SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

Albany Road car park

Lowestoft, Suffolk

Client:
DCH Construction

Date:
June 2017

LWT 363 / ESF25546
Archaeological Evaluation Report
SACIC Report No. 2017/054
Author: Catherine Douglas
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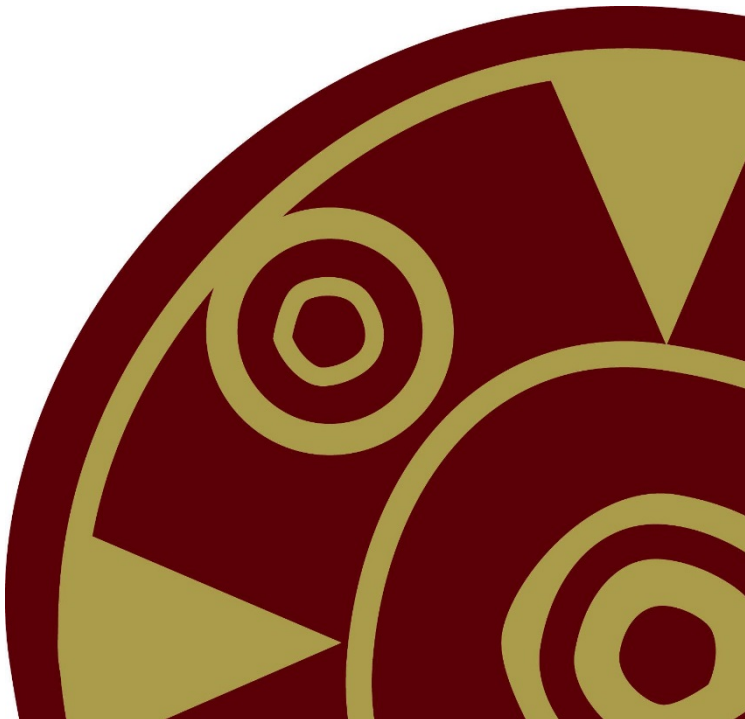

Albany Road car park, Lowestoft
LWT 363

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SACIC Report No. 2017/054

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Report Date: June/2017

HER Information

Site Code:	**LWT 363 / ESF25546**
Site Name:	**Albany Road Car Park, Lowestoft, Suffolk**
Report Number	**2017/054**
Planning Application No:	**DC/16/3051/FUL**
Date of Fieldwork:	**6th June 2017**
Grid Reference:	**TM 5509 9400**
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HER Search Reference:	**9201288**
Curatorial Officer:	**James Rolfe (Suffolk CC Archaeological Service)**
Project Officer:	**Catherine Douglas**
Client/Funding Body:	**DCH Construction**
Client Reference:	**n/a**

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
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Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk Archaeology CIC cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By:	Catherine Douglas
Date:	June 2017
Approved By:	John Craven
Position:	Project Manager
Date:	19/06/2017

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of the excavation of three trenches, was carried out at the Albany Road car park, Lowestoft, Suffolk, in advance of development of the site.

A single post-medieval field boundary ditch was identified in Trench 1 containing a single fragment of medieval roofing tile, together with later tiles dating to the late medieval to post-medieval period. The fill also contained a number of oyster shells and a large quantity of animal bone, which is fragmentary and shows evidence of butchery and splitting. No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

There was some disturbance from modern service pipes and overlying made ground layers, however for the most part the geological horizon appeared to remain intact, and the absence of archaeological deposits suggests a general lack of activity on the site before the post-medieval period.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Features

Break of Slope

Features - Conjectured

Natural Features

Sondages/Machine Strip

Intrusion/Truncation

Illustrated Section S.14

Cut Number 0008

Archaeological Features

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Modern Cut

Cut - Conjectured

Deposit Horizon

Deposit Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top of Natural

Top Surface

Break in Section

Cut Number 0008

Deposit Number 0007

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Albany Road car park, Lowestoft (Fig. 1) with work undertaken on 6th June 2017. The work was carried out as a condition of the planning permission, granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Council, for the development of eighteen residential units, together with associated highways and landscaping works on land off Albany Road (planning application DC/16/3051/FUL).

The work required was detailed in a Brief (dated 18/10/2016), produced by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), James Rolfe of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS). A written scheme of investigation was then prepared by John Craven of Suffolk Archaeology (SACIC Appendix 5), which detailed the aims and methods of the archaeological evaluation.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located in the northern part of the historic town of Lowestoft, and is largely bounded by residential housing. It currently comprises of an unsurfaced public carpark bounded by a brick wall to the north and west and the rear gardens/yards of residential properties to the south and east.

The site lies at a height of c.25m above Ordnance Datum, *c.*400m inland from the modern shoreline. The site geology consists of superficial deposits of Corton Woods sand and gravel which overlie sedimentary bedrock of Crag Group sand (British Geological Survey website).

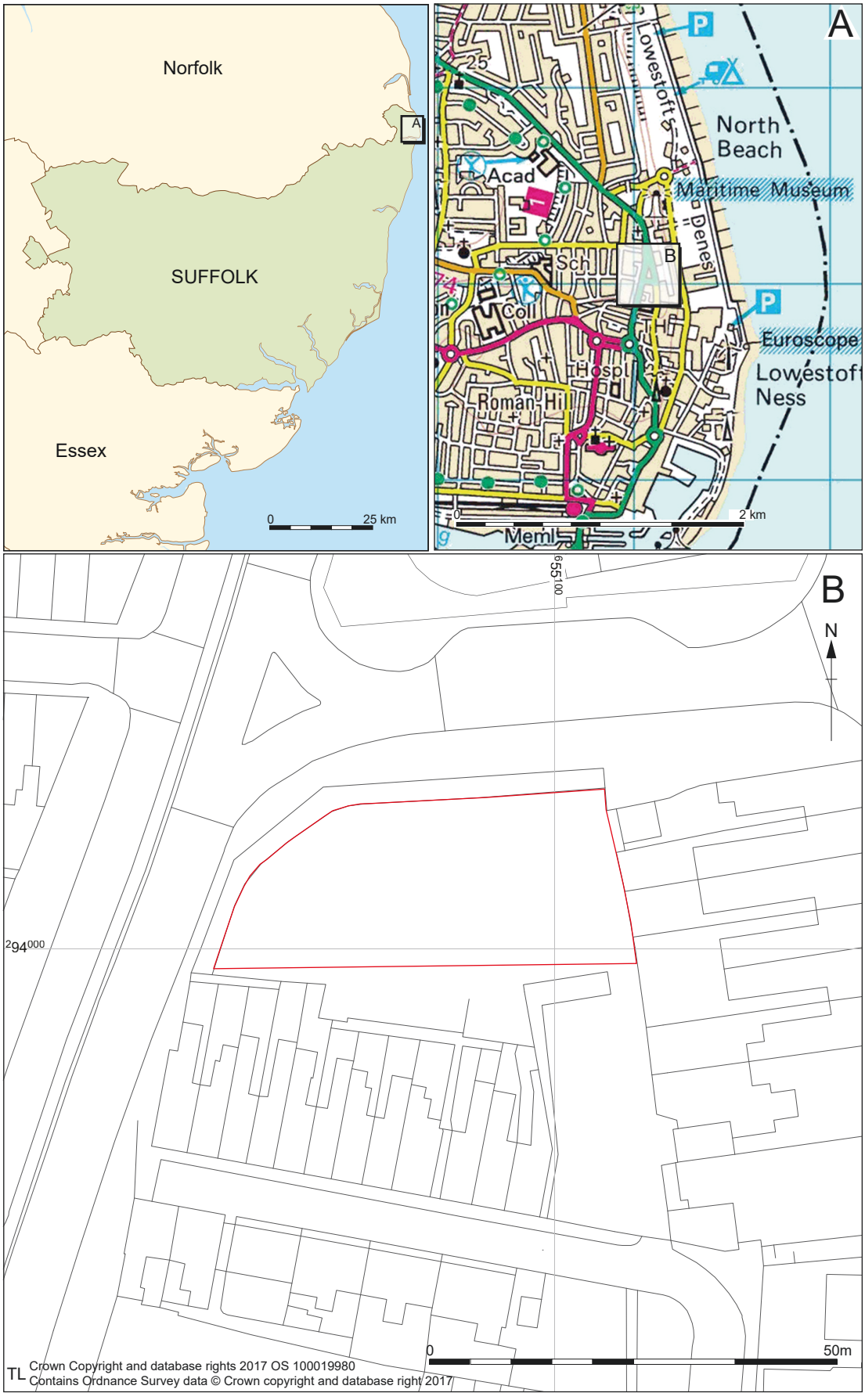

Figure 1. Location of site

3. Archaeology and historical background

John Craven

The Brief stated that the archaeological condition was placed on the planning permission because the site *'lies in the historic core of Lowestoft defined as an area of archaeological interest and importance in the County Historic Environment Record (LWT 040). The site appears to form a block of land set out in the early street plan. Archaeological evaluation has been undertaken of part of the site to the south, which has revealed layers of built up soils on the site. No archaeological features were recorded in the evaluation, although an intact soil layer which is potentially early was recorded at the base of the sequence. Given the nature of the site further to the south, south of Compass Street (LWT 183, LWT 351) which revealed pits, material culture and building remains relating to late medieval Lowestoft, there is potential for features on the site which may be impacted upon by excavations construction groundworks.'*

A search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Records (Fig. 2) shows that a Neolithic axe findspot lies immediately to the south (LWT 002) but that other entries relate to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The site of a medieval Priory of St Bartholomew (LWT 013) lies 160m to the southeast and other medieval walls, features and buried soils have been seen around the vicinity of the site, often in conjunction with post-medieval deposits (LWT 140, LWT 167, LWT 165 and LWT 337). A post-medieval clay pipe production site is recorded to the south (LWT Misc) and the Lowestoft Porcelain Factory (LWT 038) to the south-west. Several WW2 structures, such as air raid shelters and pillboxes (LWT 093, LWT 226, LWT 227, LWT 228 and LWT 229), are noted to the west and south-west.

