

Report 2811a



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Former Parma Works, High Street,
Wickham Market, Suffolk**

WKM 036

Prepared for
Hopkins & Moore (Developments) Limited
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June 2013



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<i>Issue 1</i>		

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Location:	The Former Parma Site, High Street, Wickham Market, Suffolk
District:	Suffolk Coastal
Grid Ref.:	TM 3032 5623
Planning Ref.:	C/12/0853 and 0854
HER No.:	WKM 036
OASIS Ref.:	153167
Client:	Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Limited
Dates of Fieldwork:	19 and 20 June 2013

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Ltd ahead of the redevelopment of a site at Wickham Market in Suffolk.

The site was adjacent to the High Street and was occupied, until recent demolition, by a 1950s office building and 1970s works buildings along with their associated car parking and areas of hard standing. Following the removal of the upstanding buildings, their concrete slabs and the areas of hardstanding, trial trenches were excavated to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. It was intended to open four trenches but only two were excavated as it was clear that the preparation of the site for the demolished buildings had included substantial terracing across the site.

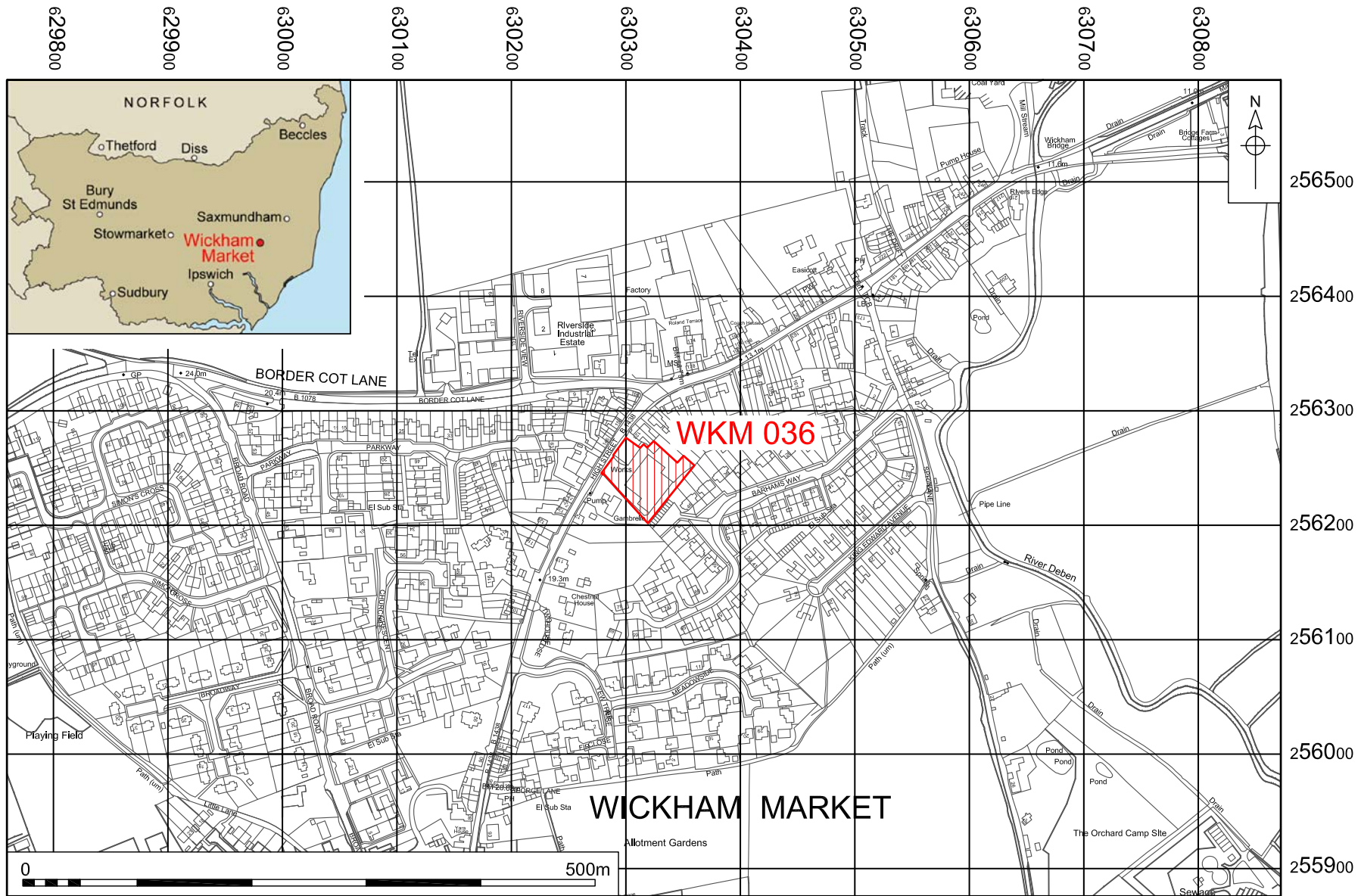
The site had been terraced to such an extent that the levels had been reduced to a point within the underlying natural sand and therefore, any archaeological deposits that may have been present prior to this truncation had been removed.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This work at High Street, Wickham Market was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Suffolk Coastal District Council (planning reference C/12/0853 and 0854) and a Brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Abby Antrobus, 6 September 2012). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology. This work was commissioned and funded by Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Limited.

