

# SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

## 4, Neech's Yard, Fen Lane Beccles, Suffolk

**Client:**

Mr Mark Gladwell

**Date:**

April 2016

BCC 096

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SACIC Report No. 2016/030

Author: M. Sommers

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# 4, Neech's Yard, Fen Lane, Beccles Suffolk

**BCC 096**

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Report Date: April 2016



## HER Information

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**Site Code (event no.)**                    **BCC 096 (ESF23746)**

**Site Name:**                                **4, Neech's Yard, Fen Lane, Beccles**

**Planning Application Nos:**            **DC/14/3946/FUL**

**Dates of Fieldwork:**                 **30th March 2016**

**Grid Reference:**                         **TM 4220 9106**

**Oasis Reference:**                        **suffolka1-243370**

**Curatorial Officer:**                  **Dr. Abby Antrobus**

**Project Officer:**                         **M. Sommers**

**Client/Funding Body:**                 **Mr Mark Gladwell**

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Prepared By: M. Sommers  
Date: 12th April 2016

Approved By:  
Position:  
Date:  
Signed:



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## **Summary**

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to 4, Neech's Yard, Fen Lane, Beccles, revealed only a post-medieval overburden up to 1.6m thick overlying a natural subsoil of yellow sand and gravel. No significant artefacts, features or deposits were encountered. (Mark Sommers, Suffolk Archaeology CIC, for Mr Mark Gladwell).



# **1. Introduction**

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Planning consent (application no. DC/14/3964) for the construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to 4, Neech's Yard, Fen lane, Beccles, was granted but with an attached condition requiring an agreed programme of archaeological works be in place prior to the commencement of the development.

To define the archaeological work required a Brief was written by Dr. Abby Antrobus of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team. Given the nature of the proposed development archaeological monitoring of groundwork was deemed to be an adequate level of mitigation. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced detailing the methods to be employed to fulfil the Brief; this was subsequently approved by the Curatorial Officer (Appendix 1).

The archaeological monitoring was carried out during March 2016 by Suffolk Archaeology Community Interest Company (SACIC) who were commissioned and funded by the developer, Mr Mark Gladwell.

The National Grid Reference (NGR) for the centre of the site is TM 4220 9106. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

# **2. Geology and topography**

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The underlying geology in this area consists of sand of the Crag Group. It is overlain by sand and gravels of the Aldeby Sand and Gravel Member (British Geological Survey website).

The site lies within 100m of the River Waveney, which in this area is a navigable, tidal waterway. The local topography is generally level at around 1.5m OD although the rises steadily to the south.

