Land off Canning Road, Lowestoft
LWT 215

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/111

Client: Concertus

Author: Simon Cass

September 2013

Land off Canning Road, Lowestoft

LWT 215

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Author: Simon Cass

Illustrator: Crane Begg

Editor: Stuart Boulter

Report Date: September 2013

HER Information

Site Code:	**LWT 215**
Site Name:	**Land off Canning Road, Lowestoft**
Report Number	**2013/111**
Planning Application No:	**DC/13/0743/RG3**
Date of Fieldwork:	**09/09/2013-13/09/2013**
Grid Reference:	**TM 5377 9258**
Oasis Reference:	**Suffolkc1-158248**
Curatorial Officer:	**Richard Hoggett**
Project Officer:	**Simon Cass**
Client/Funding Body:	**Concertus**
Client Reference:	**-**

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

Prepared By: Simon Cass
Date: 20/09/2013

Approved By: Stuart Boulter
Position: Senior Project Officer
Date: 23/09/2013
Signed:

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off Canning Road, Lowestoft between the 9th and 13th September 2013 in relation to a planning application DC/13/0743/RG3 for redevelopment of derelict ground. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed, and much of the site appears to have been heavily disturbed in the 20th century, with various phases of quarrying/refuse dumping and possibly use as a railway gravel stockyard being noted. No further archaeological work is recommended as being necessary in order to fulfil the condition placed on this development.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off Canning Road, Lowestoft between the 9th and 13th September 2013 in relation to a planning application DC/13/0743/RG3 for redevelopment of derelict ground off Canning Road and Riverside Road, Lowestoft. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team (SCCAS/FT) were engaged by Concertus to provide an appropriate investigation and mitigation scheme in relation to a brief and specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper of SCCAS Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) on the 10th April 2013 and overseen by Richard Hoggett, also of SCCAS/CT.

2. Geology and topography

The site is located on sandy drift deposits at a height of 3m-4m, with a slight slope downhill towards the south (in the vicinity of Trenches 10 and 11), on a former floodplain immediately south of Lake Lothing and west of Kirkley Ham. The site now lies within a modern industrial estate that has its origins in the development of the south side of Lake Lothing in the late 1800's/early 1900's.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The sites potential was based on its location within the medieval and early post medieval town core, an area of archaeological interest recorded in the Suffolk HER (LWT 040). Lake Lothing is recorded as the remnants of a possible medieval turbary (LWT 154) and as such, there was believed to be the potential for the survival for palaeo-environmental deposits associated with the floodplain as well as evidence of medieval occupation and activity.

An archaeological evaluation carried out in 2012 (LWT 190) on an adjacent piece of land found no evidence of archaeologically relevant remains surviving, with a significant amount of modern pitting/truncation and disturbance across the site although it was hoped that the current site had not been so affected.