Historic Ordnance Survey mapping of the late 19th/early 20th century (Figs. 3 and 4) first shows the site in 1886 as consisting of several small open plots with trees to the rear of properties fronting the High Street. By 1927 the area between Albany Road and Camden Street has been substantially developed, with a series of buildings across the site itself and a terraced residential row immediately to the south fronting Albany Road. Since 1927 the site itself has been wholly cleared and its boundaries defined in part by the creation of Jubilee Way to the west.

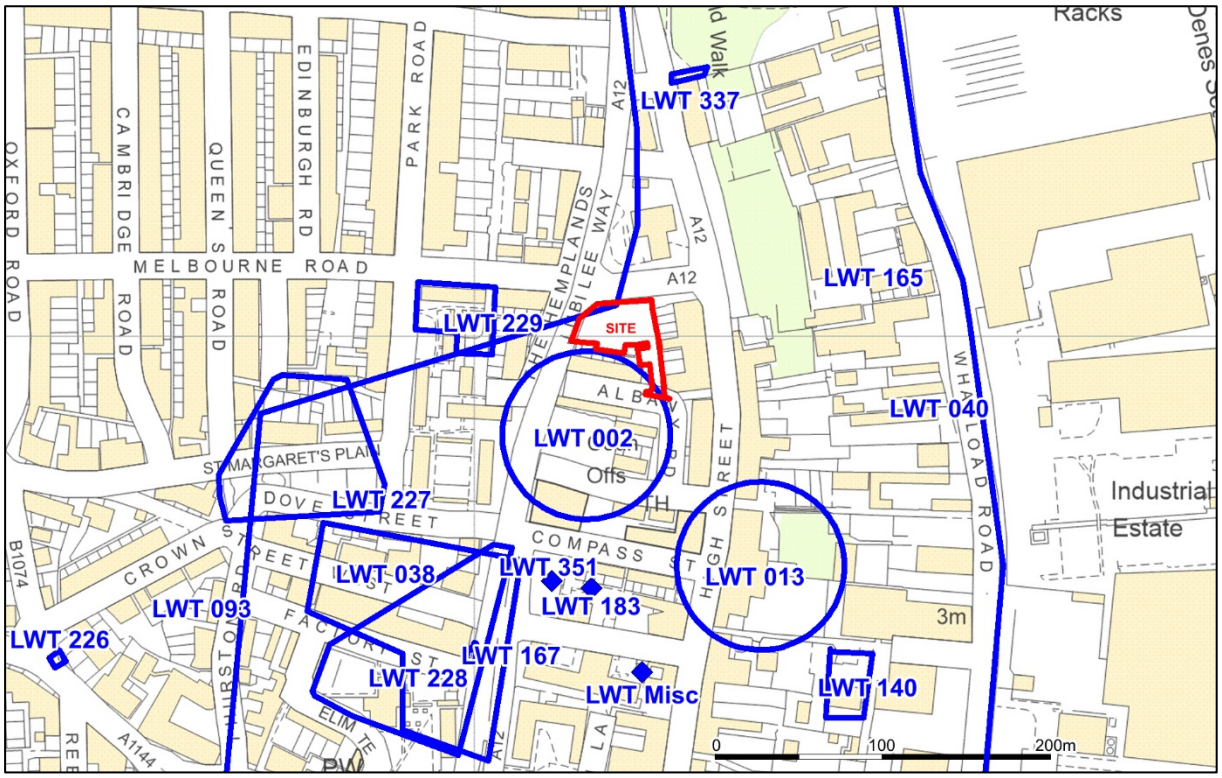

Figure 2. Nearby sites recorded on the Suffolk HER

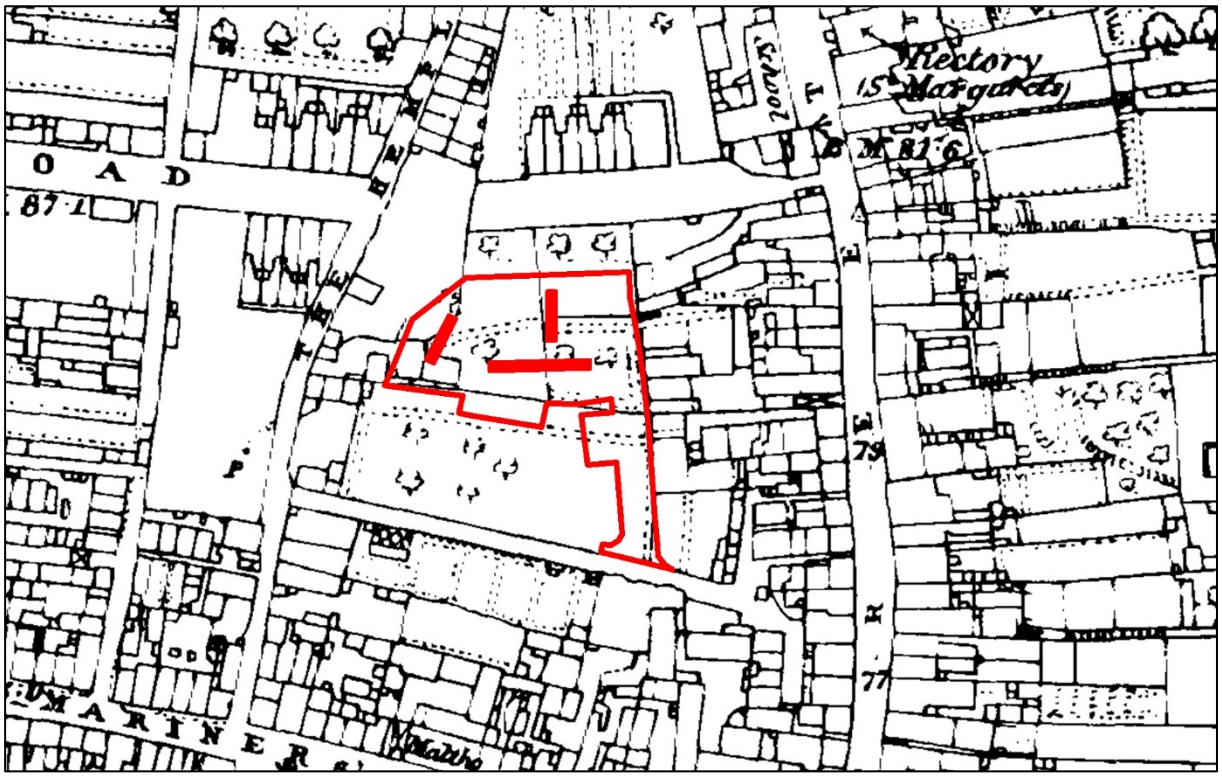

Figure 3. Site as shown on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1886