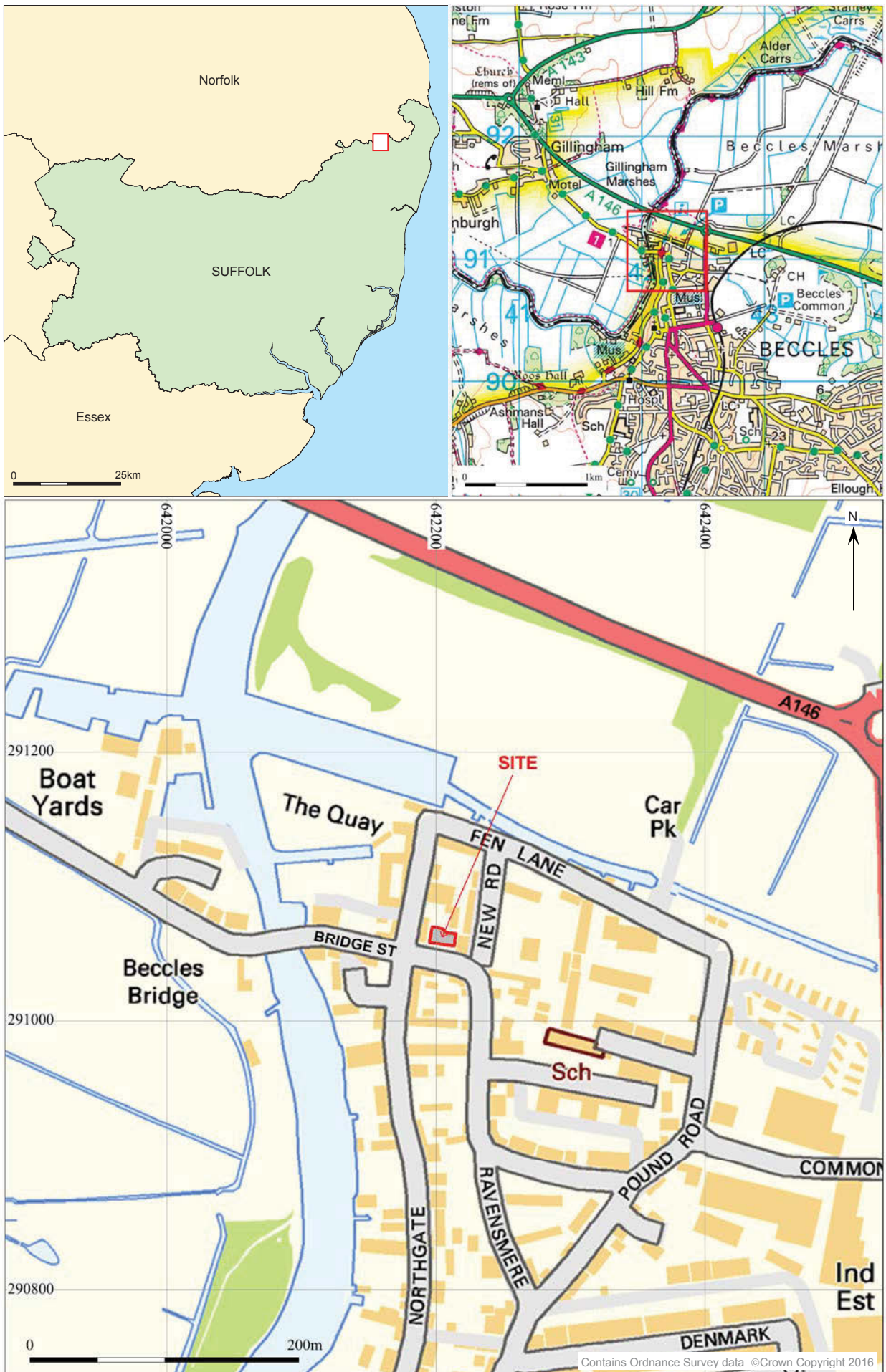


Figure 1. Location map

### 3. Archaeology and historical background

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The site lies close to the historic town of Beccles and medieval remains are recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER) as having been identified on sites 30m to the southeast (BCC 018) and 70m to the southwest (BCC 030 and BCC 009).

The site lies within the area of the medieval town as recorded on the County HER (BCC 018) although it lies to the north of Bridge Street and Ravensmere, which appear to mark the northern and eastern limits of the town in the post medieval period, as recorded on Hodskinson's map of 1778 (Fig. 2).

