

Report 2014/1312



nps archaeology

Archaeological Monitoring at Philip Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk

FEX 285



Prepared for
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<i>Issue 1</i>		

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Location:	Philip Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk
District:	Suffolk Coastal
Grid Ref.:	629255, 234110
Planning Ref.:	C/10/0987
HER No.:	FEX 285
OASIS Ref.:	151912
Client:	Orwell Housing Association Ltd.
Dates of Fieldwork:	8-11 July 2013

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Orwell Housing Association Ltd. during groundworks associated with a new housing development on former allotment land at Philip Avenue, Felixstowe. This work was undertaken to mitigate the effects of construction of the new development on the Roman boundaries and material evidence identified during the evaluation

This sloping site had been terraced ready for foundations for the new buildings to be dug prior to any monitoring attendance by an archaeologist. The terracing severely truncated sub-surface deposits at the site. Attendance to monitor the ring beams for the westernmost houses took place however work on the rest of the site was undertaken without further monitoring. No archaeological features survived to allow recording.

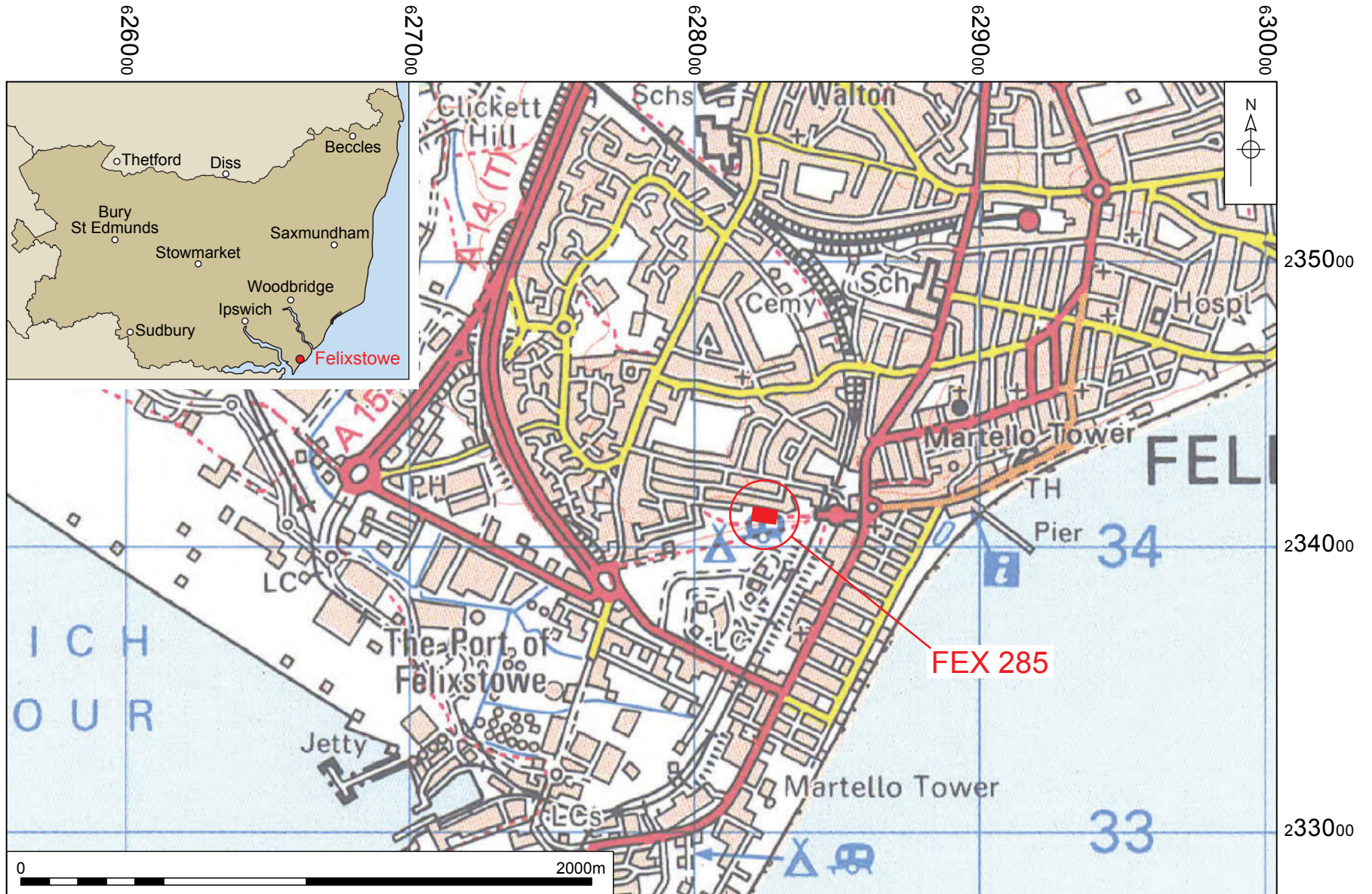
1.0 INTRODUCTION

The construction of ten new houses at a location off Philip Avenue in Felixstowe required a programme of archaeological monitoring upon the groundworks due to a previous archaeological evaluation on the site which identified Roman field boundary ditches.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Suffolk Coastal District Council (C/10/0987) and a Brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (S. Poppy 14 December 2012). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-13-2-1312). This work was commissioned and funded by Orwell Housing Association Ltd.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Suffolk Historic Environment Record following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:20,000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located on bedrock consisting of Palaeogene clay-rich deposits of the London Clay Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The development area measures c.0.3ha in area and lies at an elevation of between 16.0m OD (north end) and 12.5m (south end) and lay at the eastern end of Philip Avenue (Fig. 2).

The site occupies a south-facing slope with views south and southeast over the North Sea. The River Orwell lies 1.4km to the west.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The information summarising the archaeological and historical background to the site has been taken from the previous evaluation report for this development site at Philip Avenue in Felixstowe (Boyle 2012).