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 County Council Archaeological Service store following all relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology and Topography

Wickham Market lies in the Suffolk Coastal Heritage area approximately 16.5km north-east of Ipswich, close to the River Deben, with Woodbridge 5.8km to the south.

The River Deben meanders in a roughly north-south direction approximately 260m to the east of the site and skirts the town, before continuing south to its outflow close to Felixstowe on the coast. The site lies at roughly 20-25m OD in a valley, which slopes down towards the River Deben.

The area covered by the proposed development measures c.0.3ha and has been terraced into the slope of rising high ground on its south-east and south-west sides. Towards the south corner the site has been terraced by over two metres (Plate 1).



Plate 1. Retaining wall at the rear of the site showing the rising ground beyond

The site is bounded by High Street on its north-west side with residential dwellings on all other sides (Fig. 1).

The bedrock geology of the development area is Red Crag Formation Sand, with a superficial geology of Lowestoft Formation sand and gravel.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Wickham Market is a small town in rural Suffolk. Perhaps the most significant archaeological remains in the vicinity are those of a small Roman town in the neighbouring parish of Hacheston, close to the parish border with Wickham Market. Excavations here have revealed evidence for continuity in occupation from the Iron Age to the early Roman period, with roads, buildings and possible burials. It is thought unlikely Roman settlement encroached very far into Wickham Market, although this cannot be ruled out. A sizable and important hoard of Roman coins and a possible section of Roman road have also been found in the area.

The development site lies within what is thought to be the area occupied by the medieval town of Wickham Market. Although the area was not notably prosperous following the Norman Conquest, it subsequently grew with a market and fairs granted in the 13th century. Medieval remains could be present at the site, especially on the street frontage. However archaeological interventions at development sites in the vicinity of the current site have to date not recorded any significant archaeological remains. The 1783 map by Hodskinson appears to show a structure on the site, although its precise location is uncertain and it might indicate a medieval building, later demolished - it does not appear on mapping in the intervening years.

The most recent development of the site included a recently-demolished, unlisted small square outbuilding of apparent late Victorian construction. In the 1950s an office building was built on the site, added to in the 1970s by 'Works' buildings; both recently demolished as part of the current works. The construction and demolition of these buildings may have disturbed sub-surface deposits at the site.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that 5% of the development site was sampled by the excavation of four 21m x 1.8m trenches (Fig. 2). Due to truncation of deposits Trenches 3 and 4 were not opened.

Machine excavation was carried out with a metal tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision. The buildings that formerly occupied the site were demolished and the concrete slabs were removed.

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.

Environmental samples were not taken as no suitable deposits were encountered.

Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales.