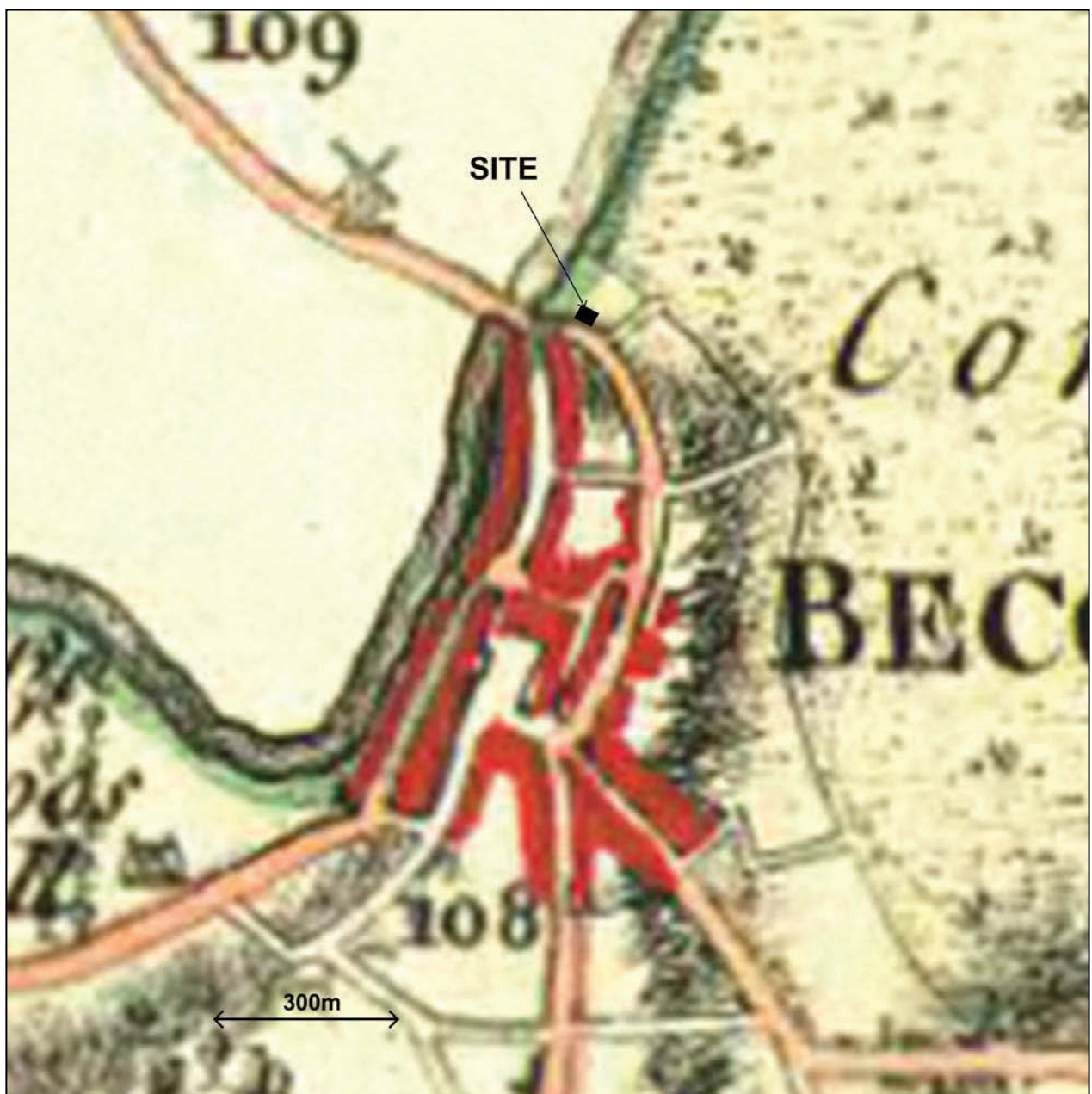


Figure 2. Hodskinson's map of Suffolk, 1778 (rescaled extract)

## **4. Methodology**

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The monitoring was achieved through the visual examination of the excavated trench whilst the work was underway, in order to identify and record any significant archaeological features and/or deposits that may be exposed. Scaled plans and sections would have been drawn had any significant remains been exposed, but in the event the prime method of recording was through the use of digital photography.

## **5. Results**

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The site was visited on the 30th March 2016 to monitor the works that were then underway (plate 1).

Footings for the new building were excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil which lay at a depth of 1.6m. See Figure 3 for a plan of the monitored footings.