During the Roman period the coast was approximately a mile further eastwards than its present location at Felixstowe. Walton Castle was a Roman Fort, which occupied 24,000m² and was one of the Saxon Shore forts (Plouviez 1989). It was positioned on high land near Brackenbury Fort and Bull's Cliff. A church and a handful of houses were all that existed of Old Felixstowe for much of the early medieval period. The original settlement was known as Walton and only received the name of Felixstowe retrospectively.

In 1338 it is recorded that Edward III used the long creek (now known as Kingsfleet) to assemble his fleet before attacking French forces. In 1667, Dutch soldiers landed and attacked Landguard Fort, but were unable to take it. This susceptibility to attack caused the construction of Martello towers in the early 19th century, to guard against invasion by French forces. They were built along the east coast and one existed in Felixstowe to the north-east of the site.

In the second half of the 19th century Felixstowe began its rapid growth. The creation of the port in 1886 and the tourism boom contributed to this growth. In 1891 the Empress of Germany visited the area and the small cliff-top village began its transformation into a fashionable and desirable seaside resort.

Records held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) for an area surrounding the site have been reviewed and a summary of the most relevant entries is presented below.

A Late Bronze Age hoard comprising a Type 4 barbed spearhead and a south-eastern type socketed axe (FEX 010) was found in the first railway cutting to the north-east of the site in the 19th century.

A Roman coin of *Antoninus pius* (AD 157–8) (FEX 029) was also discovered just to the north-east of the site.

The majority of the local SHER records pertain to the Second World War. Several practice trenches (FEX 174) dug in a zigzag were situated to the east of the site and are visible in aerial photos taken in 1944. Further Second World War installations lay immediately to the south of the site, including earthworks, a gun emplacement, a Nissen hut and a searchlight battery (FEX 175). Two roadblocks were also visible in aerial photographs situated in Undercliff Road West and

Granville Road respectively (FEX 172 and FEX 173). Several slit trenches observed as earthworks (FEX 181) were situated behind buildings on Langer Road, although they were no longer visible by 1944 when aerial photographs were taken.

Only one archaeological intervention has taken place in the vicinity of the site (FEX 279, ESF 20002). In 2009 nine evaluation trenches were excavated in advance of proposals to construct a supermarket on Langer Road. The evaluation site was situated some 200m to the east of the present development site, and provided clear evidence for the reclamation of the back marsh area through deliberate dumping during the latter part of the 19th century. In the southern part of the site a large 20th-century dump had been used to level the area (Crawley 2009).