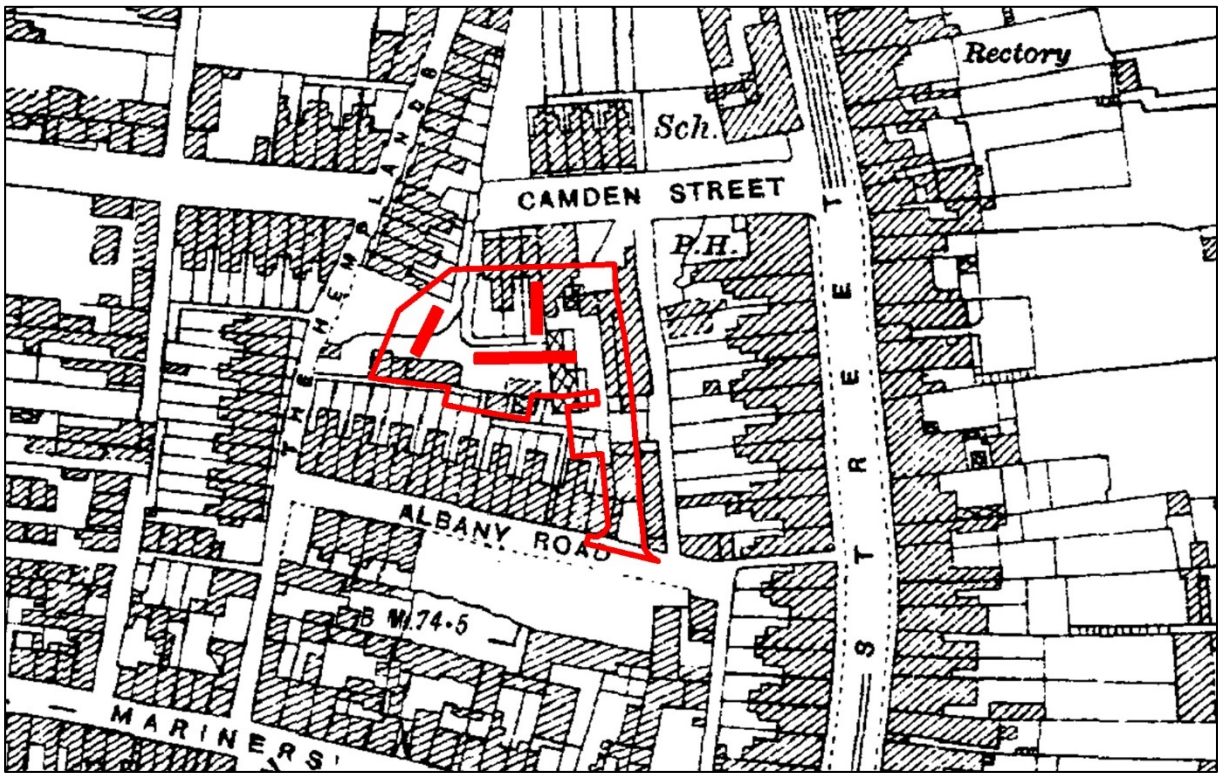

Figure 4. Site as shown on 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey, 1927

4. Project objectives

The aim of the evaluation was to accurately quantify the quality and extent of the sites archaeological resource so that an assessment of the developments impact upon heritage assets can be made.

More specifically, the evaluation sought to:

- Establish whether any archaeological deposits exist in the application area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ.
- Identify the date, approximate form and function of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
- Establish the extent, depth and quality of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and whether masking alluvial or colluvial deposits are present.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Assess the potential of the site to address research aims defined in the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
- Provide sufficient information for SCCAS to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation or the further recording of archaeological deposits.
- Provide sufficient information for the client to establish time and cost implications for the development regarding the application areas heritage assets.

5. Methodology

Three trenches were excavated, as set out in the WSI (Appendix 5). Trench 1 measured a length of 12m by a width of 1.8m; Trench 2 measured a length of 10.8m by a width of 1.8m, and Trench 3 measured a length of 20m by a width of 1.8m. The north end of Trench 2 targeted the terraced buildings shown on the 1927 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey (Fig. 4).

The trenches were marked out using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) (Leica GPS). The trench locations are shown on Figure 5.

The trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). Trenches were opened using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide bladed ditching bucket in order to provide a good clean cut. Different layers of overburden were stored on opposite sides of the trench to facilitate sequential backfilling.

Excavation was carried out under the continuous supervision of an archaeologist. Mechanical excavation, in spits of no more than 0.25m, of undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and layers of underlying made ground, was carried out down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying geology, whichever was uppermost. Where trenches exceeded 1.20m in depth, 1m wide steps were machine excavated for each 1m in depth to allow safe access.

Discrete archaeological features were manually excavated in order to recover evidence for their date, form and function. All artefactual evidence was retained with a 'no discard' policy operated on-site.

Contextual information was recorded in a unique continuous numbering system on SCCAS Field Team pro-forma context sheets under the HER code LWT 363.

Plans and sections drawings were executed in pencil on A3-sized sheets of plastic drafting film at scales of 1:20. Features and levels were surveyed using a DGPS.

A photographic record comprising high resolution digital shots was maintained throughout the evaluation.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code LWT 363.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolka1-284855, Appendix 3) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/ greylit).

The site archive will be kept at the SACIC office in Needham Market until it is deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service under HER code LWT 363.

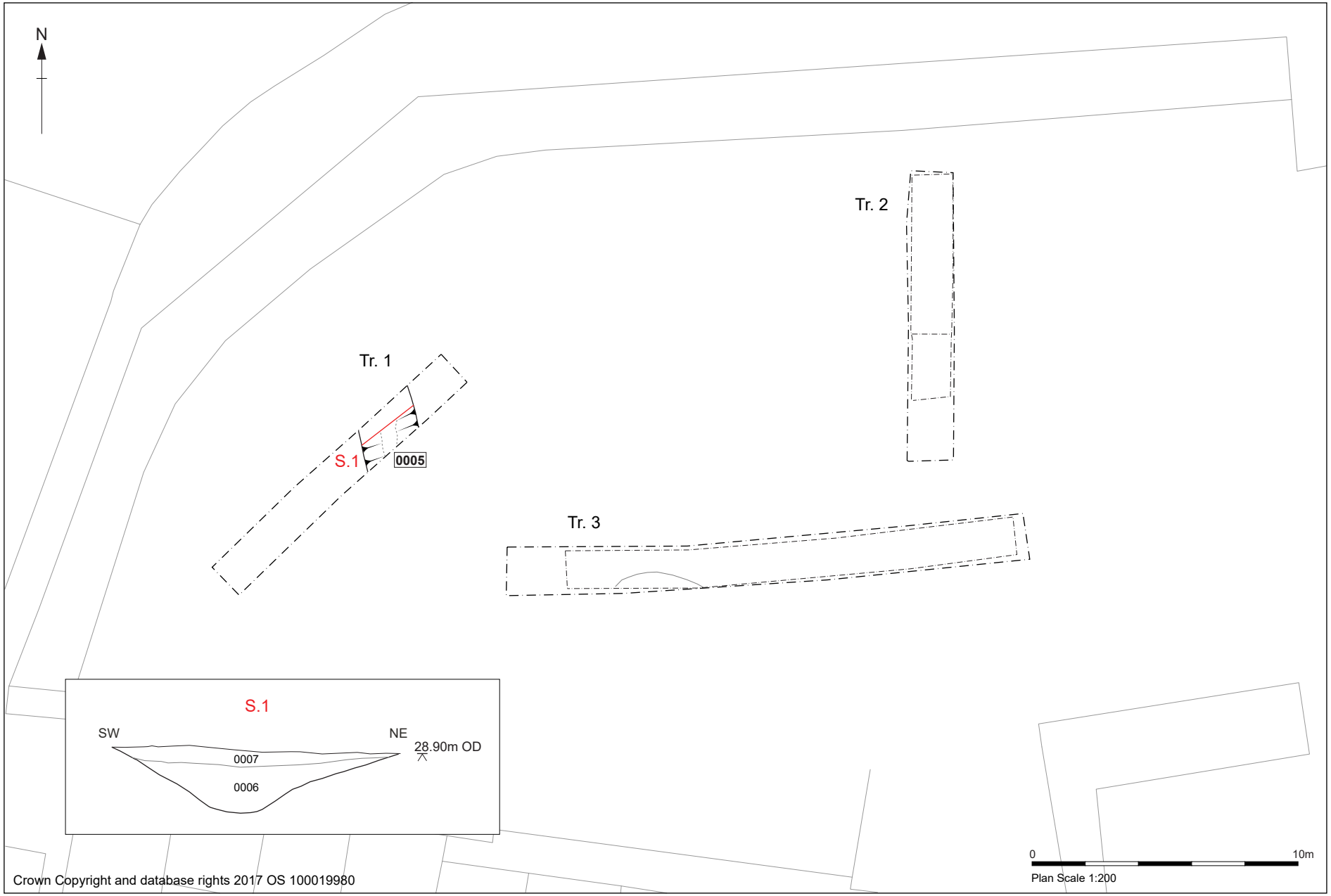

Figure 2. Trench plan and section

6. Results

6.1 Introduction

The three trenches (Fig. 5) were excavated to a maximum depth of between 1.09 – 1.23m below ground surface level. Only one archaeological feature was identified during the evaluation, and this is described in section 6.3 below. A full trench list is provided in Appendix 1 and a context list in Appendix 2.

6.2 Geology and overburden

The natural geological surface, comprising of yellow sands and gravels, 0004, was identified in every trench. The site was relatively flat, with the level of geology ranging from 24m in Trench 1 to 25m AOD in Trench 2.

The natural was overlain by a thick layer of made ground / subsoil, 0003, which consisted of mid-brown friable silty sandy clay containing occasional flint inclusions. It extended along the whole length and width of the trenches and measured a thickness of 0.37m. This is likely to be intact subsoil, with some disturbance in the top of the context from the overlying made ground, 0002.

The overlying made ground, 0002, measured a thickness of 0.49m and consisted of dark grey friable silty sandy clay, containing occasional flint and modern bricks. This layer was most likely used to build up the ground level for its current use as a carpark. It was overlain by a layer of made ground, 0001, which consisted of a layer of orange sandy gravels overlain by a layer of grey sandy gravels, measuring a total thickness of 0.13m. This formed the compact surface of the existing car park.

6.3 Trench results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the western part of the site, on a northeast-southwest orientation. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.09m below ground surface level.