The soil profile exposed by the excavated trench comprised a c.0.3m thick layer of dark topsoil which overlay a layer of a pale grey silty loamy material which measured c.0.4m in thickness. This in turn over a mid-brown silty sand which continued down to the surface of the natural subsoil (plate 2). All three layers were relatively clean with few artefacts although infrequent small fragments of what was probably post-medieval red brick or tile were noted in the basal layer right down to the surface of the natural subsoil. The interface between the basal layer and the natural subsoil was fairly abrupt which suggested the surface had been partly truncated.

## **6. Finds**

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No artefacts were recovered from the monitored trenches or the resultant spoil.

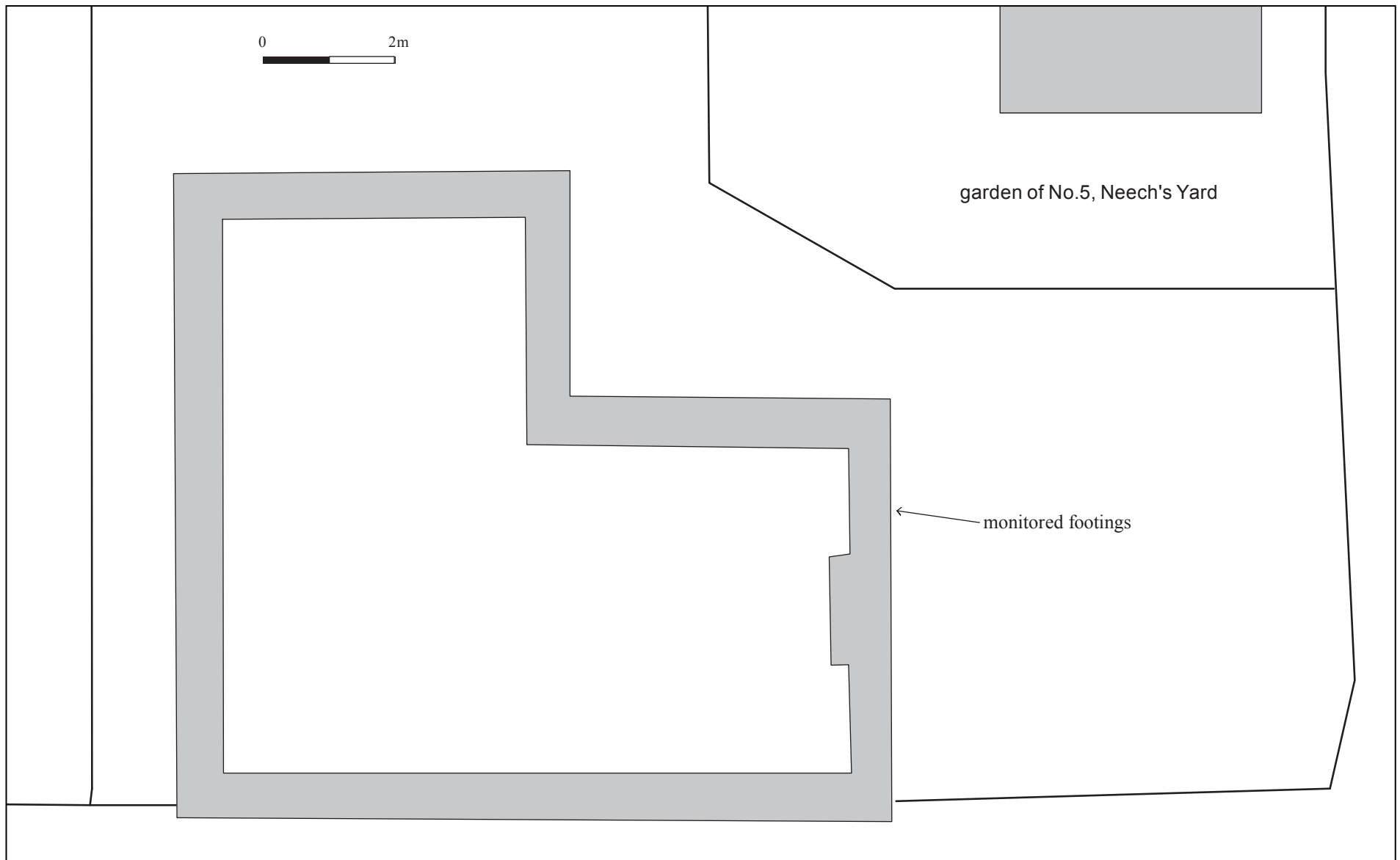


Figure 2. Plan of the monitored footing trenches

