

69 Kemps Lane, Beccles
BCC 084

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/020

Client: David O'Leary

Author: M. Sommers

February 2013

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Report Date: February 2013

HER Information

Report Number: 2013/020
Site Name: 69 Kemps Lane, Beccles, Suffolk
Planning Application No: DC/12/1266/FUL
Date of Fieldwork: 11th February 2013
Grid Reference: TM 4236 8909
Client/Funding Body: David O'Leary
Client Reference: n/a
Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper
Project Officer: M. Sommers
Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-143545
Site Code: BCC 084

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

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. 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 County Council's archaeological contracting services 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: M. Sommers

Date: 12th February 2013

Approved By: S. Boulter

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date:

Signed:

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent at 69 Kemps Lane, Beccles, Suffolk, in advance of the construction of a dwelling. A single trench was excavated but no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were identified. The natural subsoil consisted of a pale brown sandy silt and was encountered at a depth of 1.2m. (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team for David O'Leary)

1. Introduction

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a single dwelling (application number DC/12/1266/FUL) on a parcel of land that was formerly the garden of 69, Kemps Lane, Beccles. A condition was attached to the consent requiring an agreed programme of archaeological work be carried out in association with this development.

The first stage of the programme of work, as specified in a Brief produced by Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team, was the undertaking of a trenched evaluation in order to ascertain what levels of archaeological evidence may be present within the development area and to inform any mitigation strategies that may then be deemed necessary. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1), detailing the methods to be used, was produced and this was approved by the County Conservation Team.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 4236 8909. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the development area.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 11th February 2013 by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Field Team who were commissioned by the developer, David O'Leary.

2. Geology and topography

The development area consists of an irregularly shaped plot of land situated on a gentle east facing slope. The nearest watercourse of any significance is the River Waveney, situated c. 1.45km to the north.

Beccles lies on the edge of the central Suffolk clay lands resulting in a local topography that is mainly formed by gentle sloping valley sides although with occasional complex and relatively steep slopes. The soils are mainly well-drained deep loams which overlie a surface geology of glacial till or boulder clay with sand and gravel in the river valleys. The underlying geology consists of chalk.