Trial trench evaluation undertaken in 2012 (FEX 285) revealed that there was no intensive activity undertaken at the site and despite archaeological features being present in each of the four trenches, the site appears to have been marginal and relatively unoccupied (Boyle 2012).

Two north-south linear features, perhaps gullies or land divisions were recorded, along with an east-west aligned linear feature with a terminus.

It appears that there was a Roman presence in the vicinity of the site; Roman domestic pottery and ceramic building material were collected from features and there is also some evidence of skinning for retrieval of hides and perhaps horn working.

It appears that material from the site including the Roman pottery, tile and animal bone may have been dumped there as the result of activity taking place in the vicinity, indicating that there was some form of Roman occupation relatively close by.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to investigate and record archaeological remains within the development area.

The Brief required that all groundworks be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

Machine excavation was carried out with a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

Due to a lack of suitable deposits, environmental samples were not taken.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

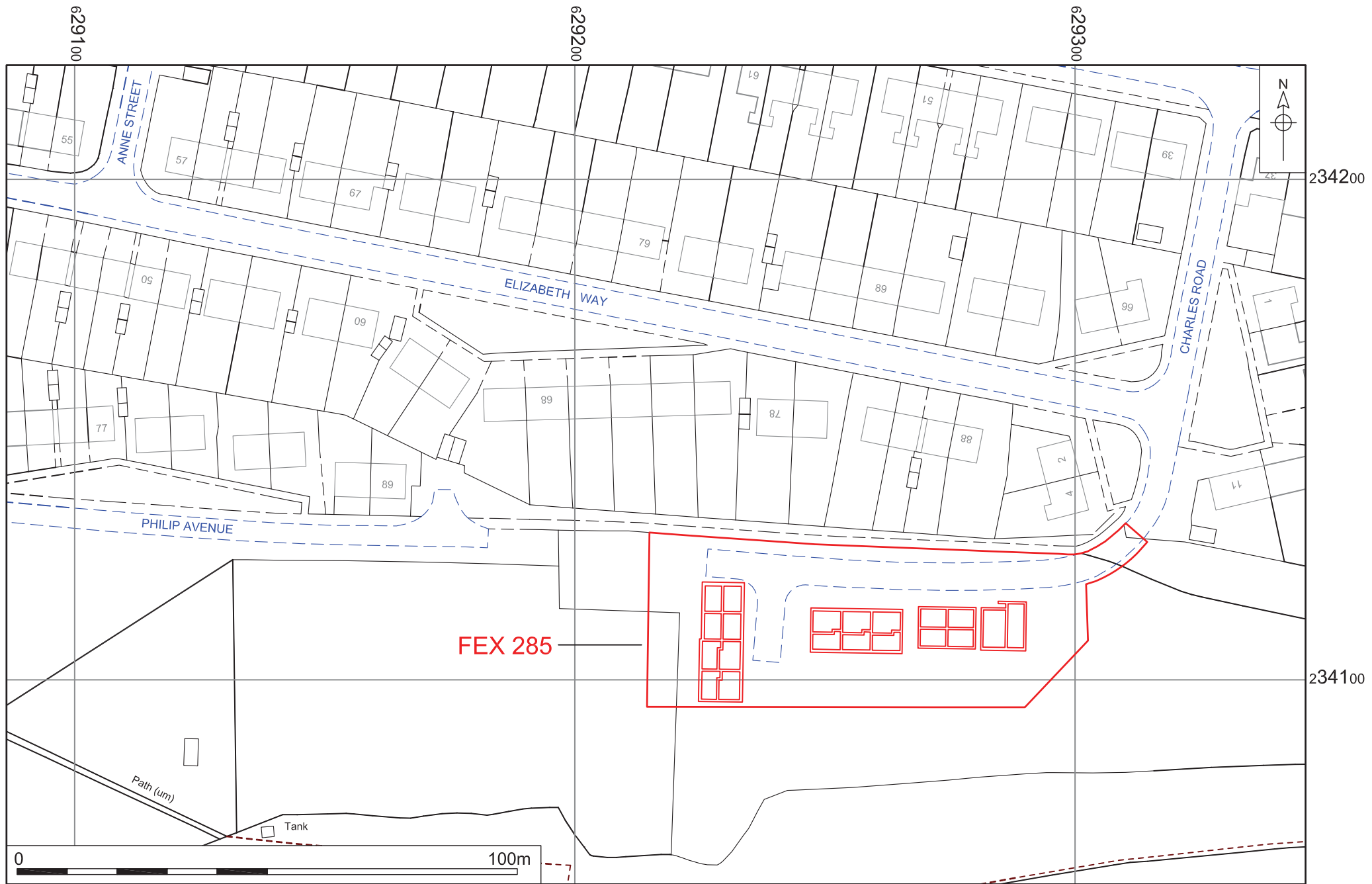


Figure 2. Site location in detail. Scale 1:1000

5.0 RESULTS

The initial site visit took place on 8 July 2013. At this significant groundworks had already taken place. A small area at the southern edge of the site remained unstrapped.

Piles had been drilled and the piling mat removed. Prior to the piling mat being laid, the whole site had been stripped to formation level, thus heavily truncating the whole site (especially the northern portion) revealing the natural sand, gravel and clay.



Plate 1. The site facing east, showing severe truncation

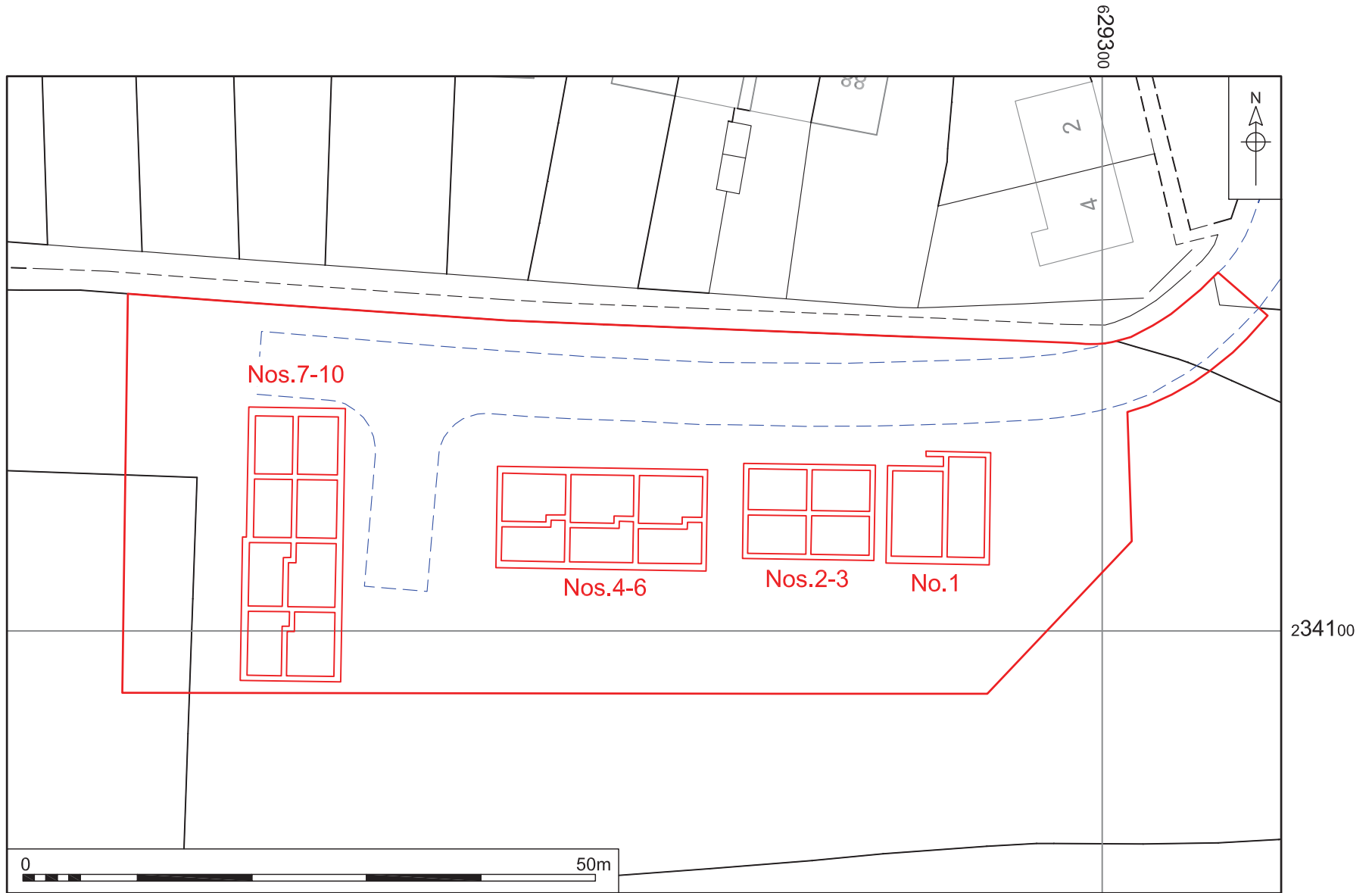
A narrow strip of the site at the southern edge had not been stripped below the level of the natural subsoil. This was monitored during the excavation of ring beams for Plots 7 and 8 in the southwestern corner of the site, but no significant archaeological remains were visible.