## **7. Discussion**

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No significant archaeological evidence was noted during the monitoring of the footing trenches. The great depth of overburden may represent the backfilling of what may have been an area used for the extraction of sand and gravel or it may just reflect a general building up of land levels in this riverside area in order to protect against flooding.

## **8. Archive deposition**

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The site archive will be sent to the County Historical Environment Record, under the HER reference, BCC 096. A summary of this project has been entered into OASIS, the online database, under the reference: suffolka1-243370 (see Appendix 2 for a copy of the entry).



# Plates

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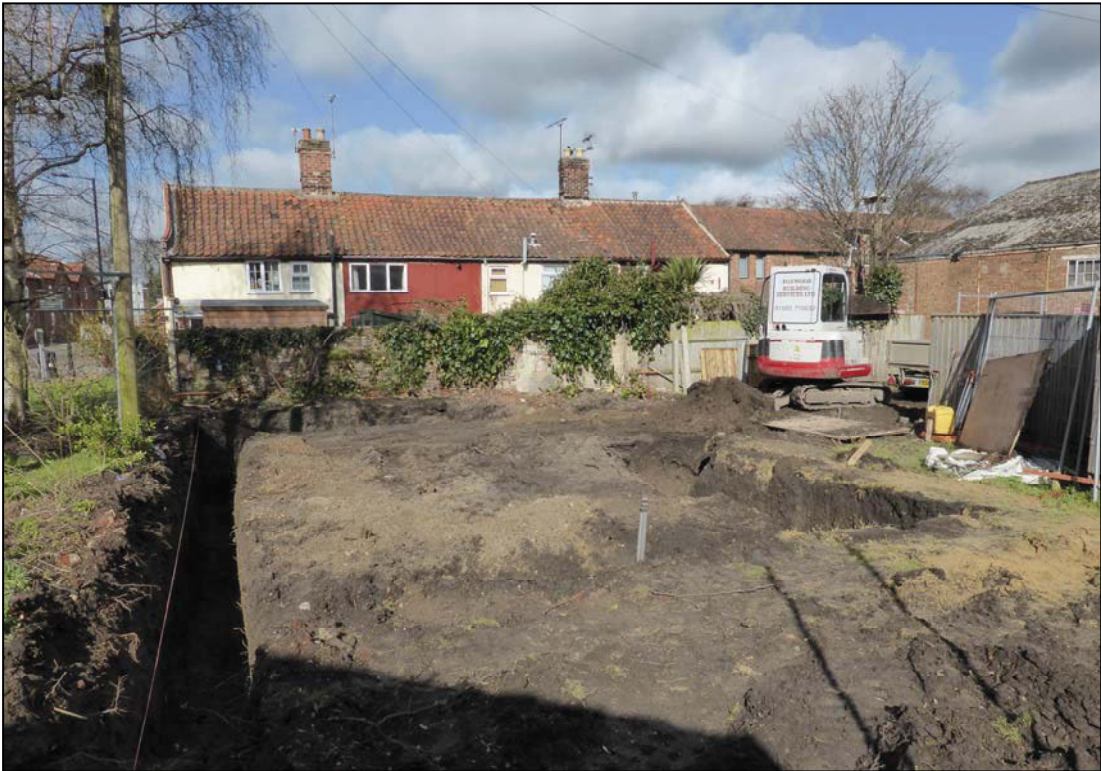