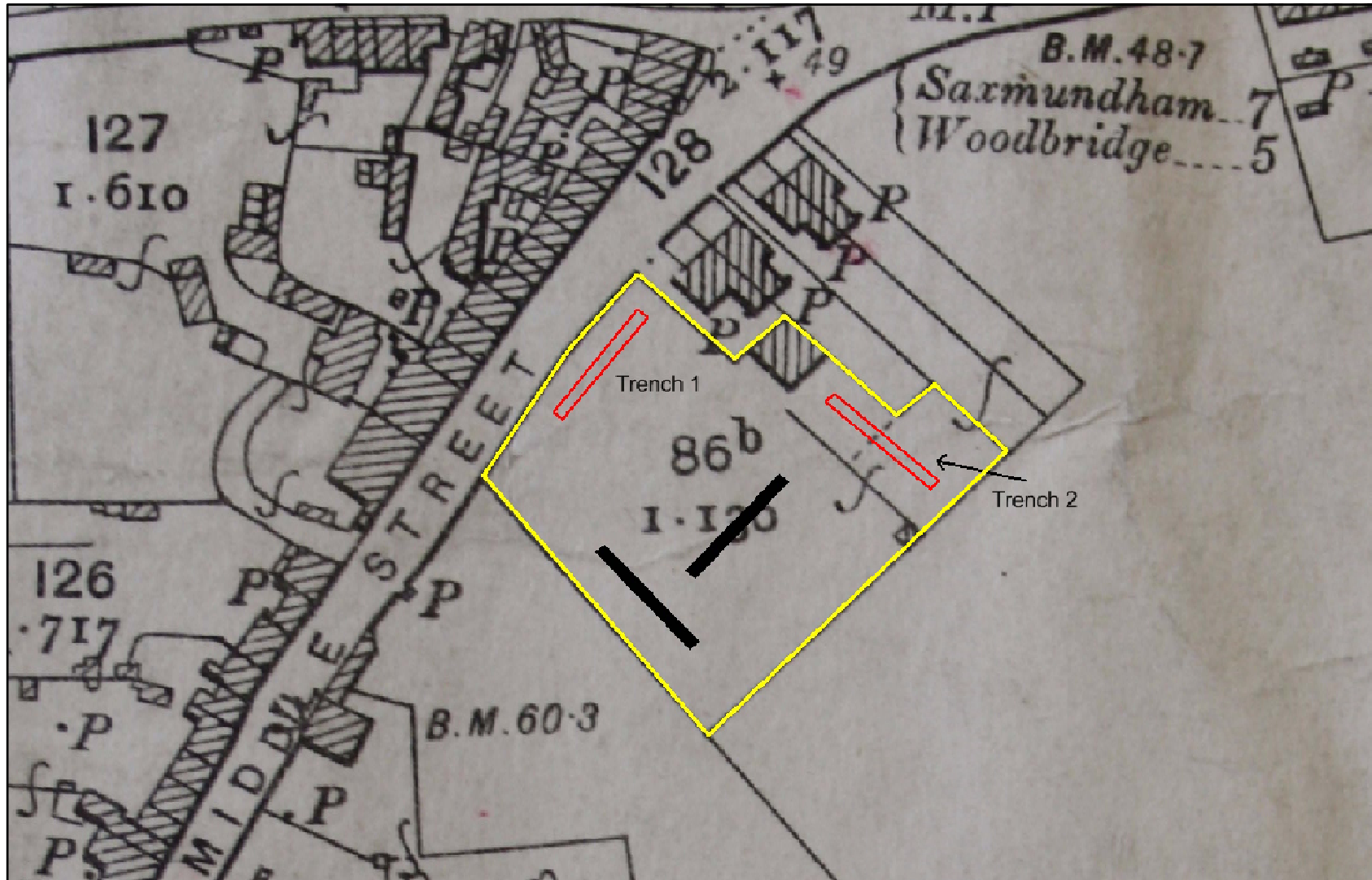


Figure 2. Trenches overlaid on Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map of 1904, with the unexcavated trenches shaded black. Note the former garden boundary crossing Trench 2

Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of relevant deposits. Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

Removal of the buildings and concrete slabs that occupied the site showed that the area had been substantially terraced down to a level that cut into the natural sands that cover the site. This terracing was up to 2.00m in the south corner of the site, and due to this severe truncation, Trenches 3 and 4, were not excavated (Fig. 2).

The two trenches that were excavated (Trenches 1 and 2) varied in depth, encountering natural sands below stripped site level - at 0.25m in Trench 1 and 0.4m in Trench 2).

