

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING REPORT

---

## Land at Ellough Road, Beccles BCC 071

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND  
MONITORING, 2008  
(Planning app. no. W/3075/9)

Clare Good  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© August 2008

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport Service Delivery  
Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

---

SCCAS Report No. 2008/232  
Oasis Ref. Suffolkc1-46076

# Contents

List of Figures	1
List of Contributors	2
Acknowledgements	2
Summary	2
HER information	2
Introduction	3
Methodology	3
Results	5
Conclusion	6
Recommendations	6

## List of Figures

1. Site location	4
2. Location of the site in relation to sites recorded on county HER	4
3. Location of Trenches 1 to 4	5
4. Location of area archaeologically monitored, and area where monitoring was no longer possible due to building works	6

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

## List of Contributors

Clare Good                      Project Officer                      Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service

## Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned and funded by Badger Building Ltd, and was monitored by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team (SCCASCT)).

Project Officer Clare Good carried out the evaluation and Duncan Allan undertook the monitoring, both from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Clare Good directed the project which was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

## Summary

*Beccles, Land at Ellough Road, Beccles (TM 4347 8961, BCC 071)*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of 62 dwellings at land at Ellough Road, Beccles in order to characterise the nature of any surviving archaeological deposits. The archaeological condition was enforced without a Brief and Specification due to a planning error, meaning only a small sample of the site was available for inspection. The site lies some 1km south east of the medieval town of Beccles (BCC 018) and close to a number of find spots including Roman and Bronze Age pottery (BCC 008) recorded on the county Historic Environment Record. Four trenches were excavated over the site, but all were dug through layers of modern and extensive contamination and disturbance. No archaeological evidence was revealed, and it is likely much of the site was disturbed by this contamination. Subsequent monitoring concluded the contamination was widespread, and no archaeology was revealed. (C. Good, for SCCAS and Badger Building Ltd.; 2008/232)

## HER information

Planning application no.	W/3075/8
Date of fieldwork:	28-06-2007
Grid Reference:	TM 4347 8961
Funding body:	Badger Building Ltd
Oasis Reference	Suffolkc1-46076

## Introduction

A planning application was submitted to construct 62 houses with associated gardens and garaging on a former industrial area off Ellough Road, Beccles. No formal Brief and Specification was produced for this site due to a planning error, and so an archaeological evaluation was commissioned once work was about to commence. Consequently only 72m of trench was excavated during the evaluation, with the trenches placed where former ground disturbance appeared least likely. It was obvious that much of the site had been disturbed in more recent years, in particular a large pit to the south east of the site. The north western corner was not evaluated, with a view to archaeologically monitoring this area once development commenced.

The development area is centred on TM 4347 8961 (Fig. 1). The site was formerly occupied by a number of warehouses and workshops that had been demolished at the time of the evaluation and the land had been partially landscaped in preparation for the building works. The new road and drainage systems were in place, but no house construction had started.

The development covers an area of c. 17 600 m<sup>2</sup> and lies at approximately 12m OD. The plot is predominantly flat and has an underlying drift geology of sand and gravel. It is surrounded by houses to the north, east and west, and Ellough Road to the south.

The site lies some 1.2km from the medieval town of Beccles (BCC 018). A number of finds have also been recovered from the vicinity, including a Neolithic flint axe (WGM 002), Roman (BCC 002) and Bronze Age pottery sherds (BCC 008) and a lead medieval papal bull (BCC 004). A post medieval brick kiln (BCC 020) is also recorded 400m to the north west of the site on the county Historic Environment Record (HER) (Fig. 2) indicating potential archaeology from any of these periods.

The work was carried out by Clare Good of the SCCAS Field Team and was commissioned and funded by Badger Building Ltd.

## Methodology

Four trenches were excavated to the level of the natural subsoil in June 2007 using a wheeled JCB machine fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. They were located where former ground disturbance appeared least likely (Fig. 3). 72m of trench were excavated, representing 0.6% of the total area, under constant supervision from the observing archaeologist. The site was also subsequently monitored, with open service trenches and levelled areas examined after excavation.