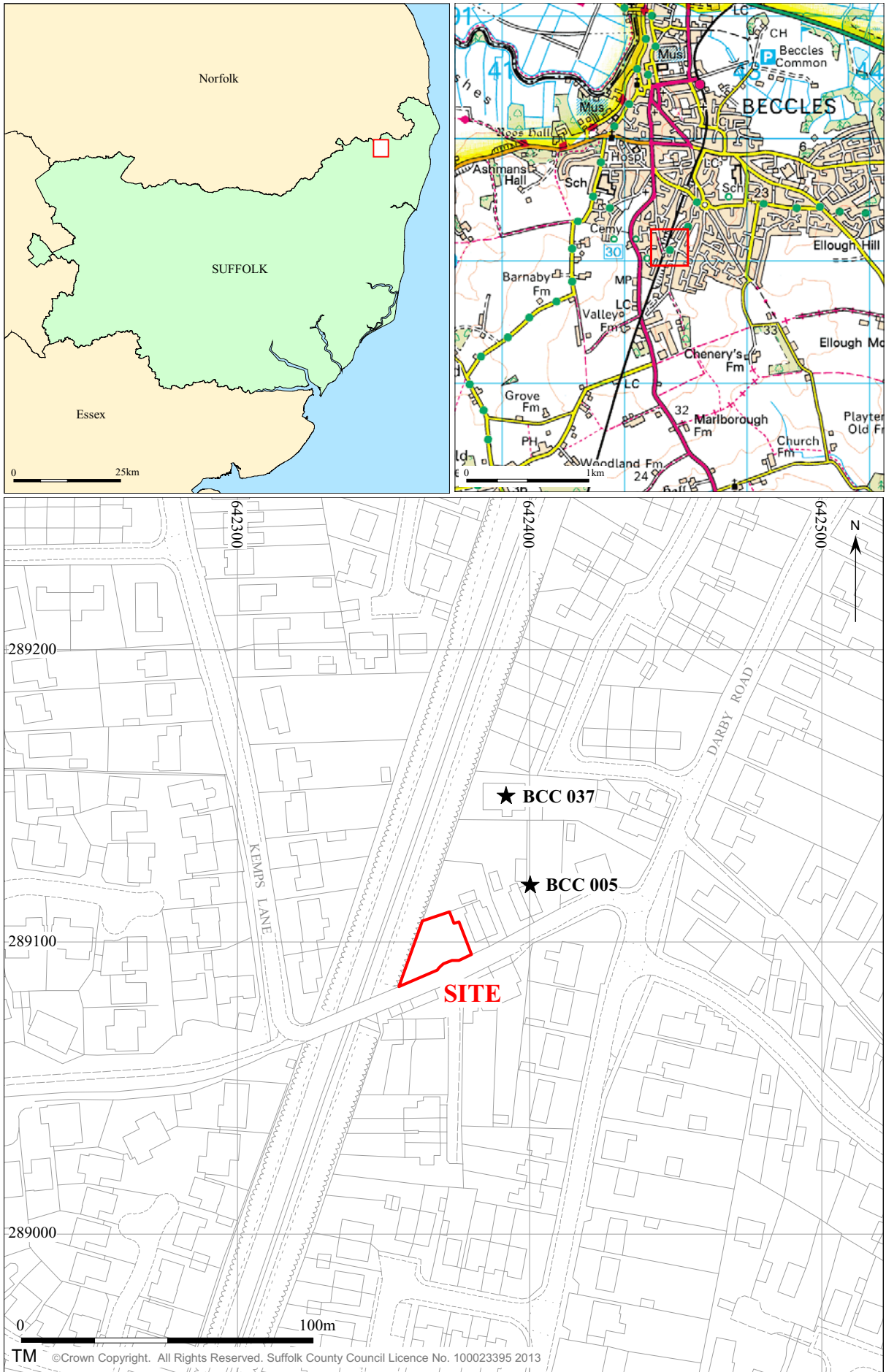


Figure 1. Location map (HER data in black)

The development area fronts onto Kemps Lane to the south-east and is bounded by fences on the west and north-west sides. The north-east side is open to the house at 69 Kemps Lane although this will be fenced. The Ipswich to Lowestoft railway line runs in a cutting along the north-west side of the site.

The site is situated within the urban area of the Suffolk town of Beccles, some 1.3km south of the town centre.

3. Archaeology and historical background

No archaeological sites or findspots are recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) within the development area itself although it lies close to a small group of inhumation burials that were recorded during building works on a site c. 50m to the north-east (HER ref. BCC 037, for location see Fig. 1). Consequently there was considered to be a high potential for archaeological deposits, including further burials, within the development area.

The development area is also close to the possible site of the lost medieval church of St Mary's, Ingate. It is known from documentary evidence to have stood in this area of Beccles although its precise location is unknown. A building, recorded as '*Endgate Ch(urch) in ruins*', is marked on Hodkinson's map of 1783 on a site some 600m to the east of the development area. An alternative site is recorded on the County HER which puts it a mere 30m east (HER ref. BCC 005, for location see Fig. 1). This revised location is based on 18th and 19th century descriptions of the ruins and is further backed up the finding of burials during the construction of the railway line in the 19th century as well as those recorded on the site to the north, all of which are presumably within the churchyard.

4. Methodology

The trial trench was machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil using a wheeled excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The location of the trench was in accordance with the trench plan approved by the County Conservation Team.

The machining of the trench was closely observed throughout in order to identify any archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that might be revealed. Excavation continued until undisturbed natural deposits were encountered, the exposed surface of which was then examined for cut features. Had any features or significant deposits been identified they would have been sampled through hand excavation in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts.

Following excavation of the trench, the nature of the overburden was recorded, the trench location was plotted and the depth noted. A photographic record of the work undertaken was also compiled using a 14 megapixel digital camera.

5. Results

A single evaluation trench was excavated (fig. 2). The natural subsoil, as exposed in the trench, consisted of a pale brown sandy silt and occurred at a depth of 1.2m. It was overlain by a layer of topsoil which in turn overlay a deposit of material similar to the natural subsoil but containing occasional fragments of red brick or tile and flecks of charcoal (plate 1).

The interface between the overburden and the natural subsoil was slightly blurred and there was no positive indication that the natural ground levels had been truncated.

No archaeological features, other than a small, very late post-medieval pit, were identified. No artefacts, other than fragments of late post-medieval brick and tile, were present within the excavated spoil.



Figure 2. Trench location

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No artefacts of any period were recovered during the evaluation.

