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# SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

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## Land West of Lowgate Street, Eye

**EYE 069**

**Planning application no. OL/81/01**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2007/219**

**OASIS ID No. 35184**

### **Summary**

Eye, Land west of Lowgate Street (TM/145736; EYE 069) Conditional planning consent for the construction of new houses on land off Lowgate, Eye, required archaeological monitoring of the associated groundworks following trenched evaluation of the majority of the site. The area of a former garage on the road frontage was heavily disturbed by underground tanks, the removal of which was monitored but no archaeological deposits were seen. No interventions were seen elsewhere on the site, nor were any artefacts recovered during monitoring. (Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and Bovis Homes Ltd.; report no. 2007/219)

### **1. Introduction**

Conditional planning consent for the building of new houses off Lowgate Street, Eye, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site is centred on TM 1456 7362, at a height of approximately 34m OD. The development lies within the area of medieval Eye as defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record and evaluation of the site had produced scattered evidence of prehistoric and post medieval activity (Duffy, 2004). As such, there was the potential for the presence of further archaeological deposits to be exposed by the various groundworks required, as the road frontage on Lowgate Street could not be trenched in 2004.

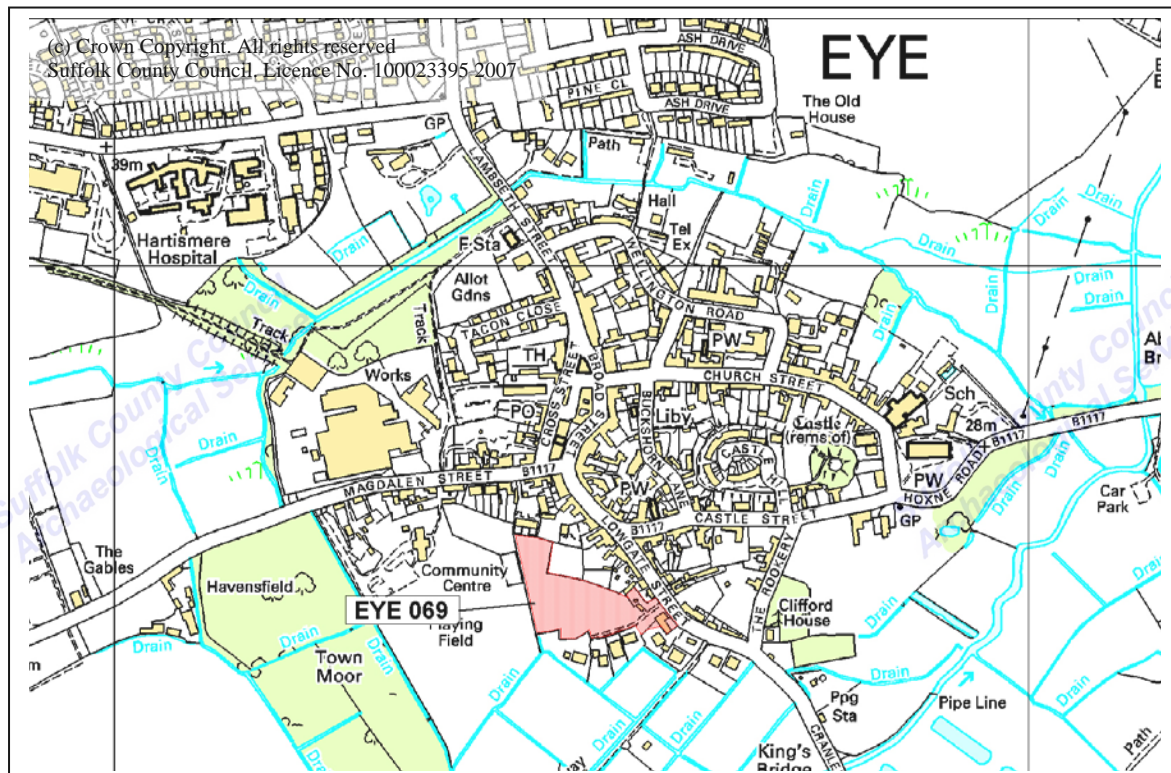


Figure 1: Site location

## 2. Methodology

Various visits were made to the site by members of the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the various groundworks. The site was recorded under the SMR code EYE 069, continuing the recording system started during the evaluation. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Keith Wade of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The was funded by Bovis Homes Ltd.