The natural, 0004, was identified at 23.99m AOD. There was some evidence for disturbance at this level in the centre of the trench, but the natural remained intact

throughout the majority of the trench.

A single ditch 0005 was identified towards the northeast end of the trench. It was oriented north-northwest – south-southeast and measured a width of 2.50m by a depth of 0.62m. It had gradually sloping straight sides and a concave base. The primary fill 0006 measured a thickness of 0.42m and consisted of fine / friable mid brown silty sand containing frequent small flints and occasional tiny gravels. No dating evidence was recovered from the primary fill. This was overlain by a secondary fill 0007, which measured a thickness of 0.20m and consisted of dark grey brown friable silty clayey sand containing frequent flints and gravels. It contained a single fragment of medieval roofing tile, together with later tiles dating to the late medieval to post-medieval period. The fill also contained a number of oyster shells and a large quantity of animal bone, which is fragmentary and shows evidence of butchery and splitting.

The upper ditch fill 0007 was immediately overlain by made ground, 0002, which measured a thickness of 0.49m.

Plate 1. Trench 1 facing northeast (2 x1m scales)

Plate 2. Profile of ditch 0005 facing south-east (2 x 1m scales)

Trench 2

Trench 2 was positioned on the location of the buildings shown on the 1927 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 3), on a north-south orientation. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.23m below ground surface level.

The natural, 0004, was identified at 23.82m AOD and no archaeological finds or features were identified. The natural was overlain by subsoil, 0003, which measured a thickness of 0.36m. This in turn, was overlain by a thick layer of made ground 0002, which measured a thickness of 0.65m.

A number of 20th century walls were identified in the north end of the trench above the level of the subsoil, at 25.05m AOD, much higher than the level of the natural, 0004.

Plate 3. Trench 2 facing north (2 x 1m scales)

Plate 4. Trench 2 facing southeast (2 x 1m scales)

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in the southern part of the site, on an east-west orientation. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.22m below ground surface level, at 23.82m AOD. The natural, 0004, consisting of sand and gravels was identified at this level. No archaeological finds or features were identified in Trench 3.

Two drainage services crossed the trench on a north-south orientation. A large concrete and brick wall was identified in the north facing section of the trench, which appeared to truncate the subsoil 0003, as well as truncating the overlying made ground 0002.

Plate 5. Trench 3 facing east (2 x 1m scales)

Plate 6. Concrete and brick structure in Trench 3, facing south (1 m scale)

7. The Finds

Richenda Goffin

7.1 Introduction

A small quantity of finds was recovered from a single feature during the evaluation (Table 1).

Context	CBM		Animal Bone		Shell		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0007	6	443	47	753	7	44	PMed
Total	**6**	**443**	**47**	**753**	**7**	**44**	

Table 1. Finds quantities

7.2 Ceramic Building Material

Six fragments of ceramic building material were collected from the fill 0007 of ditch 0005. The assemblage was fully recorded and the catalogue is shown in Appendix 4. The codes used for the fabrics are based on ones currently in use within the county of Suffolk (Sue Anderson, unpublished list).

The group consists of fragments of roofing tile, which date almost entirely to the late medieval and post-medieval periods. They are fully oxidised and made in fabrics which are widely found on post-Roman sites in the region. In addition, there is a small abraded piece of roof tile which is earlier in date. It is glazed, and has a reduced core and shows abrasion. These features indicate that it is medieval and that it dates from the 13th – 15th century.

None of the roof tile was recommended as being worthy of retention in the archive.

7.3 Faunal Remains

Forty-seven pieces of animal bone with an overall weight of 753g were recovered from fill 0007 of the ditch 0005. A high proportion is made up of broken and split fragments, which are not diagnostic apart from representing medium and larger sized mammals such as bovines. The assemblage includes the horn core and part of the upper skull of a goat (or possibly sheep), the unfused proximal end of a tibia, probably bovine, part of a femur

head (fragmentary and damaged), a fragment of scapula, two pieces of chopped vertebrae, and a poorly preserved small piece of a mandible with two worn molars.

7.4 Shell

A small number of oyster shells were present in the ditch, together with the remains of one terrestrial shell.

7.5 Discussion of material evidence

The finds were recovered from the secondary fill of ditch 0005. They included a single fragment of medieval roofing tile, together with later tiles dating to the late medieval to post-medieval period. The fill also contained a quantity of animal bone which is fragmentary and shows evidence of butchery and splitting.

8. Discussion

8.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence and preservation

The majority of the trenching confirmed that the archaeological horizon is reasonably well-preserved beneath a fairly consistent surface of subsoil and made ground. The natural geology, comprising sands and gravels, was identified in every trench and, in all three trenches, was immediately overlain by a layer of subsoil consisting of mid-brown silty sand, 0003.

The subsoil was immediately overlain by a thick layer of made ground, 0002, made up of dark grey silty sandy clay, containing occasional flint inclusions and occasional post-medieval bricks and ceramic building material. This was overlain by a further layer of made ground, 0001, made up of sandy gravels and measuring a thickness of 0.13m.

8.2 Feature type and distribution

Only a single feature was identified during the evaluation. This was a north-northwest – south-southeast oriented ditch in Trench 1. It contained a single fragment of medieval roofing tile, together with later tiles dating to the late medieval to post-medieval period. The fill also contained a number of oyster shells and a large quantity of fragmentary animal bone, which shows evidence of butchery and splitting. This ditch is visible on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of 1886, where two fields are separated by a roughly north-south aligned boundary, in the northeast corner of the site.

9. Conclusions

While there was some disturbance from modern service pipes and overlying made ground layers the geological and archaeological horizons appeared, for the most part, to remain intact. The general absence of archaeological deposits, apart from a single post-medieval field boundary ditch, therefore suggests a genuine lack of activity on the site before the late post-medieval period.

The ditch clearly relates to a boundary on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886 and shortly after the site was developed as part of the expanding town. Prior to this however the evidence of the evaluation trenching suggests that the site lay outside of the medieval and post-medieval settlement core.

No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered and so the proposed development is unlikely to have any impact upon significant archaeological deposits. The site is also unlikely to have any potential to address research aims defined in the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).

10. Archive deposition

The site archive will be kept at the SACIC office in Needham Market until it is deposited in the SCCAS Archive store at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Catherine Douglas, Diogo Matos and Sara Pereira.

Project management was undertaken by John Craven, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and analysis was undertaken by Jonathan Van Jennians. The specialists finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin.

The report illustrations were created by Gemma Bowen and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

12. 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.

Medlycott, M. (Ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.* EAA Occasional Paper 24.

Online resource
British Geological Survey
www.bgs.ac.uk (Accessed on 07/06/17)

Appendix 1. Trench list

Trench Number	Length (m)	Orientation	Geology	Depth to Natural (m)	Description	Summary	Associated contexts
1	12.6	NE/SW	Sand and gravels	1.09	NE end of trench slightly moved to the northeast to avoid an abandoned car. One ditch [0005] oriented NNW-SSE Made ground (0001), down to made ground (0002), down to subsoil (0003), down to natural (0004).	One ditch 0005 identified in northeast end of the trench.	0001, 0002, 0003, 0004, 0005, 0006, 0007
2	10.83	N/S	Sand and gravels	1.23	Made ground (0001), down to made ground (0002), down to subsoil (0003), down to natural (0004).	Blank trench	0001, 0002, 0003, 0004
3	20	E/W	Sand and gravels	1.23	Made ground (0001), down to made ground (0002), down to subsoil (0003), down to natural (0004).	Blank trench	0001, 0002, 0003, 0004

Appendix 2. Context List

Context Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Feature Number	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation
0001	1 - 3	Made Ground	Layer	0001	One thin layer of silty gravels overlying one orange layer of silty gravels forming the compact hard surface of the modern carpark. Containing occasional modern brick fragments.	Entire site	Entire site	0.13	Modern gravelly compact layer forming car park.
0002	1 - 3	Made Ground	Layer	0002	Dark grey friable silty sandy clay containing occasional bricks and flint.	>12.60	>1.60	0.49	Thick layer of made ground used to level the ground for the modern carpark.
0003	1 - 3	Made Ground	Layer	0003	Mid brown firable silty sandy clay containing occasional flint.	>12.60	>1.60	0.37	Thick layer of made ground used to level the ground for the modern car park.
0004	1 - 3	Natural	Layer	0004	Dark yellow loose sand and gravels contianing occsaional flints.	>12.60	>1.60		Natural
0005	1	Ditch	Cut	0005	Linear north-northwest - south-southeast ditch with gradually sloping straight sides and a concave base.	>1.60	2.50	0.62	Post-medieval field boundary ditch
0006	1	Primary fill	Fill	0005	Mid brown fine / friable silty sand containing frequent small flints and occasional tiny gavels.	>1.60	2.50	0.42	Primary fill of ditch. This fill does not contain any dating evidence.
0007	1	Secondary fill	Fill	0005	Dark grey brown friable silty clayey sand containing frequent flints and gravels. This is the top (secondary) fill of ditch 0005.	>1.60	2.50	0.20	Upper / secondary fill of ditch 0005.