7. Discussion

The results of evaluation suggest that no significant archaeological features or deposits are present within the site. The surface of the exposed natural subsoil was cleanly cut and had any buried remains been present it is highly likely they would have been identified.

No evidence of any further human burials, or the lost church, was identified. Only late post-medieval debris was noted, presumably related to the construction of the 19th century housing in the immediate area.

The overburden appeared to comprise a mass of disturbed or redeposited natural subsoil which is possibly related to the construction of the railway line and the adjacent bridge that carries Kemps Lane over the railway, works that could have potentially destroyed any archaeological evidence that may have been present.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation of the southern section of the application did not identify any archaeological deposits or features that could be under threat from the proposed development.

Based on these results, no further work is recommended although the final decision will be at the discretion of the County Conservation Team.

9. Archive deposition

Historic Environment Record reference under which the archive is held: BCC 084.

Digital archive can be found on the SCC servers at the following location:

R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Beccles\BCC 084 Evaluation (Kemps Lane)

Digital photographs are held under the references HSW 52 to HSW 53

A summary has also been entered into OASIS, the online database, ref. suffolkc1-143545

10. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Mark Sommers from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Mark Sommers and managed by Stuart Boulter, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Plates

(scales used are 1m or 2m in length divided into 0.5m sections; SCCAS photo refs. are in brackets)



Plate 1. general view of the stratigraphy revealed in the trench (ref. HSW 52)

Appendix 1. Written Scheme of Investigation



69, Kemps Lane, Beccles, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trench

**Written Scheme of Investigation
&
Safety Statement and Risk Assessment**

**Prepared by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Contracting Team
February 2013**

Document Control

Title: 69, Kemps Lane, Beccles, Suffolk

Planning App: DC/12/1266/FUL

Date: 1st February 2013

Issued by: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team

Author: Linzi Everett

Checked by: Stuart Boulter

Issued to: Ian Garrett Building Design Ltd.
Jess Tipper, SCCAS Conservation Team

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3. Archaeological Method Statement
4. Risk Assessment

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1. Site location
2. Site detail and proposed trench location (green)

Appendices

1. SCC Health and Safety Policy
2. SCC Liability Insurance certificate
3. Risk Assessments

1. Background

- 1.2 The Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) have been asked by Ian Garrett Building Design Ltd. to prepare documentation for a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trench at the above site (Fig 1). This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covers that work only. Any further stages of archaeological work that might be required in relation to the proposed development would be subject to new documentation.
- 1.3 The part of the site concerned lies centred approximately on NGR TM 4237 8910, on land north of Kemps Lane.
- 1.4 The work is to be undertaken as a condition of planning consent (DC/12/1266/FUL.).
- 1.5 The archaeological investigation will be conducted in accordance with Brief and Specification documents produced by Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team (dated 20th December 2012).
- 1.6 The area concerned has not been the subject of previous archaeological fieldwork. It lies within an area of archaeological potential, close to various sites and finds recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 1.7 The fieldwork will be carried out by members of SCCAS Field Team under the supervision of a Project Officer (Mark Sommers).

1.1 Research aims

The research aims of a trial trench evaluation are as follows:

RA1: Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

RA2: Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

RA3: Establish the potential for the survival and significance of geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence.