Plate 1. General view of the site, camera facing west



Plate 2. General view of footing trench, camera facing east



## Appendix 1. Written Scheme of Investigation

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### 4 Neeches Yard, Fen Lane, Beccles, Suffolk

#### Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological Monitoring

**Client:**  
Mr Mark Gladwell

**Date:**  
February 2016

Rhodri Gardner, MCIfA  
© SACIC

## Project details

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Planning Application No:	DC/14/3946/FUL
Curatorial Officer:	Abby Antrobus
Grid Reference:	TM 422 910
Area:	Small (part yard/garden)
HER Site Code:	BCC 096
HER Event No	ESF 23746
Oasis Reference:	Suffolka1-243370
Project Start date :	March 2016
Project Duration:	As required by construction works
Client/Funding Body:	Mr Mark Gladwell
SACIC Project Manager:	Dr Rhodri Gardner
SACIC Project Officer:	TBC

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## 1. Introduction

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- Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) has been contracted to monitor groundworks for a new dwelling and associated groundworks at 4 Neeches Yard, Beccles.
- The archaeological monitoring is required by a condition on the approved planning application, and is detailed in a Brief produced by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (SCCAS) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.
- The proposed groundworks for the development are to include a single new dwelling and such groundworks have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological deposits that may exist.
- The aim of the monitoring is to record all such deposits which are to be damaged or removed by the proposed development, or to identify important or unexpected features.

## 2. Archaeological method statement

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- An OASIS online record has been initiated and key fields in details, location and creator forms have been completed. An event number and site code will be acquired from the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record Office and will be included on all future project documentation.