Appendix 3. OASIS form

OASIS ID: suffolka1-284855	
Project details	
Project name	Albany Road car park, Lowestoft
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation, consisting of the excavation of three trenches, was carried out at the Albany Road car park, Lowestoft, Suffolk, in advance of development of the site. A single post-medieval field boundary ditch was identified in Trench 1. No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered. There was some disturbance from modern service pipes and overlying made ground layers, however for the most part the geological horizon appeared to remain intact, and the absence of archaeological deposits suggests a general lack of activity on the site before the post-medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 06-06-2017 End: 06-06-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LWT 363 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	DC/16/3051/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	'Area of archaeological interest' - in the historic core of Lowestoft
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	OYSTER SHELL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY LOWESTOFT Albany Road car park, Lowestoft
Postcode	NR32 1JR
Study area	0.15 Hectares

Site coordinates	TM 5509 9400 52.483561178437 1.757465626686 52 29 00 N 001 45 26 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 24m Max: 25m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	James Rolfe
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Contractor
Name of sponsor/funding body	DCH Construction

Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Albany Road Car Park, Lowestoft, Suffolk, Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Douglas, C.
Other bibliographic details	Suffolk Archaeology Report Number 2017/054
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Place of issue or publication	Needham Market, Suffolk
Description	One A4 paper bound report
Entered by	Catherine Douglas (catherine.douglas@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	8 June 2017

Appendix 4. Ceramic Building Material catalogue

Context No	Count	Weight (g)	Fabric	Form	Comments	Retain	Period
0006	1	42	msf	RT	Glazed, mainly reduced, abraded, mort on reverse	No	Medieval
0006	1	44	fscp	RT	Fully oxidised	No	Late/post-med
0006	1	125	fsfe	RT	Fine sand, slight reduction, mortar on 1 main face & 1 edge	No	Late/post-med
0006	1	113	fsfe	RT	Mortar on underside & 1 edge, oxidised	No	Late/pmed
0006	2	117	fs	RT	Less well made but all oxidised, mortar on 1 face & 1 edge	No	Late/pmed

Fabric codes:

msf medium sandy with flint

fs fine sand

fsfe fine sand with ferrous incs

fscp fine sand with clay pellets

Appendix 5. Written Scheme of Investigation

SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY
• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

Albany Road car park
Lowestoft, Suffolk

Client:
DCH Construction

Date:
May 2017

LWT 363 / ESF25546
Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment – Archaeological Evaluation
Author: John Craven
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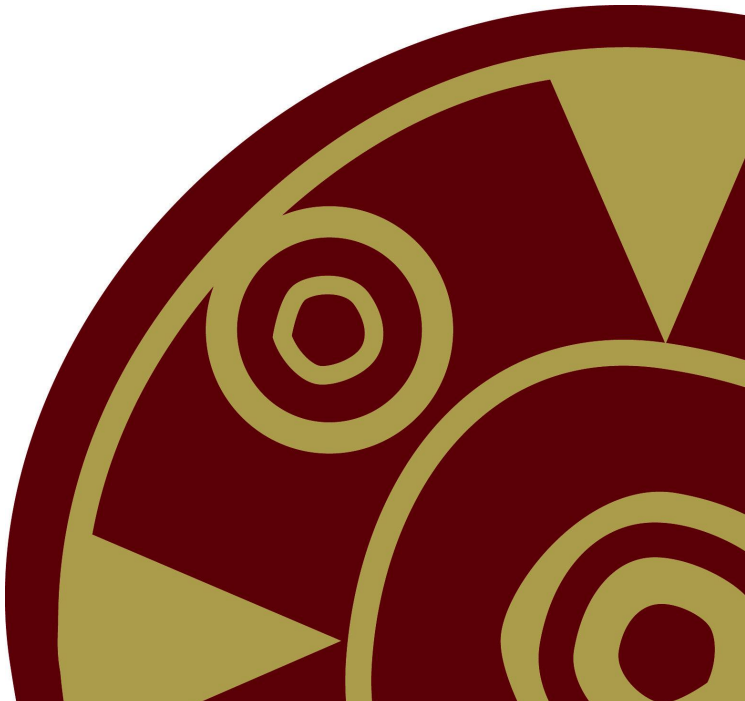

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Project details

Planning Application No:	DC/16/3051/FUL
Curatorial Officer:	James Rolfe (Suffolk CC Archaeological Service)
Grid Reference:	TM 55094400
Area:	0.146ha
Site Code / HER Event No:	LWT 363 / ESF25546
Oasis Reference:	284855
Project Start date	05/06/2017
Project Duration:	c. 1 day
Client/Funding Body:	DCH Construction
SACIC Project Manager	John Craven
SACIC Project Officer:	TBC
SACIC Job Code:	LWTALB001

1. Introduction

- A program of archaeological evaluation is required to assess the site of residential development at the Albany Road car park, Lowestoft, Suffolk (Fig. 1) for heritage assets, by a recommended condition on planning application DC/16/3051/FUL, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- The proposed residential development consists of one large block of flats in the north and western part of the site with associated parking and road access. The groundworks for the developments will involve significant ground disturbance and this could have a detrimental impact upon any archaeological deposits that exist.
- The work required is detailed in a Brief (dated 18/10/2016), produced by the archaeological adviser to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), James Rolfe of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS).
- Suffolk Archaeology (SACIC) has been contracted to carry out the project. This document details how the requirements of the Brief and general SCCAS guidelines (SCCAS 2011) will be met, and has been submitted to SCCAS for approval on behalf of the LPA. It provides the basis for measurable standards and will be adhered to in full, unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS.
- It should be noted that the evaluation is only a first stage in a potential program of works and that this Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covers this trenched evaluation only. Any further stages of archaeological work that are required in relation to the proposed development will be specified by SCCAS, will require new documentation (Brief and WSI) and estimate of costs. Such works could have considerable time and cost implications for the development and the client is advised to consult with SCCAS as to their obligations following receipt of the evaluation report.

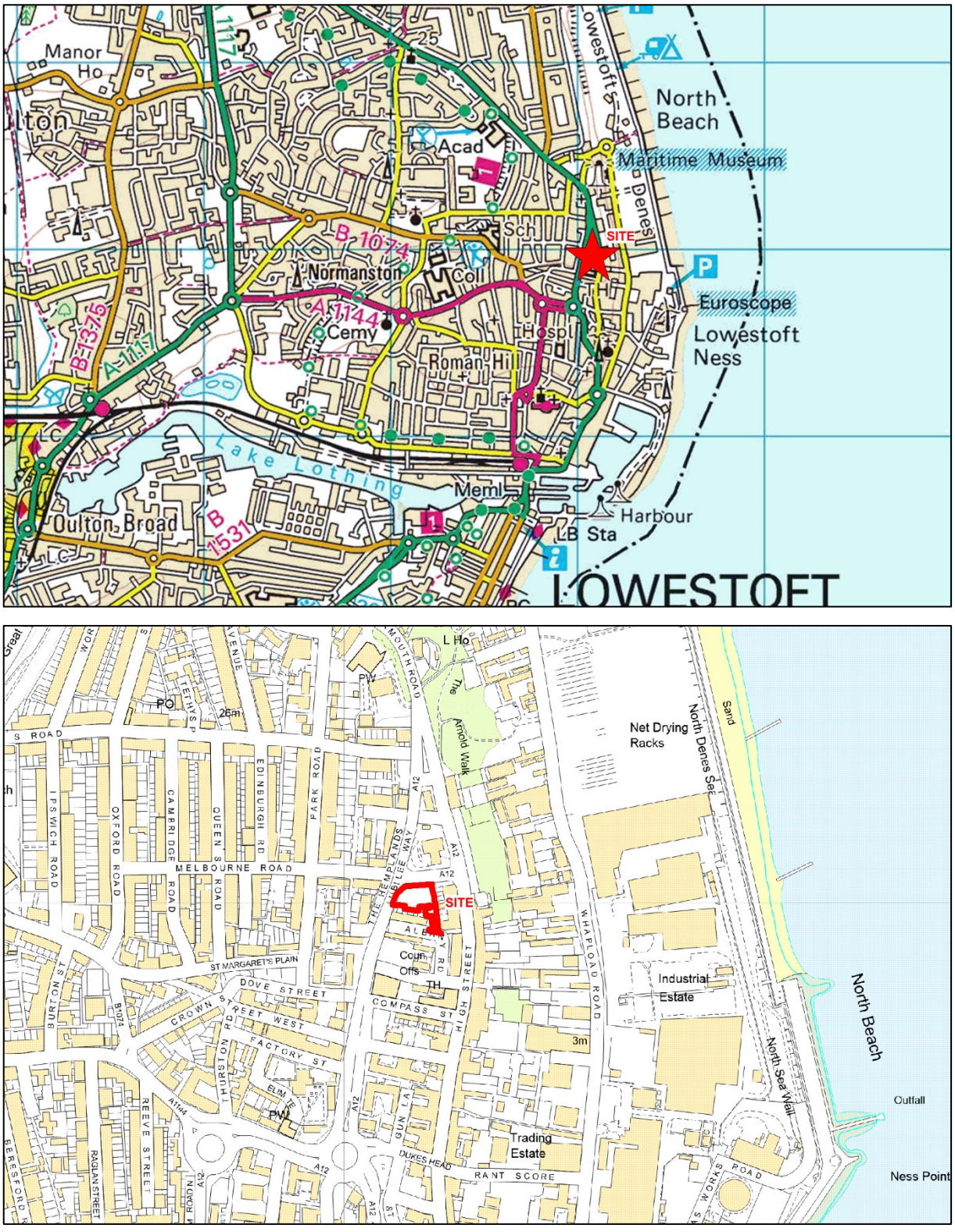

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Figure 1. Location map

2. The Site

- The sites in the northern part of the historic town of Lowestoft, and is largely bounded by residential housing. It currently comprises of a unsurfaced public carpark bounded by a brick wall to the north and west and the rear gardens/yards of residential properties to south and east.
- The site lies at a height of *c.*25m above Ordnance Datum, *c.*400m inland from the modern shoreline.The site geology consists of superficial deposits of Corton Woods sand and gravel which overlie sedimentary bedrock of Crag Group sand (British Geological Survey website).