RA4: Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

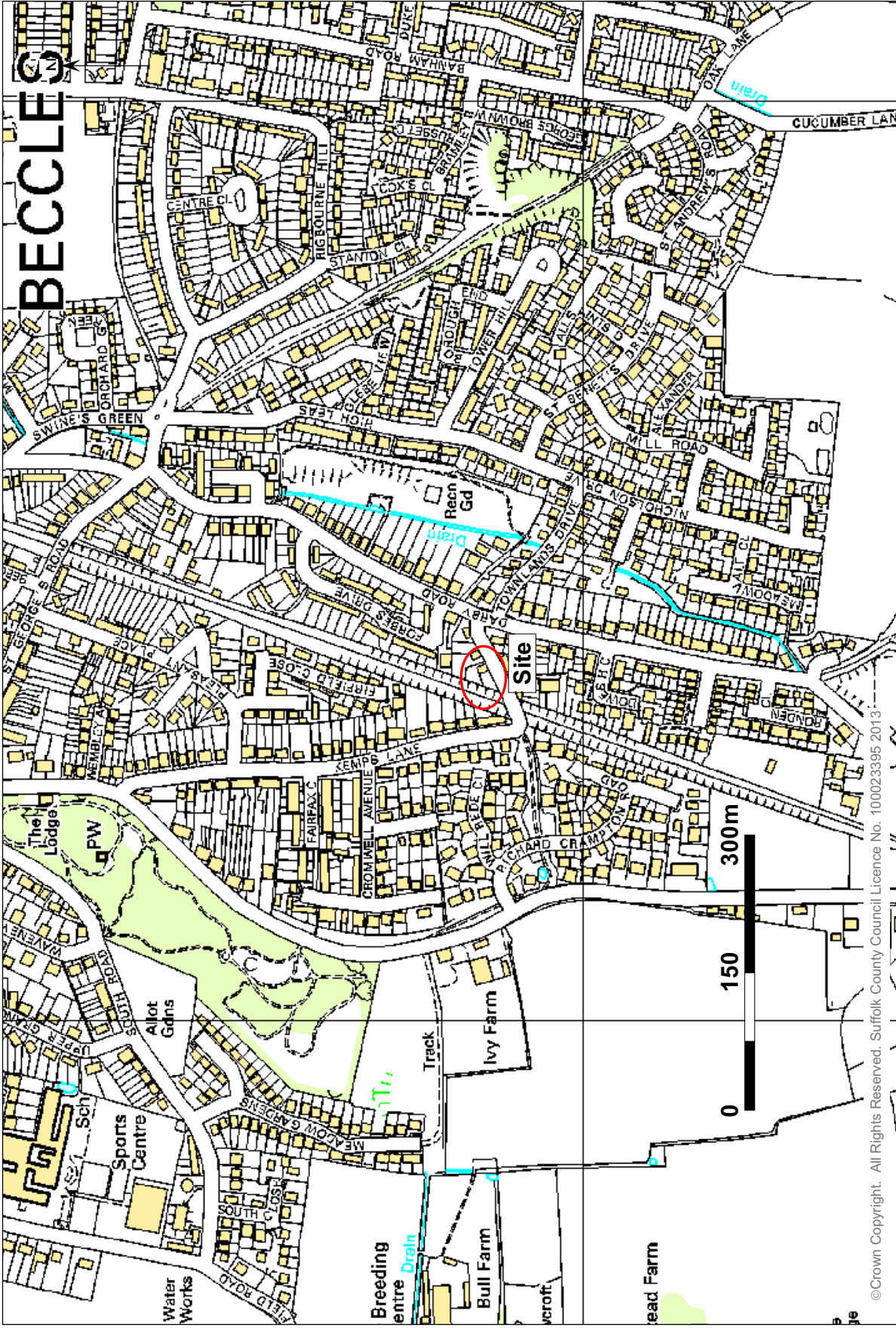


Figure 1. Site Location

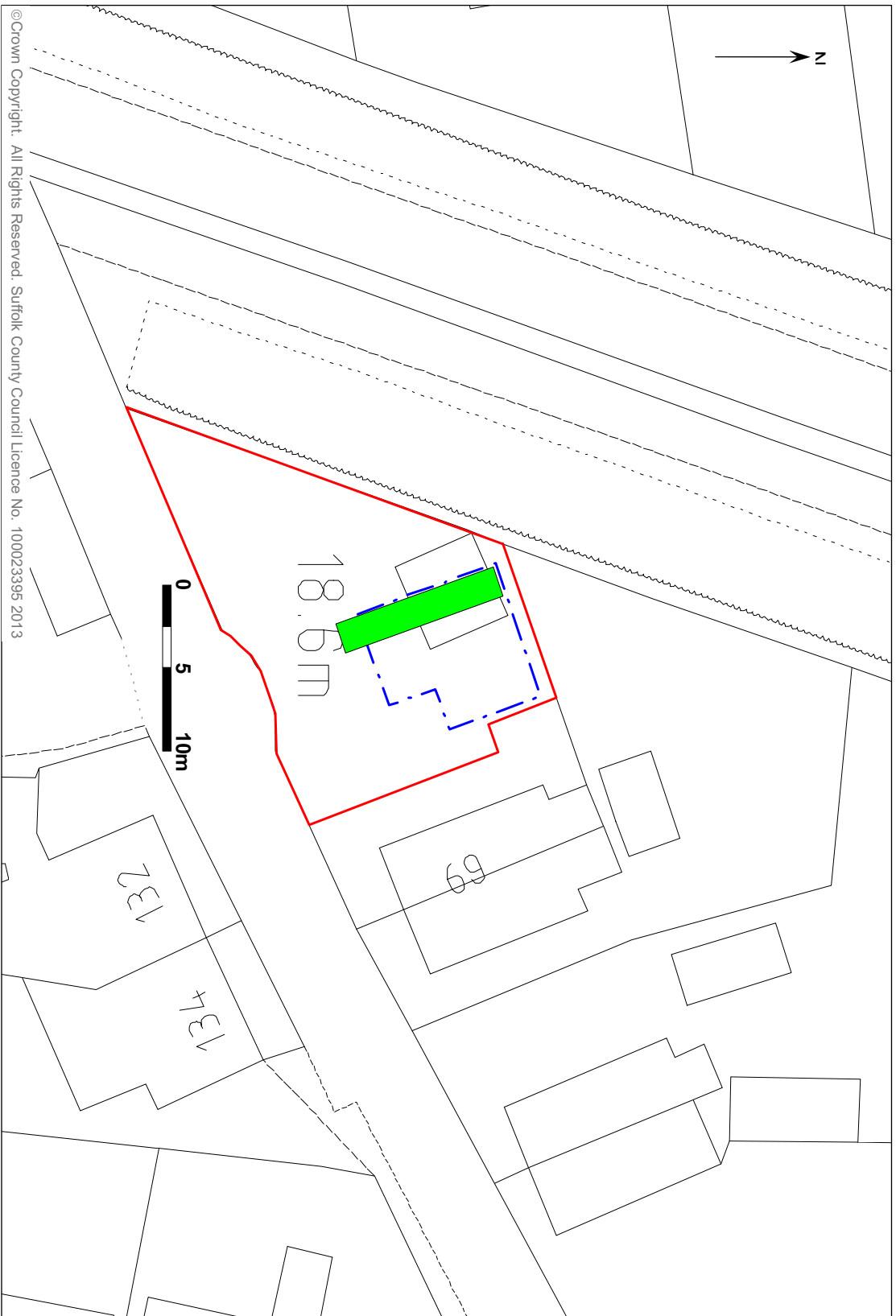


Figure 2. Site detail and proposed trench location (green)

2 Project details

Site Name	69, Kemps Lane
Site Location/Parish	Beccles
Grid Reference	TM 4237 8910
Access	Off Kemps Lane
Planning No	DC/12/1266/FUL
HER code	BCC 084
OASIS Ref	TBA
SCCAS Job Code	BECC/KEM/001
Type:	Trial trench evaluation
Area	c. 315m ²
Project start date	TBC
Duration	c. 1 days site work
Number of personnel on site	Up to 2

Personnel and contact numbers

Contracts Manager	Rhodri Gardner	01473 265879
Project Officer (first point of on-site contact)	Mark Sommers	07753 788607
Finds Dept	Richenda Goffin	01284 741233
Sub-contractors		
Curatorial Officer	Jess Tipper	01284 741225
Consultant		
Developer		
Site landowner		

Emergency contacts

Local Police	Beccles	01473 613500
Local GP		
Location of nearest A&E	James Paget Hospital, Lowestoft Road, Gorleston, NR31 6LA	01493 452452
Qualified First Aiders	Linzi Everett	07753 788606
Base emergency no.	N/A	

Hire details

Plant:	Client to supply	
Toilet Hire	N/A	
Tool hire:	N/A	

Other Contacts

Suffolk Fleet Maintenance		01359 270777
Suffolk Press Office		01473 264395
SCC EMS (James Wilson)		01473 264301
SCC H&S (Martin Fisher)		01473 265299