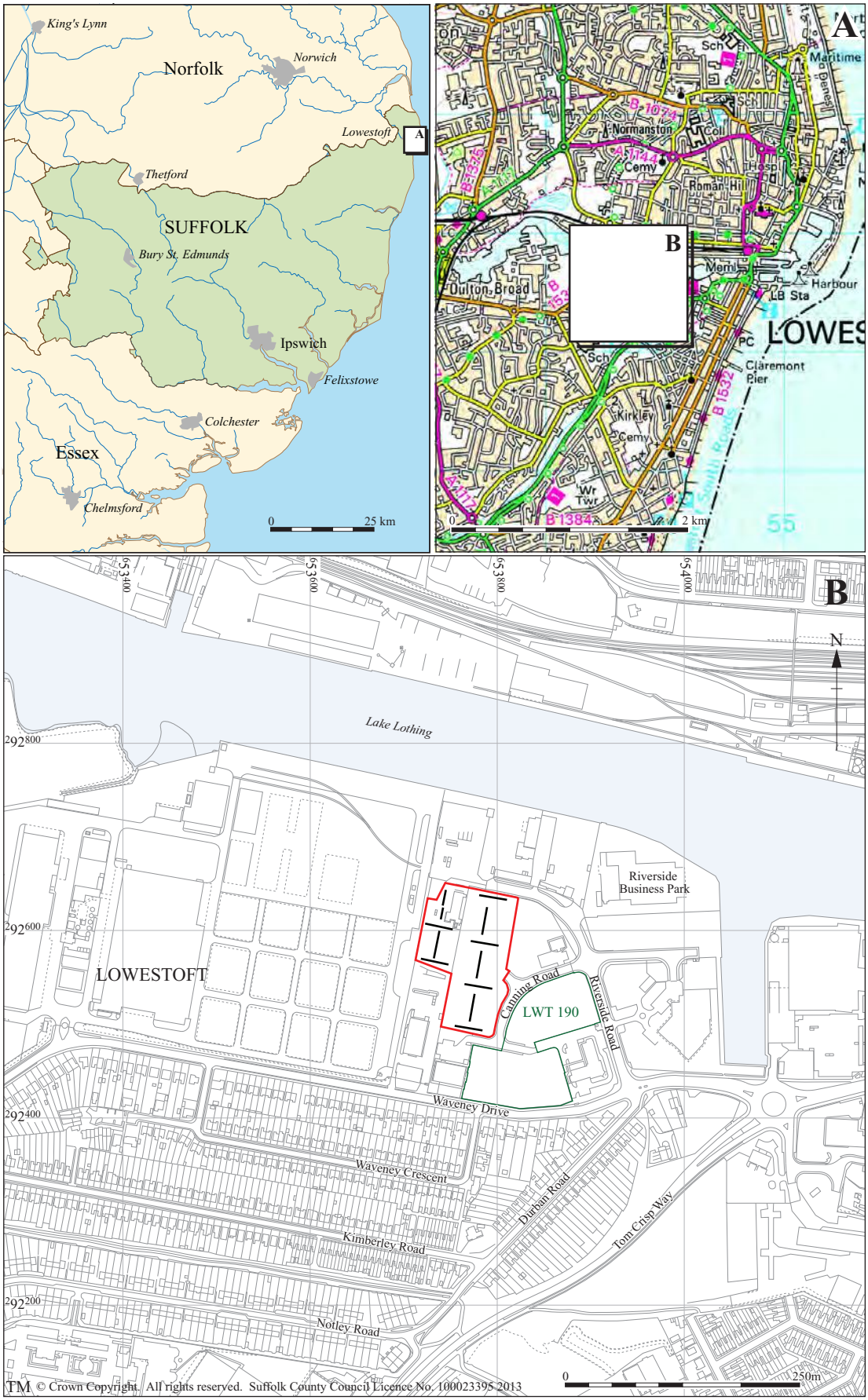

Figure 1. Location map, with development area (red) and evaluation trenches (black)