Despite a previous agreement with the site manager to advise when excavation of other parts of the site took place, no notification took place. As a result, monitoring of the excavation of no other ring beam on the central and eastern plots took place.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features or artefacts were recovered on this site.

The earlier evaluation had uncovered limited Roman remains, but it seems likely that any such remains did not survive the initial site strip before notification was made and monitoring of the groundworks took place.



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Figure 3. Site plan. Scale 1:500

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the Orwell Housing Association Limited for commissioning and funding this project.

This report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography and Sources

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
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| Department for Communities and Local Government | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> |
| Plouviez, J. | 1999 | <i>'The Roman Period' in Dymond, D. and Martin, E. An Historical Atlas of Suffolk, The Lavenham Press 3rd edition</i> |

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 18.07.2013

Appendix 1: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: norfolka1-151912

Project details

Project name	Philip Avenue, Felixstowe
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Orwell Housing Association Ltd. during groundworks associated with a new housing development on former allotment land at Philip Avenue, Felixstowe. This work was undertaken to mitigate the effects of construction of the new development on the Roman boundaries and material evidence identified during the evaluation This sloping site had been terraced ready for foundations for the new buildings to be dug prior to any monitoring attendance by an archaeologist. The terracing severely truncated sub-surface deposits at the site. Attendance to monitor the ring beams for the westernmost houses took place however work on the rest of the site was undertaken without further monitoring. No archaeological features survived to allow recording.
Project dates	Start: 08-07-2013 End: 11-07-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	FEX285 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL FELIXSTOWE Philip Avenue
Study area	0.30 Hectares
Site coordinates	629255 234110 629255 00 00 N 234110 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	Steve Hickling
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Orwell Housing Association Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief at Philip Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hickling, S.
Other bibliographic details	Report 2014/1312
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	NPS Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Noriwch
Description	A4 paper, colour-printed, double sided, spiral-bound; pdf
Entered by	J Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
Entered on	13 January 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: `/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm` for this page

Appendix 2: Archaeological Specification

Economy, Skills and Environment
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1RX

Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording

AT

ALLOTMENT LAND, PHILIP AVENUE,
FELIXSTOWE, SUFFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY: Suffolk Coastal District Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: C/10/0987

SHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: FEX 285

GRID REFERENCE: TM 292 341

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Residential development

AREA: 0.3 ha

CURRENT LAND USE: Allotments

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Sarah Poppy
Archaeological Officer
Conservation Team
Tel. : 01284 741226
E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 14 December 2012

Summary

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition relating to archaeological investigation:

‘No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.’

- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council’s Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.

- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place, and recommend partial discharge of the condition to allow work to commence. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the full discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 Archaeological evaluation in 2012 revealed evidence for limited activity at the site, comprising land divisions, evidence for processing of animal products and dumping of waste materials. Evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity was attested by the presence of Roman pottery and building material (NPS report 2521).

Planning Background

- 3.1 There is high potential for additional archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Requirement for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks.
- 4.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 4.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate

and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.

- 4.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 4.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.2 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 6.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE*, must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3, 8 and 24, 1997, 2000 and 2011).

- 6.7 An unbound hardcopy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.
- 6.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.9 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded where positive results have been obtained.
- 6.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.11 When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: grid ref., parish, address, planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development, depth of ground disturbance in each area, depth of topsoil and its profile over natural in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.
- 6.12 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute of Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.