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Figure 1. Site Location

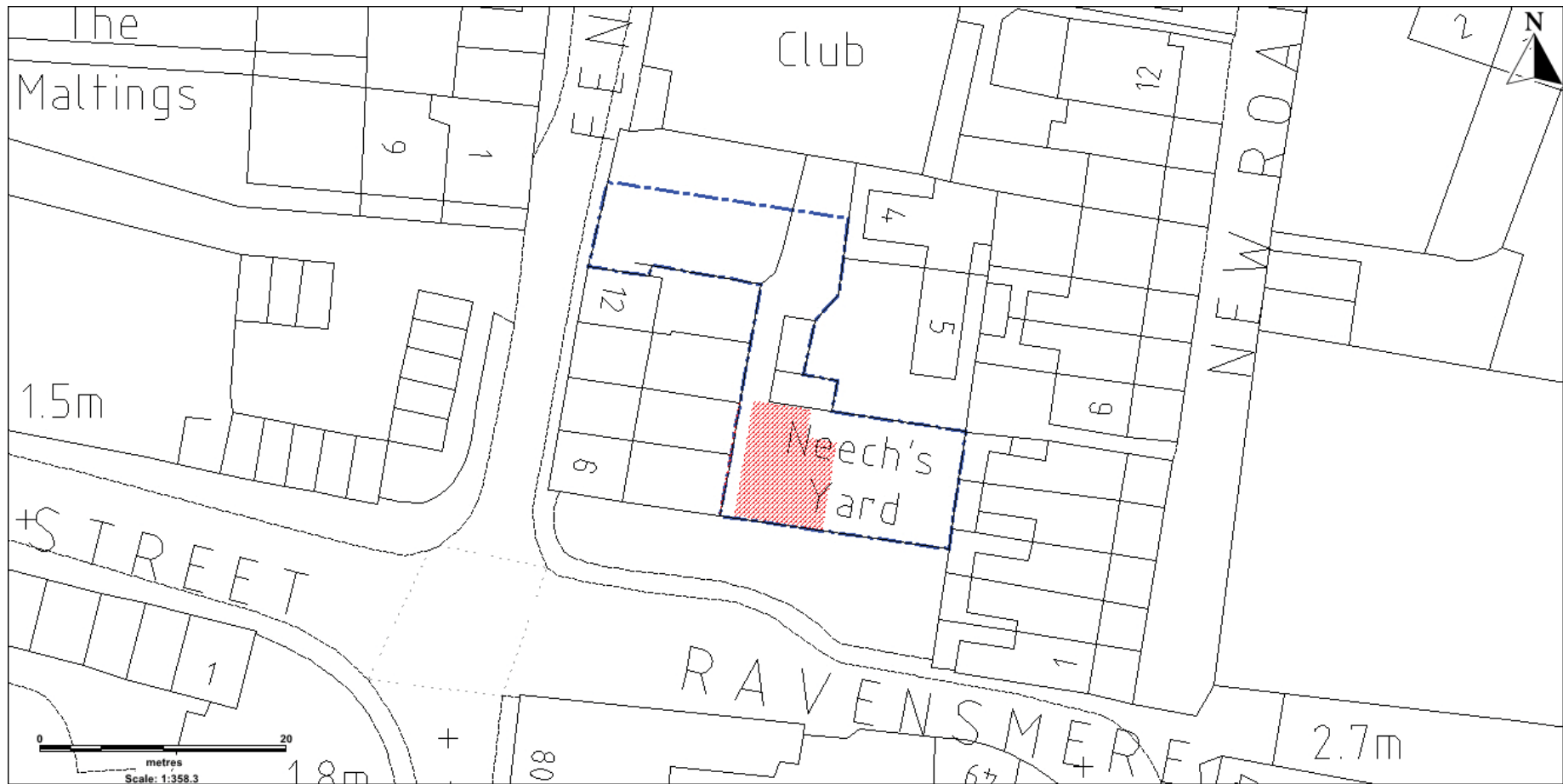
## 2.1. Fieldwork

- Fieldwork standards will be guided by ‘*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*’ (Gurney 2003) and ‘*Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*’ (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014).
- The groundworks will be continuously observed by a SACIC Project Officer, in close liaison with the developer/contractor. Adequate allowance has been made within the quote cost to cover the recording of exposed archaeological deposits. Should structural remains, human remains or other significant archaeological remains be encountered, groundworks will be stopped and the SCC Archaeological Advisor officer consulted. If required an updated WSI and quotation will be provided to allow for the full excavation and recording of such deposits although design scheme changes may be sought to ensure preservation *in situ*.
- All trenches/pits excavated will be examined for archaeological features and finds and hand cleaning will be undertaken to clarify small areas as necessary and as health and safety considerations allow. Exposed archaeological features will be sectioned by hand with sampling at a normal standard for medieval and earlier deposits (i.e. 100% of structural features or graves/cremations, 50% of contained features e.g. pits, and 10-20% of linear features). Cremations will be 100% bagged and taken as samples. Where appropriate a metal detector search of exposed surfaces and spoil will be undertaken.
- Normal SACIC conventions, compatible with the Suffolk HER, will be used during the site recording. Site records will be made using a continuous numbering system. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate, either by hand or using a RTK GPS. Plans and sections of individual features, soil layers *etc.* will be recorded at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. A digital photographic record will be made throughout the monitoring works.
- All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. All finds will be brought back to the SACIC office at the end of each day for processing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done in-house, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in archaeology and university departments in other parts of the country.
- Bulk environmental (40 litre) soil samples will be taken from selected archaeological features where possible and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeoenvironmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from the Historic England Regional Science Advisor (East of England), on the need for specialist environmental sampling.

- In the event of human remains being encountered on the site a Ministry of Justice licence for removal of human remains will be obtained. Any such find would require work in that part of the site to stop until the human remains have been removed.