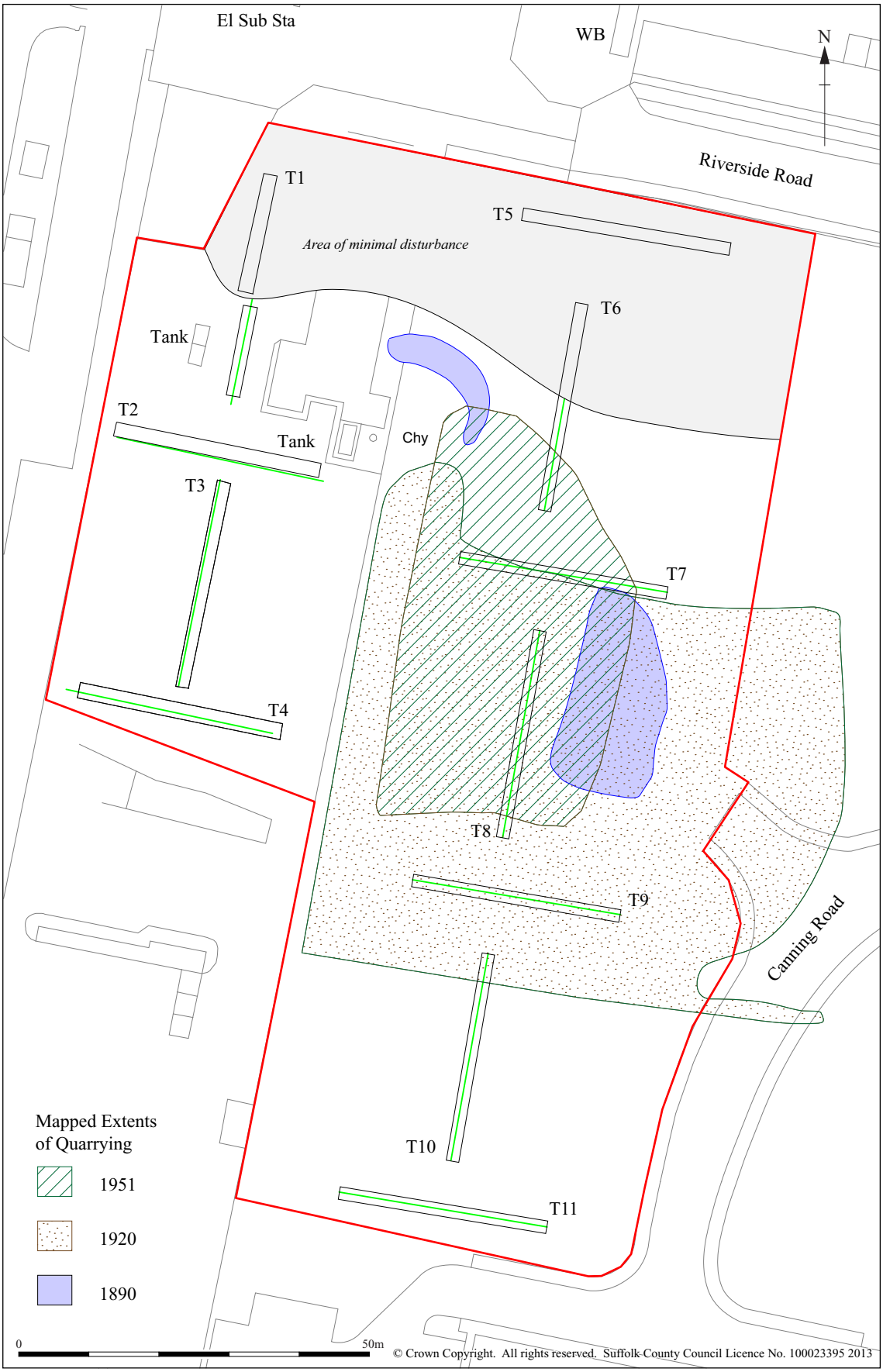

Figure 2. Trench plan showing areas of quarrying and minimally disturbed natural

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that 5% of the development area (*c*. 1.2ha) should be subject to trial trenching. This equated to 333m of trenching, at 1.8m wide. The trenches were located in a standard grid array covering the site, with some slight variations in the north-western area due to sub-surface obstructions and drains. In total, a 330m length of trench was excavated across the site.

The trenches were excavated by a 13-tonne 360^0 tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket. All machining was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist. In general, overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered although some deep trenches with large modern cut features were not bottomed due to practicality and safety considerations (as noted later).

Deposits were recorded using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at 1:50 and 1:20 where necessary. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital camera (14 megapixels).

The location of each trench was established prior to excavation using GPS surveying equipment to a horizontal accuracy of within 0.02m. Levels were recorded using the same machine at the ends of each trench.

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit) upon completion of the project.

The site archives are kept in the store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in Bury St Edmunds under HER No. LWT 215.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

While the majority of the trenches were sited as planned in the WSI approved by SCCAS/CT, some movement was required in Trenches 1-4 on the western side of the site to account for drainage and inspection hatches as well as sub-surface obstacles related to the known underground fuel storage tanks. Trenches 6-9 were not excavated to the top of natural deposits because they were in an area covered by recent/modern disturbance in excess of 1.5m deep. The depth of undisturbed natural elsewhere nearby had been established as *c*.0.3m-0.5m below the surface and it is thought unlikely that any archaeology would have survived such modern truncation making it unnecessary to fully excavate these trenches. There were also safety considerations with the unconsolidated and loose nature of the dumped deposits encountered within these trenches and the exposed/easily accessible nature of this part of the site.

5.2 Trench results

Trench 1

This trench was 30m long, 1.8m wide and up to 1m deep, split into two segments due to the presence of an inspection hatch and pipe work connected to the nearby fuel storage tank half way along the trench. It was also moved slightly to the east to avoid the tank although in the event, the concrete surround still filled much of the southern end of the trench. The stratigraphy encountered in the northern end consisted of some 0.25m of concrete over redeposited natural sands and silts with a thin band of demolition(?) rubble mixed with pale yellow sands and gravel 0.1m thick, with a shallow layer approximately 0.15m thick of a mid grey sandy subsoil deposit. This subsoil deposit contained flecks and fragments of brick, glass and gravels but may be a disturbed pre-existing subsoil layer (potentially the lower reaches of old ploughsoil) rather than an entirely man-made deposit like the rest of the deposits seen in the evaluation. Natural mid yellow sharp sands and grit with dark brown mottling was observed below this layer, at a depth of c. 0.7m below the current surface.