3. Archaeological and historical background

- The condition has been placed, states the Brief, as it *'lies in the historic core of Lowestoft defined as an area of archaeological interest and importance in the County Historic Environment Record (LWT 040). The site appears to form a block of land set out in the early street plan. Archaeological evaluation has been undertaken of part of the site to the south, which has revealed layers of built up soils on the site. No archaeological features were recorded in the evaluation, although an intact soil layer which is potentially early was recorded at the base of the sequence. Given the nature of the site further to the south, south of Compass Street (LWT 183, LWT 351) which revealed pits, material culture and building remains relating to late medieval Lowestoft, there is potential for features on the site which may be impacted upon by excavations construction groundworks.'*
- Historic Ordnance Survey mapping of the late 19th/early 20th century (Figs. 2 and 3) first shows the site in 1886 as consisting of several small open plots with trees to the rear of properties fronting the High Street. By 1927 the area between Albany Road and Camden Street has been substantially developed, with a series of buildings across the site itself and a terraced residential row immediately to the south fronting Albany Road. Since 1927 the site itself has been wholly cleared and its boundaries defined in part by the creation of Jubilee Way to the west.

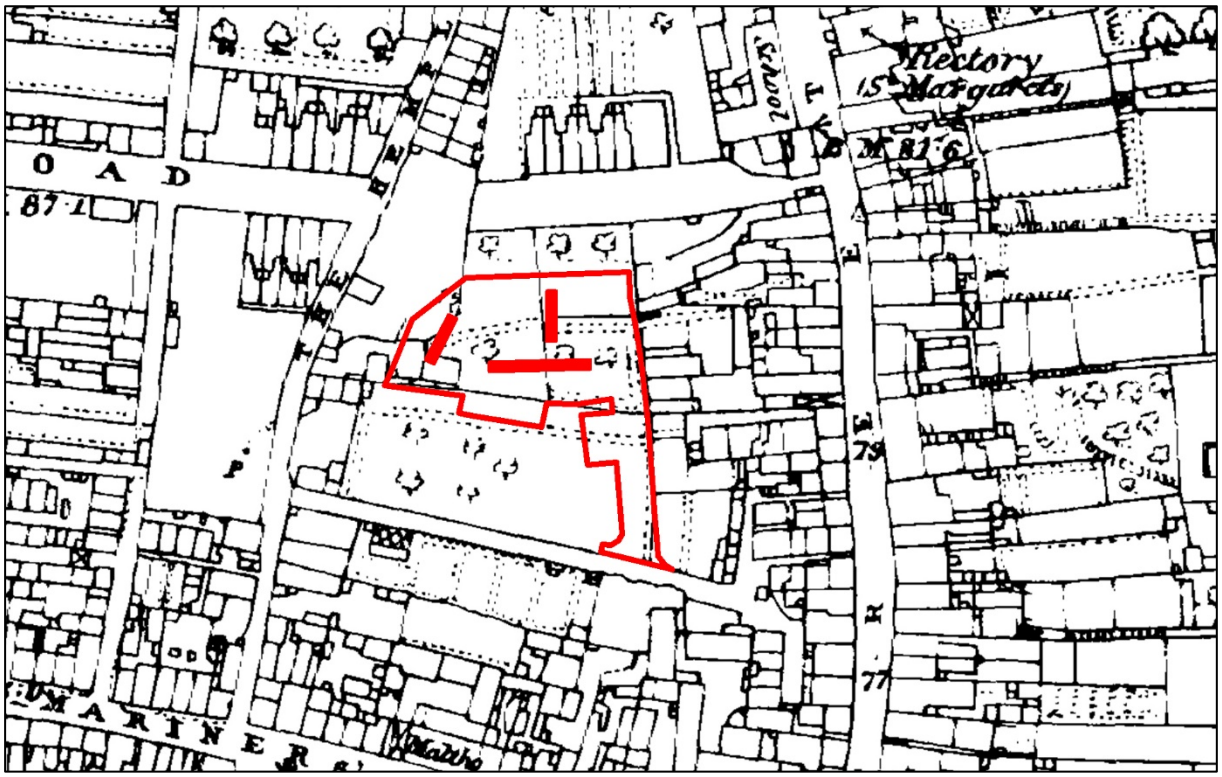

Figure 2. Site as shown on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1886

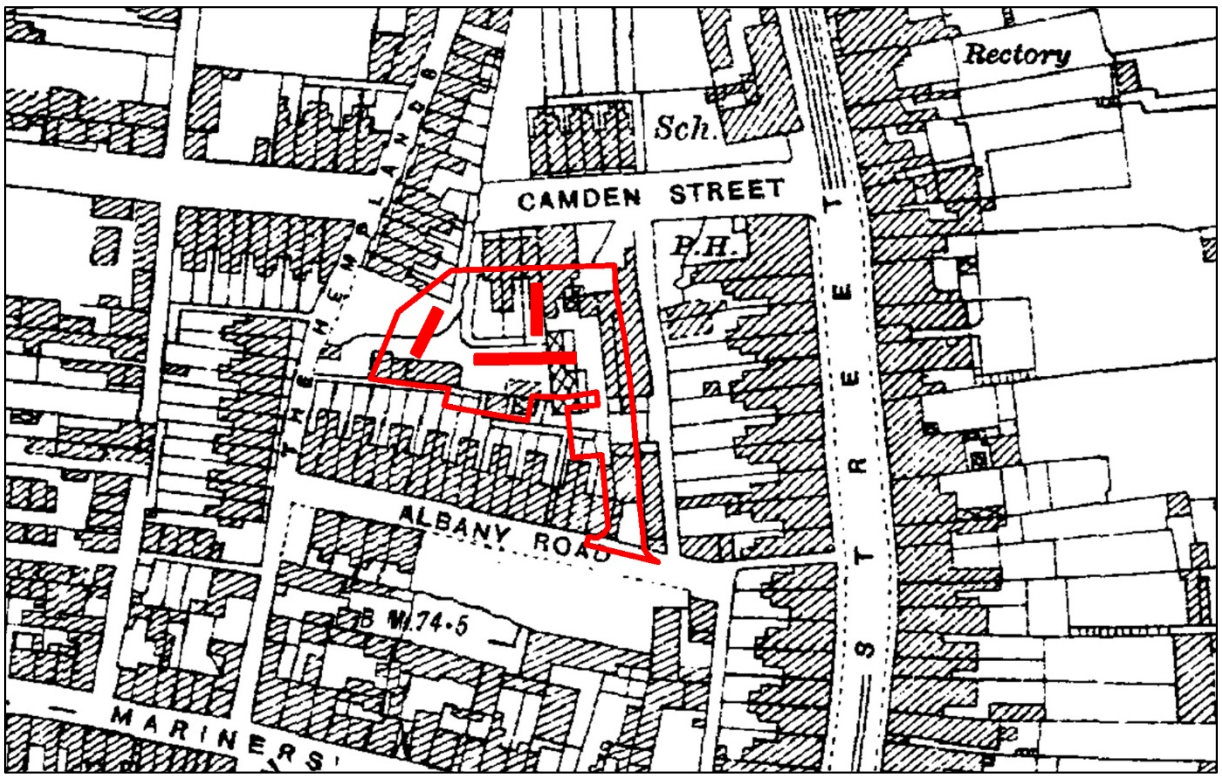

Figure 3. Site as shown on 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey, 1927

4. Project Objectives

- The aim of the evaluation is to accurately quantify the quality and extent of the sites archaeological resource so that an assessment of the developments impact upon heritage assets can be made.
- The evaluation will:
  - Establish whether any archaeological deposits exist in the application area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ.*
  - Identify the date, approximate form and function of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
  - Establish the extent, depth and quality of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
  - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and whether masking alluvial or colluvial deposits are present.
  - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
  - Assess the potential of the site to address research aims defined in the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
  - Provide sufficient information for SCCAS to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation or the further recording of archaeological deposits.
  - Provide sufficient information for the client to establish time and cost implications for the development regarding the application areas heritage assets.