5.1 Trench 1

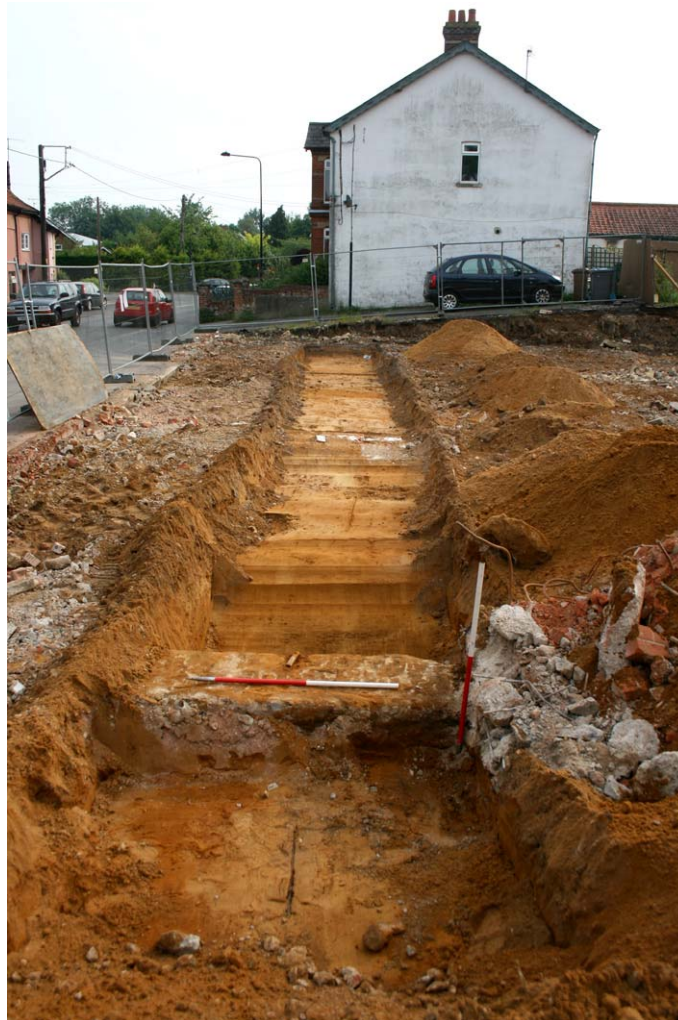


Plate 2. General view north-east along Trench 1 showing the walls of the demolished building crossing the trench

Trench 1 measured 20.00m long and was orientated on a north-east to south-west axis along the street frontage (Fig. 2). This area was considered to be the most sensitive part of the site with the most archaeological potential. Removal of 0.25m

of made ground, a mix of sand, brick rubble and concrete, revealed yellow/orange silty sand with a few patches of small flint gravel natural.

Crossing the trench were the concrete foundations and lower courses of the brick walls of the former building that once occupied the front of the site (Plate 2).

5.2 Trench 2

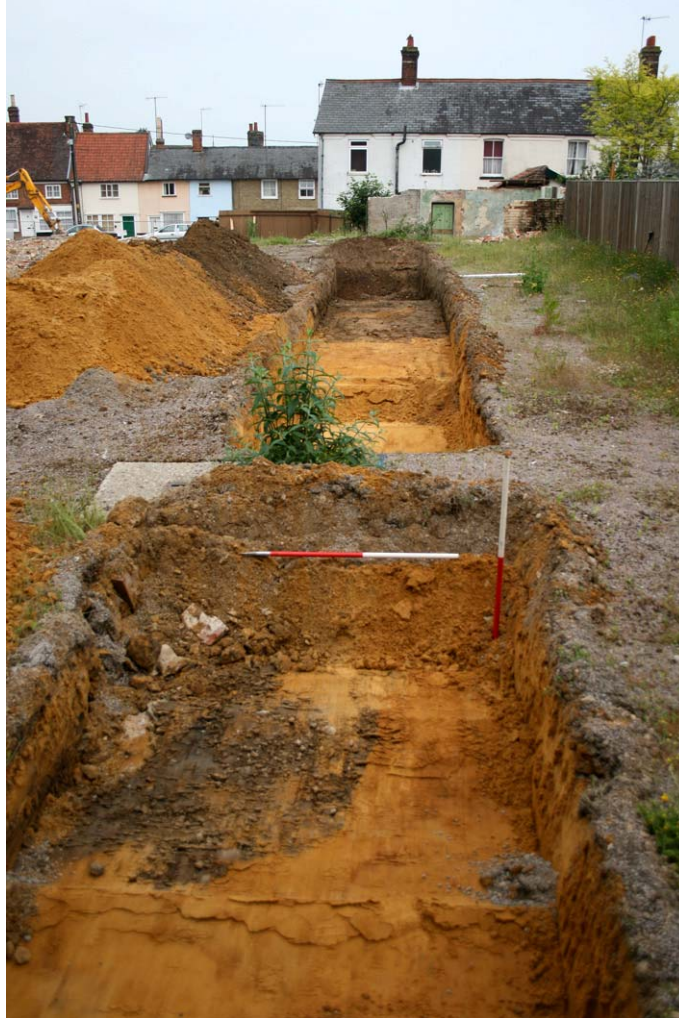


Plate 3. View north-west along Trench 2 with the line of the terrace for the rear garden of number 123 High Street visible halfway along the trench

Trench 2 was aligned north-west to south-east along the north-eastern boundary of the site (Fig. 2). It was reduced in length by 4.00m to 17.00m because of a lack of room at this part of the site, due to a large terrace where a former outbuilding had stood. The south-eastern end of the trench crossed the line of a modern drain and a 1.00m baulk was left unexcavated because of the presence of a concrete manhole.