The southern segment of the trench revealed thick concrete surrounding the sub-surface fuel tanks along its western side and extending to the centre of the trench which

impeded mechanical excavation, but a test-pit along the eastern side recorded 0.6m of reinforced concrete slab and imported gravels over c.0.3m of the mid grey silty sand subsoil. This again overlay natural yellow mottled sands, at a depth of c. 0.9m below current surface levels.

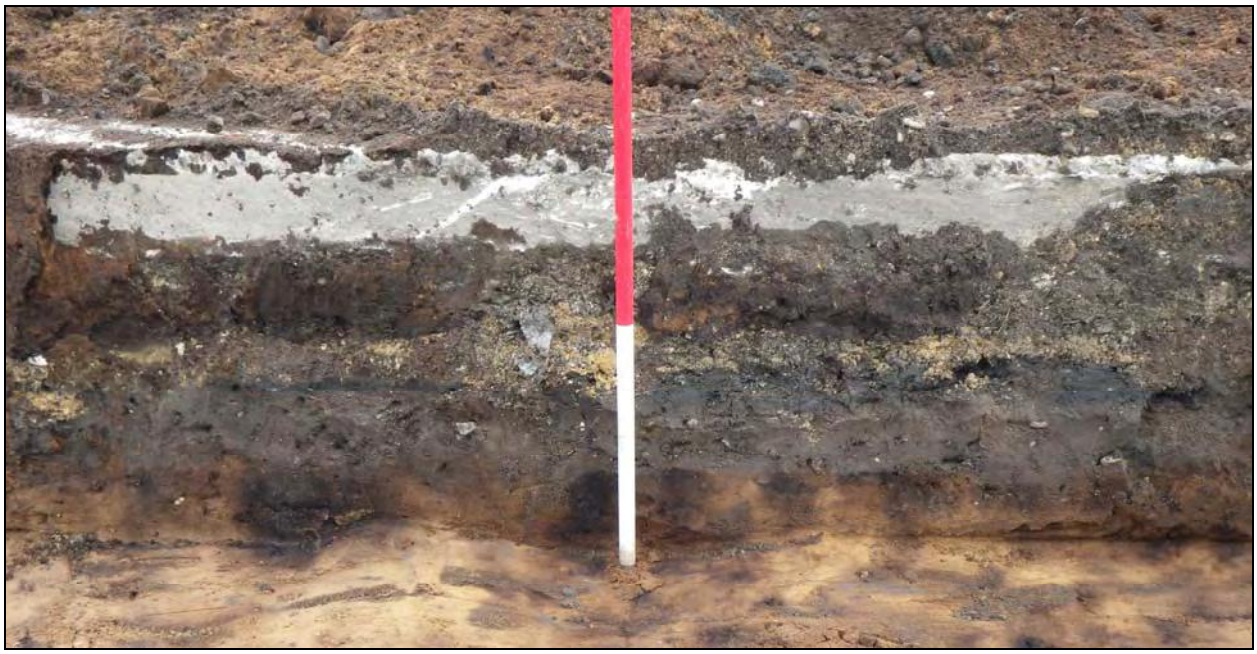

Plate 1. Trench 1 section, northern end facing east (2m scale)

Plate 2. Trench 1 section, southern end facing east (2m scale)

Trench 2

This trench was 30m long and orientated approximately east-west, 1.8m wide and up to 1.8m deep. The exposed stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of reinforced concrete over 1.3m of 50-80mm graded gravels (Pl. 3). This sealed a thin layer approximately 0.15m thick of dark brown/black silty sands with frequent brick fragments, glass chips and occasional white china fragments on top of natural pale/ washed out soft silty sands with mottled patches. It seems unlikely that the thin dark layer is a surviving natural deposit, more that it is accidental/coincidental infilling of a large hole before it was filled with gravels.

Plate 3. Trench 2 section, facing north (2m scale) showing depth of gravel/hogging

Trench 3

This trench was 30m long and orientated approximately north-south, 1.8m wide and up to 1.7m deep. The exposed stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.4m of reinforced concrete over 0.7m of 50-80mm graded gravels and 0.2m of the dark silty sands seen in Trench 2 still overlying natural mottled pale creamy soft sands.

