm	1	3	Prehistoric Prehistoric Prehistoric
	Possible struck flint flake. Max dimensions 23 x 18 x 15mm.	1	3	
	Broken flint flake. Max dimensions 20 x 20 x 13mm	1	4	
012	Natural unworked flint	1	5	Late Neolithic / Bronze Age
	Broken scraper. Originally 'thumbnail' scraper of characteristic Early Bronze Age date. Max dimensions 33 x 22 x 10mm. Moderate angle of retouch. Poor quality flint	1	8	
	Notched flake with slight secondary working on notched area. Max dimensions 28 x 20 x 8mm	1	4	
	Stone, burnt	1	12	
013	Flint	1	4	Prehistoric
	Small struck flint flake. Max dimensions 29 x 17 x 4mm	1	3	
015	Flint, burnt, crazed pebbles	2	36	
	Two 'potboilers'. Crazed burnt flint	2	34	
019	Flint	1	15	Prehistoric
	Irregular shaped flint with flakes removed, possibly in the early stages of tool manufacture. Max dimensions 38 x 38 x 14mm	1	15	

This represents a small collection of largely undiagnostic pieces, most of which are debitage from preparation of nodules. Consequently, there is little to suggest dates for the items, other than a Late Neolithic/ Bronze Age attribution to the scraper.

Table 6: Faunal and Plant Remains

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
002	Cattle mandible	5	472	interlocking
004	Wood	2	2	Charcoal, unidentified degraded
	Cattle molar	1	8	
008	Cattle sized unidentified fragments	6	12	chalky
010	Unidentified animal bone	1	4	chalky
012	Cattle sized femur head	1	32	
	Sheep sized humerus fragment	1	10	
	Oyster shell	1	1	

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been numerous previous archaeological investigations at Caister-on-Sea, including immediately to the west of the current site. Additionally, there has been reported study of the archaeological and historical evidence for the town. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Norfolk County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The small group of post-medieval pottery fragments and other artefacts is of limited local potential and significance

but does indicate use of the site in perhaps the later 17th-18th centuries.

Due to the great quantity of Roman artefactual material at Caister, the assemblage of ceramic building materials of the period is of limited-moderate local potential. Some of the recovered pieces are clearly redeposited and these have consequently reduced significance. However, many of the fragments are quite large and perhaps not derived far from their original point of deposition. This, and the fact that the material indicates the presence of Roman buildings, indicates they are of moderate significance. Moreover, the presence of burnt clay with similar fabric to the tiles would appear to suggest local production of bricks/tiles in the Roman period and this is of moderate regional importance and potential.

The clench bolts are of uncertain derivation but are almost certainly related to operations involving boat breaking or repair, at an unknown date but probably no later than the early post-medieval period. As such, they are of high local importance and potential.

The dearth of medieval material is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from this period are absent from the area, or were not revealed by the investigation, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition.

References

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Appendix 6

FORAMINIFERAL ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES FROM CAISTER OLD HALL (COH02) 37421 CBY

From: Dr. Mike Godwin, 66 Southwell Road, Norwich, NR4 3HS

To: APS, The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 9RW

Introduction:

The Roman fort at Caister-on-Sea was constructed on an island which at that time lay on an island in the mouth of the Bure-Yare-Waveney Estuary (formerly known as the 'Great Estuary') see Godwin (1993). These samples come from an area very close to my PhD study site which ran down from the higher ground at Mautby to the banks of the River Bure. The Roman age of the deposits implies that they belong to what is (misleadingly) known as the Upper Clay of the Breydon Formation. The features sampled are quite small in extent, so their fills possibly represent 'dumping' events such as storms or floods or possibly normal sedimentation in the high-energy environment of the estuary mouth.

The foraminifera are typical of outer estuarine channel environments and consist mainly of juveniles with an admixture of large abraded adults. These are unlikely to represent living populations but instead represent thanatacoenoses of transported individuals.

Methodology:

All the samples were prepared by washing them through a 125 micron sieve with hot water. The residues were then dried in an oven for about an hour and viewed under a binocular microscope.

Sedimentology:

All the samples are sandy silts. The clay content is minimal. The sand fraction is predominately fine-grained although coarser clasts do occur and include rounded pebbles and cobbles of flint. The sand clasts are generally angular in shape, abraded and more recently fractured surfaces are equally common. The maturity of the sediments is somewhat variable but all contain some organic detritus, rock fragments (mainly chalk, red and grey limestone, coal, sandstone). Shell debris occurs having been finely crushed. This appears to be dominated by prisms derived from cockle shells.

In comparison with extensive work done in this area in the past (Godwin, 1993) these sediments would appear to be typical estuarine channel lag deposits.