3 Archaeological method statement

3.1 Evaluation by trial trench

- 3.1.1 The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by members of the SCCAS field team led by an experienced member of staff of Project Officer Grade. The excavation team will comprise up to 2 experienced excavators from a pool of suitable staff at SCCAS. Fieldwork standards will be guided by 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England' EAA Occasional Papers 14.
- 3.1.2 The specification calls for the area to be investigated by trial trenching, with a requirement for one 10m trench measuring 1.8m wide. A trench location agreed with the LPA is shown in Fig 2.
- 3.1.3 The trench footprints will be CAT scanned to determine if services are present. Trenches can and will be moved where necessary to avoid previously known obstructions.
- 3.1.4 All mechanised stripping operations will be carried out using a JCB excavator. A toothless ditching bucket will then be used to open the trenches to the required level. All machine work will be carried out under the direct supervision of an archaeologist at all times. All overburden will be removed stratigraphically until the first undisturbed archaeological horizon or natural deposit is encountered. Spoil will be temporarily stockpiled next to each trench.
- 3.1.5 Archaeological deposits and features will be sampled by hand excavation and trench bases and sections cleaned as necessary in order to satisfy the project aims and fulfil the requirements of the Brief and Specification.
- 3.1.6 A minimum of two sections per trench will be recorded at 1:20. Feature sections and plans will be recorded at 1:20 and trench and feature plans at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. Normal Field Team conventions, compatible with the County HER, will be used during the site recording.
- 3.1.7 The site will be recorded under a unique HER site code and archaeological contexts will be recorded using standard SCCAS *pro forma* Context Recording sheets.
- 3.1.8 A digital photographic record will be made throughout the evaluation.
- 3.1.9 All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. Metal detector searches will take place throughout the evaluation, of both trenches and spoilheaps, by an experienced SCCAS metal-detectorist. Finds on site will be treated according to 'First Aid for Finds' and a conservator will be available for on-site consultation as required. Finds will be processed and receive an initial assessment during the fieldwork phase and this information will be fed back to site to inform work in progress.
- 3.1.10 All finds will be brought back to the SCCAS Bury St Edmunds office at the end of each day for processing, preliminary conservation and packing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done at the Bury St Edmunds

office, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in archaeology and university departments in other parts of the country.

- 3.1.11 Bulk environmental soil samples (40 litres each) will be taken from selected archaeological features and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from English Heritage's Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science on the need for specialist environmental sampling.
- 3.1.12 In the event of human remains being encountered on the site, guidelines from the Ministry of Justice will be followed. The evaluation will attempt to establish the extent, depth and date of burials whilst leaving remains *in situ*.

3.2 Post-excavation

- 3.2.1 The post-excavation work will be managed by Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff will be used, who are experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field. Members of the project team will be responsible for taking the project to archive and assessment levels.
- 3.2.2 The site archive will be consistent with 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (English Heritage, 1991).
- 3.2.3 All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. All site plans and sections will be copied to form a permanent archive on archivally stable material. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets. The photographic archive will be fully catalogued within the County SMR photographic index.
- 3.2.4 All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County SMR requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number.
- 3.2.5 Bulk finds will be fully quantified on a computerised database compatible with the County SMR. Quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by OP and context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- 3.2.6 Metal finds on site will be stored in accordance with ICON guidelines, initially recorded assessed for significance before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the excavation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts will be x-rayed 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.
- 3.2.7 Specialist reports will be done in-house or commissioned as necessary to meet the requisite standards at assessment level.

- 3.2.8 The site archive will meet the standards set by 'The Guideline for the preparation of site archives and assessments of all finds other than fired clay vessels' of the Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD700 - 1700 (1993).
- 3.2.9 The pottery will be recorded and archived to a standard consistent with the Draft Guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Research Group and Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery, SGRP (ed. M.G. Darling, 1994).
- 3.2.10 Environmental samples will be processed and assessed to standards set by the Regional Environmental Archaeologist with a clear statement of potential for further analysis.
- 3.2.11 Animal and human bone will be quantified and assessed to a standard acceptable to national and regional English Heritage specialists.
- 3.2.12 An industrial waste assessment will cover all relevant material (i.e. fired clay finds as well as slag).

Appendix 2. OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-143545

Project details

Project name	BCC084 - 69 Kempys Lane, Beccles
Short description of the project	A trenched evaluation undertaken in advance of a residential development did not identify any significant archaeological deposits or features.
Project dates	Start: 11-02-2013 End: 12-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BCC084 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/12/1266/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY BECCLES BCC084 - 69 Kempys Lane
Study area	300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4236 8909 52 1 52 26 43 N 001 34 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team
Project director/manager	Stuart Boulter
Project supervisor	Mark Sommers
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Digital Archive ID	BCC084
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Archive ID	BCC084
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research', ' General Notes', "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: 69 Kemps Lane, Beccles
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sommers, M.
Other bibliographic details	SCCAS 2013/020
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	Ipswich
Description	printed sheets of A4 paper with card covers and a plastic comb binding

Entered by	MS (mark.sommers@suffolk.gov.uk)
Entered on	12 February 2013



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