Plate 4. Trench 3 section, facing east (2m scale)

Trench 4

This trench was 30m long and orientated approximately east-west, 1.8m wide and up to 1.5m deep. A large (c.2.5m diameter) concrete inspection chamber was encountered at the western end of the trench, immediately below the surface concrete, which prevented further excavation for the first 5m of the trench. The exposed stratigraphy encountered consisted of between 0.3m and 0.5m of reinforced concrete over 0.5-.07m of graded gravels which sealed a generally dark brown/black silty man-made deposit containing large amounts of modern brick, glass, china, metalwork, etc and which was noticeably contaminated by hydrocarbons.

Plate 6. Trench 4 section, facing north (2m scale)

Trench 5

This trench was 30m long and orientated approximately east-west, 1.8m wide and up to 1.0m deep. The exposed stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.3m of disturbed topsoil over natural mid yellow/brown soft silty sands with mottling apart from the western end of the trench where a modern feature was observed filled with a poorly mixed silt and sand with clay lumps. It contained glass fragments, modern brick and tile and ironwork – believed to be related to a row of terraced houses which stood here on the northern edge of the site till quite recently. No records can be found for the date of demolition of these buildings but they are recorded on 2002 OS maps, and by 2006 planning applications for redevelopment of the area make no mention of standing buildings being present.

Trench 6

This trench was 30m long and orientated approximately north-south, 1.8m wide and up to 0.5m deep. The exposed stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m-0.4m of disturbed mid brown sandy topsoil over natural mid/pale yellow mottled sands. The southern half of this trench was filled with a large modern feature, interpreted as the northern edge of a rubbish/quarry pit noted on Ordnance Survey maps at least as recently as 1953.

Plate 7. Trench 6, facing north showing modern deposit (2m scale)

Trenches 7, 8 and 9

These trenches were all 30m long, with 7 and 9 orientated approximately east-west and 8 north-south, 1.8m wide and approximately 0.5m deep. It was considered unnecessary to fully excavate these trenches after test pits in Trench 7 confirmed that the depth of modern dumped material was in excess of 1.5m as it would be unlikely for any archaeological deposits to have survived such deep disturbance. Instead it was decided to simply confirm the continuation of the underlying rubbish pit(s). Topsoil depths were generally between 0.4m and 0.5m.

Trench 10

This trench was 30m long and orientated approximately north-south, 1.8m wide and up to 0.6m deep. The exposed stratigraphy encountered consisted of a thin topsoil consisting of very rooty mid yellow/brown natural sands, interpreted as weed growth into natural deposits, over mid/pale yellow natural soft sands. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed and it appears likely that the site was graded at the time of demolition of the previous factory here, leaving no surviving archaeological horizon or deposits.

Trench 11

This trench was 30m long and orientated approximately east-west, 1.8m wide and up to 0.5m deep. The exposed stratigraphy was similar to that observed in Trench 10 to the north and again, it seems likely that the demolition of the previous factory has removed the archaeological horizon in this area.

Plate 8. Trench 10, facing south (2m scale)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

No finds of archaeological relevance were encountered during the course of this evaluation. A number of modern artefacts (broken glass, ceramic insulators, concrete blocks, metalwork, bricks, service pipes, etc) were encountered, particularly in the area around Trenches 6 to 10, but were not retained.

7. Discussion

The presence of large-scale modern disturbance across much of the site appears to be related to a quarrying pit that becomes a refuse pit in the early-mid 1900's, in the area covered by Trenches 6-10. The pit changes shape and extent quite significantly between the various ordnance survey maps showing it (between 1890 and 1951) and could well extend further than shown on these maps before it was finally closed (by 1963). The large factory/warehouse situated south of the site (and covering the area of Trenches 10-11 also appears to have resulted in the total removal of any top and subsoil, as well as potential an unknown depth of natural sands (which would have likely included an shallow archaeological deposits and/or stray finds).