Foraminifera:

Sample 37421 CBY (006) [1] - fill of Romano-British ditch - homogenous

The foraminiferal assemblage in this deposit indicates a high energy deposit. The tests are relatively rare and are dominated by unidentifiable broken fragments. Identifiable species include *Elphidium oceanensis*, *Ammonia beccarii* forma *batavus*, *Quinqueloculina* sp and

Fursenkoinia fusiformis. This assemblage is typical of an outer estuarine sub-tidal channel. It is likely that all the tests seen have been transported from either the estuary mouth (or beyond) or other parts of the estuary. This material may have been dumped in the ditch during a storm event.

Sample 37421 CBY (010) [2] - upper fill of ditch

The sand fraction of this sample differed from the others consisting predominately of well rounded clasts of quartz with little organic or rock clast content. Foraminifera were quite rare the only identifiable species being *Ammonia beccarii* forma *batavus* and *Elphidium oceanensis*. This assemblage seems similar to those found in sub-tidal channels during the lagoonal phase of the estuary (c. 3000 BC). It is possible that this sample contains material reworked from earlier deposits. The change in sedimentology suggests that more than one event is responsible for the pattern of sedimentation seen at this site.

**Sample 37421 CBY (004) [3] - upper fill of pit - 2m wide at c.30-40 cms (1.5m deep)
homogenous - transformed deposit**

Organic detritus and rock fragments were common in the sand-sized fraction of this deposit. The foraminiferal population here consisted of both juveniles and large abraded adults. The assemblage was very typical of a lagoonal environment. Species included *Ammonia beccarii* forma *batavus*, *Elphidium oceanensis*, *Elphidium excavata* forma *clavata*, *Quinqueloculina* spp and *Miliammina fusca*. Again they would appear to have been derived from a channel environment. Many unidentifiable foram tests and other shell debris were also present in this deposit.

Sample 37421 CBY (023) [5] - primary fill of Romano-British ditch 011

The foraminifera in this deposit mainly consisted of juveniles - a few adults were represented by very abraded tests. They were somewhat more common than in most of the other samples. Species included *Ammonia beccarii* forma *batavus*, *Elphidium oceanensis*, *Elphidium excavata* forma *clavata*, *Quinqueloculina* sp, *Fursenkoinia fusiformis*, *Brizalina variabilis*. These are all outer estuarine to marine species. Also present were some inner estuarine agglutinated forms - *Jadammina macrescens* and *Miliammina fusca* as well as some cretaceous planktonics derived from the chalk. The marine species tend to very common in the southern North Sea Basin (see Murray, 1991). This mixture of sources of tests is very typical of an outer estuarine tidal channel and suggests the material was driven into the shore during a storm.

Sample 37421 CBY (013) [6] - homogenous fill of large pit 005 - transformed deposit

The forams here were not well preserved, many tests were badly abraded. Cockle shell debris was similarly worn. The assemblage was similar to that found in [5] and included the species *Ammonia beccarii* forma *batavus*, *Elphidium oceanensis*, *Elphidium excavata* forma *clavata*, *Cibicides lobatulus*, *Haynesina germanica*, *Jadammina macrescens*, and *Miliammina fusca*. Again these sediments appear to have been derived from an outer estuarine tidal channel and are possibly storm derived.

Conclusions:

Previous work in this area suggests the site at Caister Old Hall lay very close to the Late Roman shoreline (c. 400AD) in the mouth of the estuary. At this time a transgressive phase was reaching its peak and the evidence suggests that relative sea-level in the estuary may have

been up to a metre higher than it is today. The site is situated in a rather exposed position and would have been subject to storm induced deposition of sediment previously deposited in adjacent tidal channels - one of the main sub-tidal channels would have lain close to the northern side of the estuary (evidence for this can be found in Godwin, 1993). It would appear all the samples examined were derived in a similar way. However, subtle changes in sedimentology suggest that more than one event was involved in this process.

References:

Godwin, M L 1993. *The Microbiozonation and Microbiofacies of the Holocene Sediments of East Suffolk and North Norfolk*, PhD Thesis, University of East Anglia.

Murray J M 1991. *The ecology and palaeoecology of benthic foraminifera*. Longmans, London

Appendix 7

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Foraminifera	A type of protozoa. Unicellular marine animals, many species of which are good indicators of environmental conditions.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock that have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Vicus	A civilian settlement which grew up adjacent to a Roman fort.

Appendix 8

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

x31	Context records
x1	Photographic record sheets
x2	Plan Sheets
x4	Section Sheets
x1	Boxes of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

Responsibility for the ultimate destination of the project archive is held by :

Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
Norfolk Museums Service
Union House
Gressenhall
Dereham
Norfolk
NR20 4DR

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *County Standards for Field Archaeology in Norfolk*, produced by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

Norfolk Museums Accession Number:	37421CBY
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	37421CBY (COH02)

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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