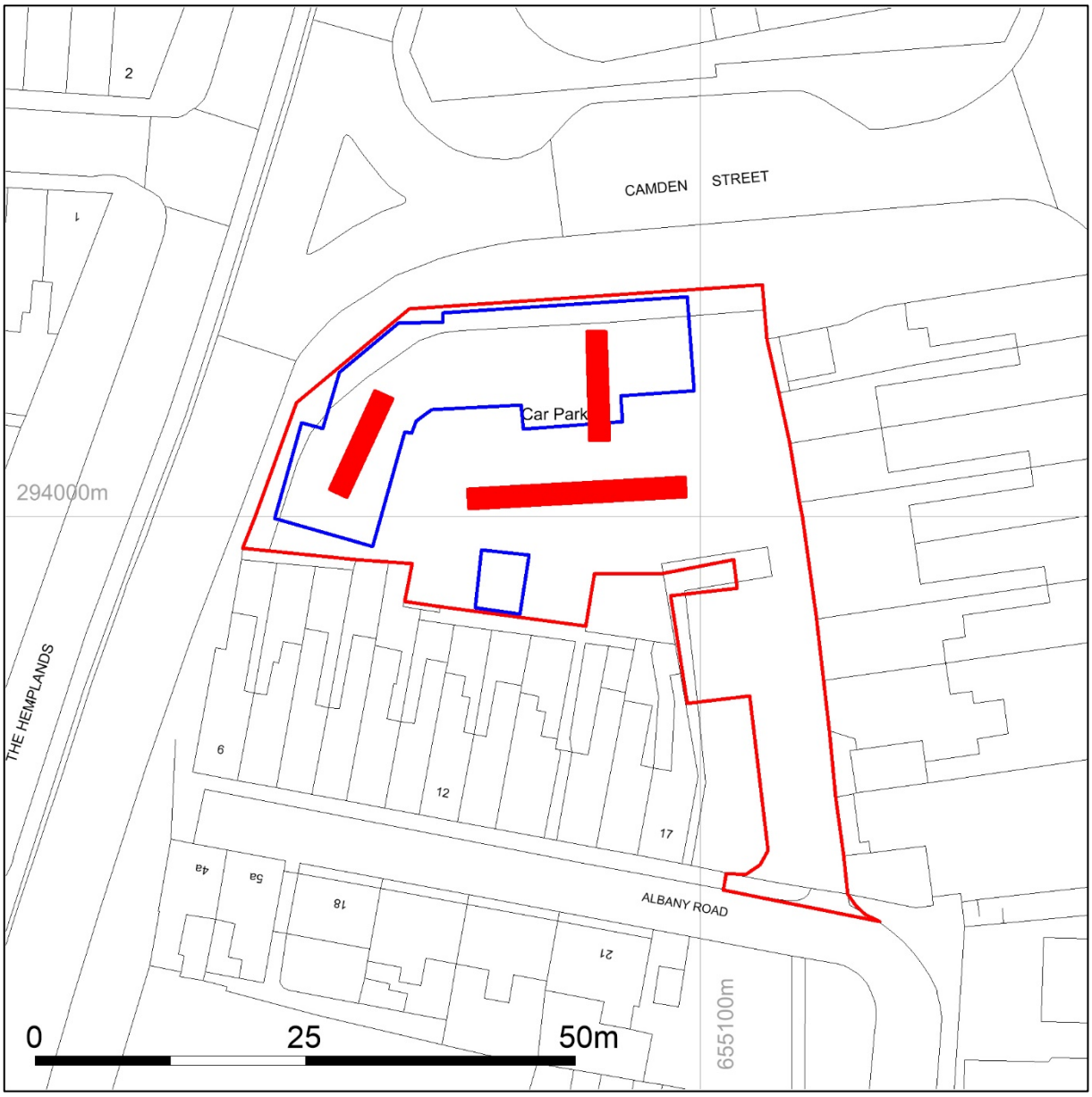

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Figure 4. Proposed trench plan

Site outline and trench positions (red), proposed buildings (blue)

5. Archaeological method statement

5.1. Management

- The project will be managed by SACIC Project Manager John Craven in accordance with the following local, regional and national standards and guidance:
    - *Management of Research in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015).
    - *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (*EAA Occasional Papers 14).
    - *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).
    - *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS, 2011).
- SCCAS will be given five days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork and arrangements made for SCCAS visits to enable the works to be monitored effectively.
- Full details of project staff, including sub-contractors and specialists are given in section 6 below.

5.2. Project preparation

- An event number and site code has been obtained from the Suffolk HER Officer and will be included on all future project documentation.
- An OASIS online record has been initiated and key fields in details, location and creator forms have been completed.
- An HER search has been requested from the Suffolk HER Officer and will be used to inform fieldwork and the subsequent report. The reference number will be included in the report.
- A pre-site inspection and Risk Assessment for the project has been completed.

5.3. Fieldwork

- The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by members of SACIC led by a Project Officer (TBC). The fieldwork team will be drawn from a pool of suitable staff at SACIC and will include an experienced metal detectorist/excavator.
- The project Brief requires 5% of the 0.146ha application area to be evaluated, with trenches positioned to samples all areas of the site. This amounts to 40m of 1.8m wide trenches, or 72sqm, and a proposed trench plan is included above (Fig. 4). If necessary minor modifications to the trench plan may be made onsite to respect any previously unknown buried services, areas of disturbance/contamination or other obstacles.
- The trench plan has been designed with two trenches targeting the footprint of the main new building, with a third in the middle of the developments carparking area. Where possible the trenches are positioned to avoid the late 19th/early 20th century building footprints (Figs. 2 and 3). The access road has been omitted from the trench plan due to complications with access with neighbouring properties but also as it was largely occupied by buildings in the early 20th century and is to only see relatively minor groundworks (resurfacing of access road etc.).
- The trench locations will be marked out using an RTK GPS system.
- The trenches will be excavated using a machine equipped with a back-acting arm and toothless ditching bucket (measuring at least 1.6m wide), under the supervision of an archaeologist. This will involve the removal of an estimated 0.5m-0.8m of modern deposits and/or buried soils until the first visible archaeological surface or natural surface is reached.
- Spoilheaps will be created adjacent to each trench and topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate if required. Spoilheaps will be examined and metal-detected for archaeological material.
- The trench sides, base and archaeological surfaces will be cleaned by hand as necessary to identify archaeological deposits and artefacts and allow decisions to be made on the method of further investigation by the Project Officer. Further use of the machine, i.e. to investigate thick sequences of deposits by excavation of test pits etc, may be undertaken as necessary after consultation with SCCAS.

- There will be a presumption that a minimum of disturbance will be caused whilst achieving adequate evaluation of the site, i.e. establishing the period, depth and nature of archaeological deposits. Typically 50% of discrete features such as pits and 1m slots across linear features will be sampled by hand excavation, although in some instances 100% may be removed, with the aim of establishing date and function. All identified features will be investigated by excavation unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS. Significant archaeological features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or postholes will be preserved intact if possible.
- Sieving of deposits using a 10mm mesh will be undertaken if they clearly appear to be occupation deposits or structurally related. Other deposits may be sieved at the judgement of the excavation team or if directed by SCCAS.
- Any fabricated surface (floors, yards etc) will be fully exposed and cleaned.
- Metal detector searches will take place throughout the evaluation, including prior to the trenches being stripped, by an experienced SACIC metal-detectorist. Trench bases, spoil and archaeological deposits will be scanned once trenches have been opened.
- The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits across the site will be recorded.
- An overall site plan showing trench locations, feature positions, sections and levels will be made using an RTK GPS or Total Station Theodolite. Individual detailed trench or feature plans etc will be recorded by hand at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate to complexity. All excavated sections will be recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, also as appropriate to complexity. All such drawings will be in pencil on A3 pro forma gridded permatrace sheets. All levels will refer to Ordnance Datum. Section and plan drawing registers will be maintained.
- All trenches, archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using standard pro forma SACIC registers and recording sheets and numbering systems. Record keeping will be consistent with the requirements of the Suffolk HER and will be compatible with its archive.
- A photographic record, consisting of high resolution digital images, will be made throughout the evaluation. A number board displaying site code and, if

appropriate, context number and a metric scale will be clearly visible in all photographs. A photographic register will be maintained.

- All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. Finds on site will be treated following appropriate guidelines (Watkinson & Neal 2001) and a conservator will be available for on-site consultation as required.
- All finds will be brought back to the SACIC finds department at the end of each day for processing, quantifying, packing and, where necessary, preliminary conservation. Finds will be processed and receive an initial assessment during the fieldwork phase and this information will be fed back to site to inform the on-site evaluation methodology.
- Environmental sampling of archaeological contexts will, where possible, be carried out to assess the site for palaeoenvironmental remains and will follow appropriate guidance (Campbell *et al* 2011). In order to obtain palaeoenvironmental evidence, bulk soil samples (of at least 40 litres each, or 100% of the context) will be taken using a combination of judgement and systematic sampling from selected archaeological features or natural environmental deposits, particularly those which are both datable and interpretable. All environmental samples will be retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeoenvironmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following these assessments.
- If necessary, for example if waterlogged peat deposits are encountered, then advice will be sought from the Historic England Science Advisor for the East of England on the need for specialist environmental techniques such as coring or column sampling.
- If human remains are encountered guidelines from the Ministry of Justice will be followed and the Coroner informed. Human remains will be treated at all stages with care and respect, and will be dealt with in accordance with the law and the provisons of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. The evaluation will attempt to establish the extent, depth and date of burials whilst leaving remains *in situ.* If human remains are to be lifted, for instance if analysis is required to fully evaluate the site, then a Ministry of Justice license for their removal will be obtained in advance. In such cases appropriate guidance (McKinley & Roberts 1993, Brickley

& McKinley 2004) will be followed and, on completion of full recording and analysis, the remains, where appropriate, will be reburied or kept as part of the project archive.