The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

## 3. Results

The removal of underground tanks associated with a former garage was monitored, digging to a depth of over 2m (area A, fig. 2). The natural sand subsoil was visible at the base of the excavated area but the sections showed significant modern disturbance throughout. Footing trenches in areas B and C (fig. 2) were excavated to a depth of c.800mm, showing the composition of the soil in the exposed sections. Services were also excavated and monitored in area B. The topsoil comprised a dark brown sandy loam c.300mm thick and sealed a clean, mid orange sand natural subsoil. No interventions or artefacts were present.

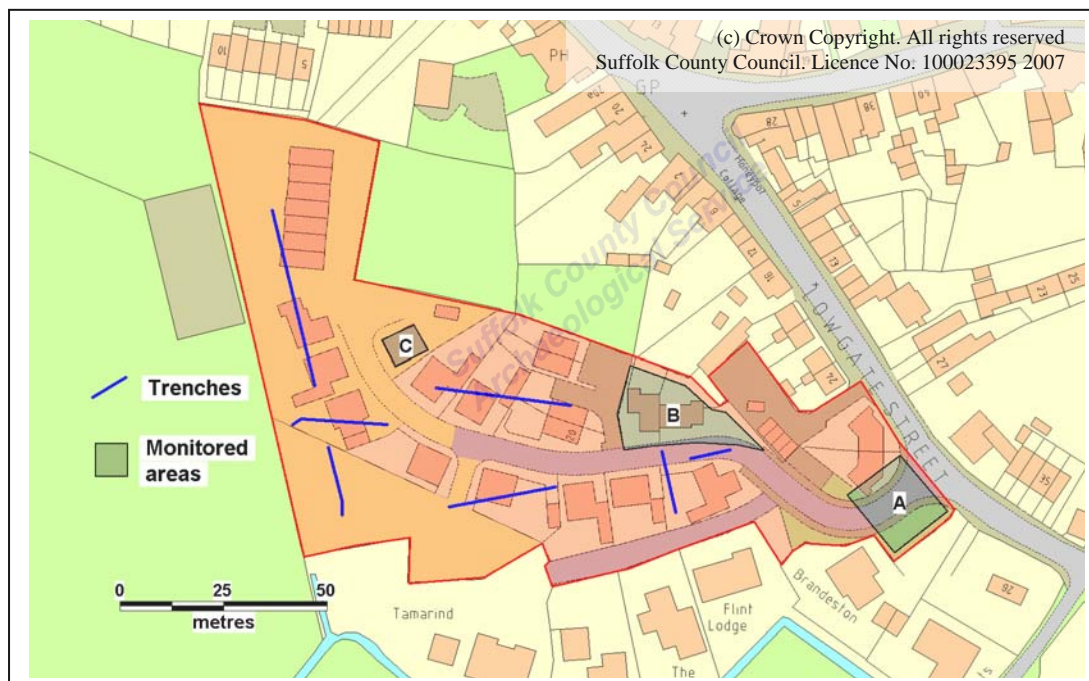


Figure 2: Location of trenched and monitored areas

## 4. Discussion

Despite the potential for evidence of medieval roadside settlement, disturbance associated with the former garage was severe and would have totally destroyed archaeological remains, had they been present. It should be noted that this was the main area which was not possible to trench. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed by the groundworks within the area already evaluated. While only a relatively small proportion of the total groundworks was viewed, the evaluation results similarly recorded a low level of past activity on the site. In particular, the road frontage area on Lowgate, a medieval street, proved to be extensively disturbed by previous land use.

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Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.  
November 2007.

**References**

Duffy, J., 2004, *Land West of Lowgate Street, Eye: A Report on the Archaeological Evaluation*, SCCAS report no. 2004/49

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