The trench ranged in depth from 0.40m at its south-east end to 1.40m at the north-west end, which reflected the fact that this part of the site had been terraced when the houses that front onto High Street (numbers 123 and 125) were built in the late 19th or very early 20th century (they first appear on the 1904 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map). It is clear when the trenches are overlaid onto the 1904 Ordnance Survey map that Trench 2 is located partially within the former back

garden of number 123 and the evidence from the trench confirms that the garden areas were heavily terraced into the sloping ground to the rear (Plate 3).

The natural yellow/orange sand was encountered at a depth of c.1.4m below the current ground surface in this part of the site, a depth that almost certainly represents, or at least is very close to, the level of the original back garden. The material overlying the sand and levelling this area up was brown silty sand with a slight clay content. It was a fairly mixed layer and it appears to have been largely deliberate infill, presumably deposited to level up this part of the site when it was incorporated into the present site.

The make up material contained modern brick, glass and concrete, which were not retained.

6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

No finds were encountered.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

No environmental samples were taken.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation trenching revealed that the construction of buildings at the Former Parma Site at High Street, Wickham Market (that have been demolished for this scheme) had resulted in significant terracing of the site. The construction of these buildings and the landscaping around them had reduced levels across the site to within the natural sand deposits that underlie the area. Prior to the terracing, the site would have sloped quite sharply up from front to back and the original ground level at the rear of the site is c.3.00m higher than road level at the front.

The site is terraced in two parts, with the rear half of the site flattened to a level of c.2.00m below original ground level, with the front of the site terraced flat from ground level to c.1.00m in the middle of the site.

Construction of 123 and 125 High Street had also had an impact on the site, with the former rear garden of number 123 terraced into the slope, effectively removing up to 1.00m of the natural sand.

Any potential archaeological horizons that may have been present had been removed from the site when it was prepared in the late 19th century for 123 and 125, High Street and in the 1950s and 1970s for the buildings occupied by the former Parma Works (now demolished).

Acknowledgements

NPS Archaeology would like to thank Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Limited for funding this work and CDC Demolition for supplying the plant and driver.

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

Bibliography and Sources

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| BGS (British Geological Survey) | 1991 | <i>East Anglia</i> , Sheet 52N 00 Quaternary, 1:250,000 series |
| BGS (British Geological Survey) | 1985 | <i>East Anglia</i> , Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology, 1:250,000 series |
| Department for Communities and Local Government | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> |

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: norfolka1-153167

Project details

Project name	Former Parma Site, High Street, Wickham Market - Eval
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Ltd ahead of the redevelopment of a site at Wickham Market in Suffolk. The site was adjacent to the High Street and was occupied, until recent demolition, by a 1950s office building and 1970s works buildings along with their associated car parking and areas of hard standing. Following the removal of the upstanding buildings, their concrete slabs and the areas of hardstanding, trial trenches were excavated to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. It was intended to open four trenches but only two were excavated as it was clear that the preparation of the site for the demolished buildings had included substantial terracing across the site. The site had been terraced to such an extent that the levels had been reduced to a point within the underlying natural sand and therefore, any archaeological deposits that may have been present prior to this truncation had been removed.
Project dates	Start: 19-06-2013 End: 20-06-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL WICKHAM MARKET Former Parma Site, High Street, Wickham Market - Eval
Study area	0.30 Hectares

Site coordinates TM 3032 5623 52 1 52 09 20 N 001 22 02 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 Nigel Page

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Appendix 2: Archaeological Specification

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Evaluation by Trial Trench

Former Parma Site, High Street, Wickham Market

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent is to be sought for residential development at the former Parma site, High Street, Wickham Market.
- 1.2 The planning consent will contain a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (condition 55 in Circular 11/95). In order to establish the full archaeological implications of the proposed development, an archaeological evaluation will be required of the site. **The evaluation is the first part of the programme of archaeological work and decisions on the need for and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 The development area lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for the medieval small town of Wickham Market in the County Historic Environment Record. There is a high probability that the development will damage or destroy archaeological deposits.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RX; telephone: 01284 741230 or fax: 01284 741257) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/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.

- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will normally precede the field evaluation unless agreed otherwise. The results of the desk-based work is to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. **Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment**

- 3.1 Consult the County Historic Environment Record (HER), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report. *Please remember that copyright permissions should be sought from Suffolk Record Office, or other relevant institution, for anything included in the report.*
- 3.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.

4 **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the development area and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 4.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 4.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains,

building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.

- 4.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
"Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England" English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 4.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.12 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan showing all the areas observed should be included with the report. This must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration into the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 4.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made.
- 4.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

5. **General Management**

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

6. **Report Requirements**

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.

- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.10 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.
- 6.11 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Economy, Skills and Environment
9-10 The Churchyard
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 741227

Date: 11th July 2011

Reference: Former Parma Site

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.