## **2.2. Post-excavation work**

- The post-excavation work will be managed by Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff will be experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field. Members of the project team will be responsible for taking the project to archive and assessment levels.
- All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. All site plans and sections will be scanned to form a digital archive. Ordnance Datum levels will be located on the section sheets.
- All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County HER requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number. Finds will be recorded and archived to minimum standards laid down by relevant groups (e.g. the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery or the Medieval Pottery Research Group). Finds quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by OP and context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- Metal finds will be x-rayed if appropriate and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to Institute for Conservation (ICON) standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.
- Environmental samples will be processed and assessed in accordance with English Heritage (now Historic England) guidance (Campbell *et al* 2011).
- A full monitoring report summarising all the findings and containing a full assessment of all finds and samples will be produced, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE (Historic England 2015), to a scale commensurate with the archaeological results. A draft digital copy will be submitted to NCC HES for approval within 3 months of completion of fieldwork unless otherwise agreed. The report will contain all appropriate scale plans and sections. The report will include a statement as to the value and significance of the results in the context of the Regional Research Framework for the East of England (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, Medlycott 2011). The report will form the basis for full discharge of the relevant condition.



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Figure 2. Proposed new dwelling location (area of red hatching)



- On approval a digital .pdf, and a printed and bound copy of the report, will be submitted to the County HER. An unbound copy of the report will be included with the project archive. A digital and fully georeferenced vector plan showing the application area and trench locations, compatible with MapInfo software, will also be supplied.
- A digital .pdf copy of the approved report will be supplied to the client, together with our final invoice for outstanding fees. Printed and bound copies will be supplied on request.
- The online OASIS form for the project will be completed and a .pdf version of the report uploaded to the OASIS website for online publication by the Archaeological Data Service. A copy of the completed project OASIS form will be included as an appendix.
- The finds from the project will be deposited in the Suffolk County Council stores together with the project archive. The project costing includes the fee charged by SCC for this service. A form transferring ownership of the archive to SCC will be completed and included in the project archive.
- The project archive will be consistent *with Management of Research in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015). The project archive will also meet the requirements for deposition in the SCC Archive according to their latest guidelines (2015).
- Exceptions from the above include material covered by the Treasure Act which will be reported and submitted to the appropriate authorities, and human skeletal remains which will be stored within the archive until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.
- The client and/or landowner will be made aware that if they choose not to use the SCC archive facility they will be expected to make alternative arrangements for the long term storage of the archive that meet the requirements of SCC.

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## **Project Staff**

Project Manager:	Dr Rhodri Gardner
Site monitoring:	SACIC Project Officer or Supervisor
Finds Manager/Post Roman finds:	Richenda Goffin
Roman Pottery/General finds:	Stephen Benfield, Dr Ruth Beveridge
Prehistoric pottery:	Anna Doherty (Archaeology South-East)
Prehistoric flint:	Sarah Bates (freelance)
Faunal remains:	Julie Curl (freelance)
Human remains:	Sue Anderson (freelance)
Environmental samples:	Anna West and Val Fryer (freelance)

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## **Bibliography**

- Brown, N and Glazebrook, J. (Eds), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8.
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- Medlycott, M. (Ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Paper 24.

## Appendix 2. OASIS data collection form

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**OASIS ID: suffolka1-243370**

### Project details

Project name	4 Neech's Yard, Fen Lane, Beccles
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording of construction works during the building of a new dwelling revealed only 1.6m of made ground. Possibly a back-filled area of gravel extraction or a deliberate dump to raise land levels to protect against flooding.
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2016 End: 12-04-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BCC096 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Salvage Record"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY BECCLES 4 Neech's Yard, Fen Lane
Study area	200 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4220 9106 52.463097651528 1.565870547225 52 27 47 N 001 33 57 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project	Rhodri Gardner

director/manager  
Project supervisor Mark Sommers  
Type of Developer  
sponsor/funding body

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
Digital Contents "other"  
Digital Media available "Text", "Images raster / digital photography"  
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
Paper Contents "other"  
Paper Media available "Correspondence", "Report"

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### Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological Monitoring Report: 4, Neech's Yard, Fen Lane, Beccles, Suffolk  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Sommers, M.  
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Entered on 12 April 2016



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