The presence of large amounts of gravel in Trenches 2-4 possibly from railway bedding (some track spikes were observed during excavation) could be related to the removal or maintenance of a line of track serving the southern shore of Lake Lothing, the East Anglian Ice Works and Raglan Works (the canning factory) or possibly have been used as a stock yard by the railway for storing gravel for use elsewhere. Due to this disturbance it is unclear if the wetlands to the west of the site ever extended this far eastward and if there were suitable palaeosoils for sampling that have since been removed. The possible presence of a small amount of ploughsoil in the northern end of Trench 1 could suggest that this is not the case, but a larger open area strip or further evaluation to the west would be required in order to investigate this.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The site at the former Belle Coaches yard and land off Canning Road appears to have been significantly damaged by modern development on the site, with the result that there is little remaining archaeological potential except for occasional large/deep cut features which are uncommon in such soft soils and at such low heights above the water table. No further archaeological mitigation is recommended as being necessary for the development of this site and any condition placed on the development related to archaeological investigation can be considered as adequately fulfilled.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Lowestoft\LWT 215 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HUA-HUZ\HUH 47-98

Finds and environmental archive: None

Store Location: -

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass, with the surveying by Simon Picard. Project management was undertaken by Stuart Boulter who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The report illustrations were created by Crane Begg and the report was edited by Stuart Boulter.

Suffolk County Council

The Archaeological Service

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

Appendix 1. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

AT

Canning Road, Lowestoft

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Waveney
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	To be arranged
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 537 925
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	New offices for Waveney District Council and Suffolk County Council
AREA:	1.20 ha.
CURRENT LAND USE:	Brownfield
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper County Archaeologist Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	10 April 2013

Summary

1.1 The developer has been advised that the site of the proposed works is located in a sensitive archaeological location. There is high potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest, including palaeoenvironmental remains, to be disturbed by development in this area, and the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.2 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) will be advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development takes place in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.

1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in

conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3 and Additional Requirements for a Palaeoenvironmental Assessment 2011 Ver 1.1), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny.

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 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Archaeological Background

2.1 This site is considered to be an area of high archaeological potential. The Outer Harbour Area incorporates part of the medieval and early post-medieval town core, which is recorded as an area of archaeological importance in the Historic Environment Record (HER no. LWT 040). There is high potential for encountering important medieval occupation deposits within this area. Lake Lothing is recorded in the HER as the remnants of a possible Medieval turbary (HER no: LWT 154). There are also a number of recorded archaeological sites and find spots within and surrounding the Lake Lothing Area. However, the area has been subject to only piecemeal archaeological investigation, in response to new development, and not to systematic archaeological survey.

This site has good potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown below-ground heritage assets (i.e. archaeological sites and features) in view of its topographic location overlooking Lake Lothing. This location is topographically favourable for early occupation. There is also high potential for encountering important palaeo-environmental deposits within the area of the floodplain. Any extensive development causing significant ground disturbance has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

3.1 A linear trenched evaluation, incorporating palaeo-environmental assessment, is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.

3.2 Trial Trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival and significance of geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

3.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.

3.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is *c.*600.00m^2. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in *c.*333.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

3.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches, and palaeoenvironmental samples, should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation 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.

4.3 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 other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

5.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work in advance of fieldwork (a HER code will not be issued until an OASIS record has been initiated). This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.

5.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.

5.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.

5.8 All parts of the OASIS online form http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.

5.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.

5.10 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

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3, Additional Requirements for a Palaeoenvironmental Assessment 2011 Ver 1.1 and in SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010.

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 archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

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. The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446).

Appendix 2. OASIS form

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-158248

Project details

Project name	Canning Road, Lowestoft: Record of an Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off Canning Road, Lowestoft between the 9th and 13th September 2013 in relation to a planning application DC/13/0743/RG3 for redevelopment of derelict ground. No finds or features of archaeological relevance were observed, and much of the site appears to have been heavily disturbed in the 20th century, with various phases of quarrying/refuse dumping and possibly use as a railway gravel stockyard being noted. No further archaeological work is recommended as being necessary in order to fulfil the condition placed on this development.
Project dates	Start: 09-09-2013 End: 13-09-2103
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	2013/111 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/13/0743/RG3 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	LWT 215 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	QUARRY Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches","Visual Inspection"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY LOWESTOFT Canning Road
Study area	1.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 5380 9260 52 1 52 28 17 N 001 44 14 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	Jess Tipper
Project director/manager	Stuart Boulter
Project supervisor	Simon Cass
Type of sponsor/funding body	Concertus

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey","other"
Paper Media available	"Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Canning Road, Lowestoft LWT 215 Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cass, S.
Other bibliographic details	2013/111
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A short report in house style, wire-comb bound and card-covered as usual.

Entered by	Simon Cass (simon.cass@suffolk.gov.uk)
Entered on	20 September 2013

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Field Projects Team

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