- In the event of unexpected or significant deposits being encountered on site, the client and SCCAS will be informed. Such circumstances may necessitate changes to the Brief and hence evaluation methodology, in which case a new archaeological quotation will have to be agreed with the client, to allow for the recording of said unexpected deposits. If an evaluation is aborted, i.e. because unexpected deposits have made development unviable, then all exposed archaeological features will be recorded as usual prior to backfilling and a report produced.
- Trenches will not be backfilled without the prior approval of SCCAS. Trenches will be backfilled, subsoil first then topsoil, and compacted to ground-level, unless otherwise specified by the client. Original ground surfaces will not be reinstated but will be left as neat as practicable.

5.4. Post-excavation

- The post-excavation finds work will be managed by the SACIC Finds Team Manager, Richenda Goffin, with the overall post-excavation managed by John Craven. Specialist finds staff, whether internal SACIC personnel or external specialists, are experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field.
- All finds will be processed and marked (HER site code and context number) following ICON guidelines and the requirements of the Suffolk HER. For the duration of the project all finds will be stored according to their material requirements in the SACIC store at needham Market, Suffolk. Metal finds will be stored in accordance with ICON guidelines, *initially recorded and assessed for significance* before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the evaluation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts 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 ICON standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.

- All on-site derived site data will be entered onto a digital (Microsoft Access) SACIC database.
- Bulk finds will be fully quantified and the subsequent data will be added to the digital site database. Finds quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by context and will include a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- Assessment reports for all categories of collected bulk finds will be prepared in-house or commissioned as necessary and will meet appropriate regional or national standards. Specialist reports will include sufficient detail and tabulation by context of data to allow assessment of potential for analysis and will include non-technical summaries.
- Representative portions of bulk soil samples from archaeological features will be processed by wet sieving and flotation in-house in order to recover any environmental material which will be assessed by external specialists. The assessment will include a clear statement of potential for further analysis either on the remaining sample material or in future fieldwork.
- All hand drawn site plans and sections will be scanned.
- All raw data from GPS or TST surveys will be uploaded to the project folder, suitably labelled and kept as part of the project archive.
- Selected plan drawings will then be digitised as appropriate for combination with the results of digital site survey to produce a full site plan, compatible with MapInfo GIS software.
- All hand-drawn sections will be digitised using autocad software.

5.5. Report

- A full written report on the fieldwork will be produced, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE (Historic England 2015), to a scale commensurate with the archaeological results. The report will contain a description of the project background, location plans, evaluation methodology, a period by period description of results, finds assessments and a full inventory of finds and contexts.

The report will also include scale plans, sections drawings, illustrations and photographic plates as required.

- The objective account of the archaeological evidence will be clearly separated from an interpretation of the results, which will include a discussion of the results in relation to relevant known sites in the region that are recorded in the Suffolk HER and other readily available documentary or cartographic sources.
- The report will include a statement as to the value, significance and potential of the site and its significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework for the East of England (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, Medlycott 2011). This will include an assessment of potential research aims that could be addressed by the site evidence.
- The report will contain sufficient information to stand as an archive report should further work not be required.
- The report may include SACIC's opinion as to the necessity for further archaeological work to mitigate the impact of the sites development. The final decision as to whether any recommendations for further work will be made however lies solely with SCCAS and the LPA.
- The report will include a summary in the established format for inclusion in the annual *'Archaeology in Suffolk'* section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.
- A copy of this Written Scheme of investigation will be included as an appendix in the report.
- The report will include a copy of the completed project OASIS form as an appendix.
- An unbound draft copy of the report will be submitted to SCCAS for approval within 4 weeks of completion of fieldwork.

5.6. Project archive

- On approval of the report a printed and bound copy will be lodged with the Suffolk HER. A digital .pdf file will also be supplied, together with a digital and fully georeferenced vector plan showing the application area and trench locations,

compatible with MapInfo software.

- 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 paper copy of the form will be included in the project archive.
- A second bound copy of the report will be included with the project archive.
- 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 to the client on request.
- The project archive, consisting of the complete artefactual assemblage, and all paper and digital records, will be deposited in the SCCAS Archaeological Store at Bury St Edmunds within 6 months of completion of fieldwork. The project archive will be consistent with MoRPHE (Historic England 2015) and ICON guidelines. The project archive will also meet the requirements of SCCAS (SCCAS 2014).
- The project costing includes a sum to meet SCCAS archive charges. A form transferring ownership of the archive to SCCAS will be completed and included in the project archive.
- If the client, on completion of the project, does not agree to deposit the archive with, and transfer to, SCCAS, they will be expected to either nominate another suitable depository approved by SCCAS or provide as necessary for additional recording of the finds archive (such as photography and illustration) and analysis. A duplicate copy of the written archive in such circumstances would be deposited with the Suffolk HER.
- Exceptions from the deposition of the archive described above include:
    - Objects that qualify as Treasure, as detailed by the Treasure Act 1996. The client will be informed as soon as possible of any such objects are discovered/identfied and the find will be reported to SCCAS and the Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer and hence the Coroner within 14 days of discovery or identification. Treasure objects will immediately be moved to secure storage at SCCAS and appropriate security measures will be taken on site if required. Any material which is eventually declared as Treasure by a Coroners Inquest will, if not acquired by a museum, be returned to the client and/or landowner. Employees of SCCAS, or volunteers etc present on site, will not eligible for any share of a treasure reward.

- Other items of monetary value in which the landowner or client has expressed an interest. In these circumstances individual arrangements as to the curation and ownership of specific items will be negotiated.
- Human skeletal remains. The client/landowner by law will have no claim to ownership of human remains and any such will be stored by SCCAS, in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence, until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.

6. Bibliography

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Watkinson, D. and Neal, V., 2001, *First Aid for Finds.* Third Edition, revised. Rescue/UKIC Archaeology Section, London.

Websites

British Geological Survey

http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

7. Project Staffing

7.1. Management

Staff Name	Job Title	CIfA Membership	Other roles/skills/qualifications
Dr Rhodri Gardner	SACIC Manager	MCIfA	
John Craven	SACIC Project Manager	MCIfA	H & S Manager

7.2. Fieldwork

The fieldwork team will be derived from a pool of SACIC Project Assistants under the supervision of one of the following Project Officers.

Staff Name	Job Title	CIfA Membership	First Aid	Other roles/skills/qualifications
Catherine Douglas	Project Officer	ACIfA	Yes	Surveyor
Jezz Meredith	Project Officer	Applied MCIfA	Yes	Environmental Manager
Mark Sommers	Project Officer		Yes	
Robert Brooks	Project Officer		Yes	Surveyor
Michael Green	Project Officer	ACifA	Yes	Surveyor, metal-detectorist
Simon Cass	Project Officer		Yes	Surveyor
Tim Schofield	Project Officer	MCIfA	Yes	Surveyor, Geophysics Officer
Linzi Everett	Project Officer		Yes	
Simon Picard	Project Officer		Yes	Surveyor

7.3. Post-excavation and report production

The production of the site report and submission of the project archive will be carried out by the fieldwork project officer. The post-excavation finds analysis will be managed by Richenda Goffin. The following SACIC specialist staff will contribute to the report as required.

Staff Name	Job Title	CIfA Membership	Role/task
Richenda Goffin	Finds Manager	MCIfA	Post Roman pottery and CBM
Ioannis Smyrnaios	Finds Officer	Applied MCIfA	Roman pottery and general finds
Anna West	Environmental Supervisor		Environmental sample processing/assessment
Dr Ruth Beveridge	Finds Supervisor		Finds quantification/assessment
Matt Thompson	Finds Assistant		Finds processing and quantification
Jonathan Van Jennians	Finds Assistant		Finds Processing
Ellie Cox	Graphics Assistant		Graphics and illustration
Gemma Bowen	Graphics Assistant		Graphics and illustration

SACIC also uses a range of external consultants for post-excavation analysis who will

be sub-contracted as required. The most commonly used of these are listed below.

Name	Task	Location/employer
Sue Anderson	Human skeletal remains	Freelance
Sarah Bates	Lithics	Freelance
Julie Curl	Animal bone	Freelance
Anna Doherty	Prehistoric pottery	Archaeology South-East
Val Fryer	Plant macrofossils	Freelance
SUERC	Radiocarbon dating	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Donna Wreathall	Illustration	SCCAS

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