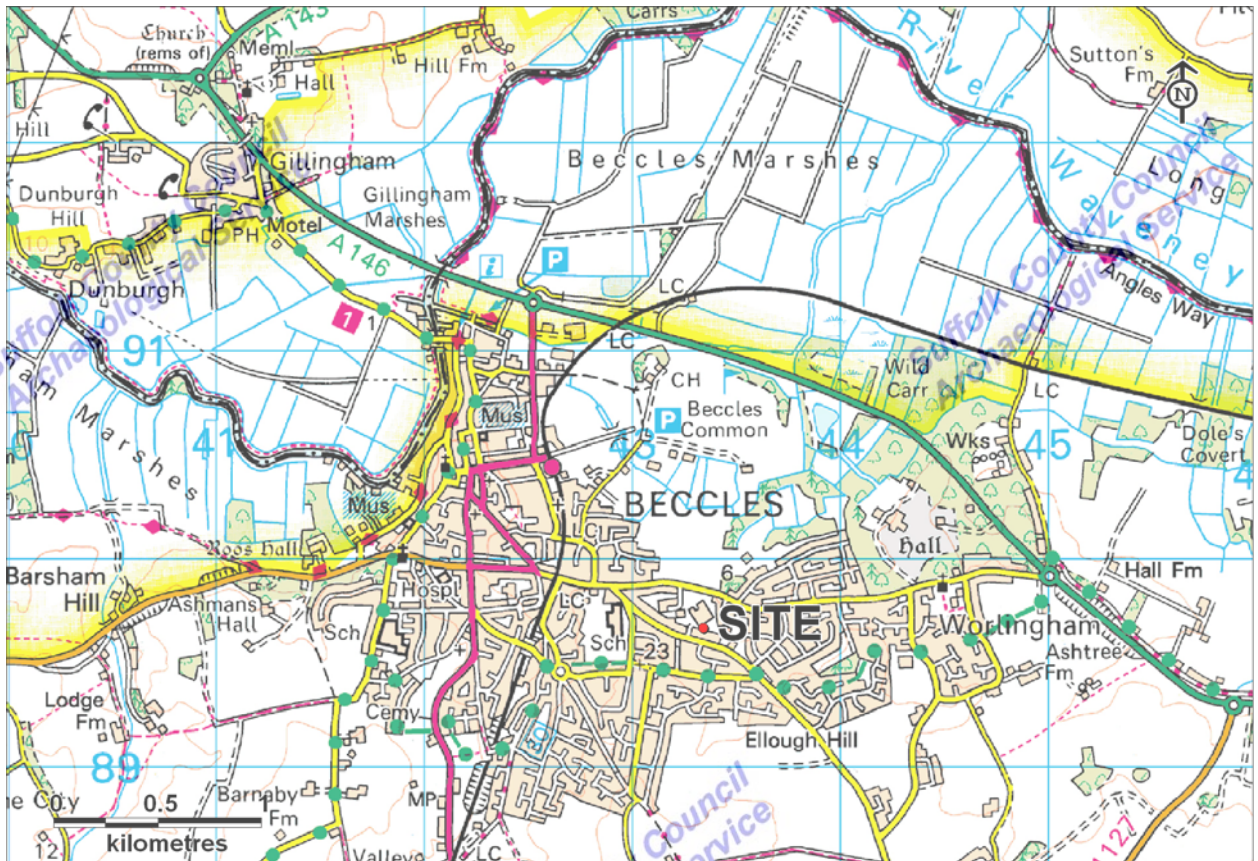
Both the excavated topsoil and the exposed surface of the trenches were examined visually for finds and features.

The site was recorded under the Historic Environment Record (HER) code BCC 071.

The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and their locations within the development area determined manually using measuring tapes. The site archive will be deposited in the County HER at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

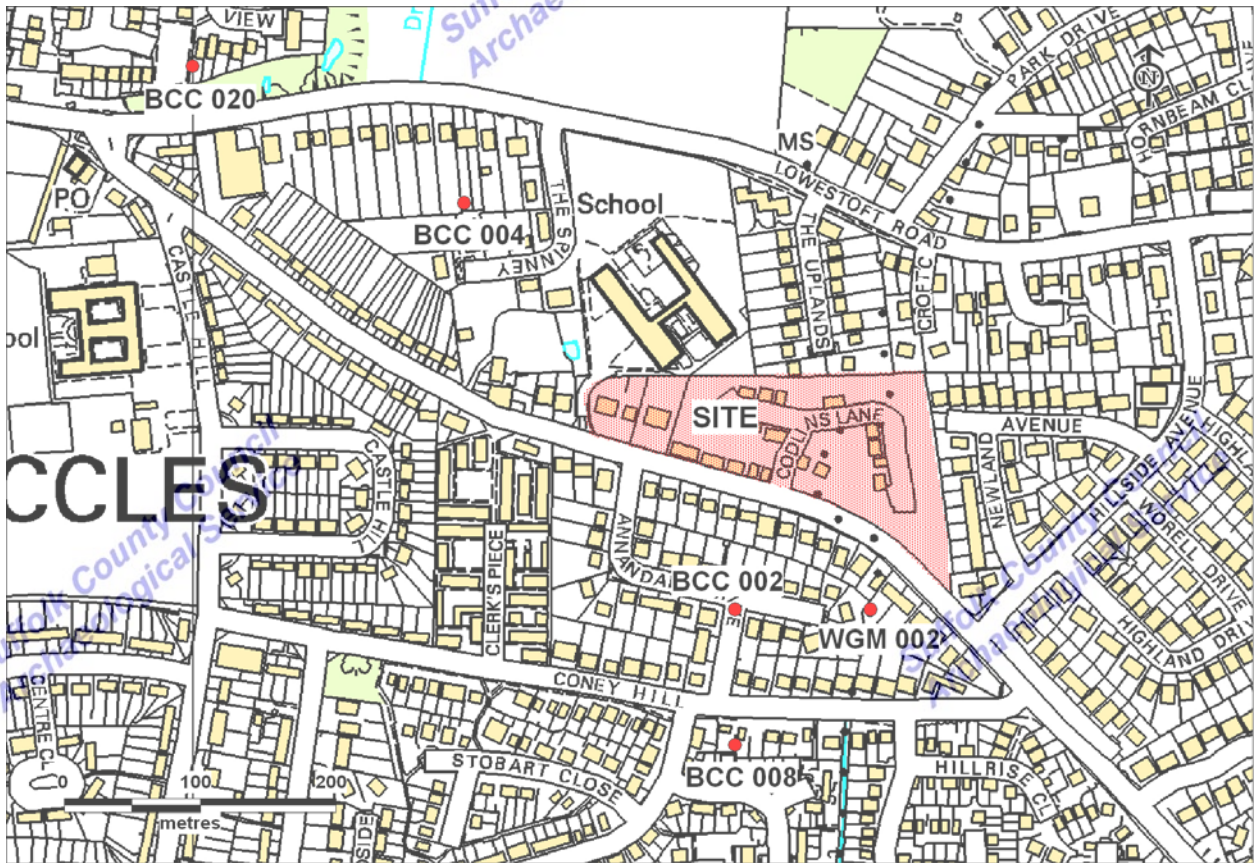
The site and subsequent results are recorded on OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the code Suffolk1-46076.





©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2008

Figure 1. Site Location



©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2008

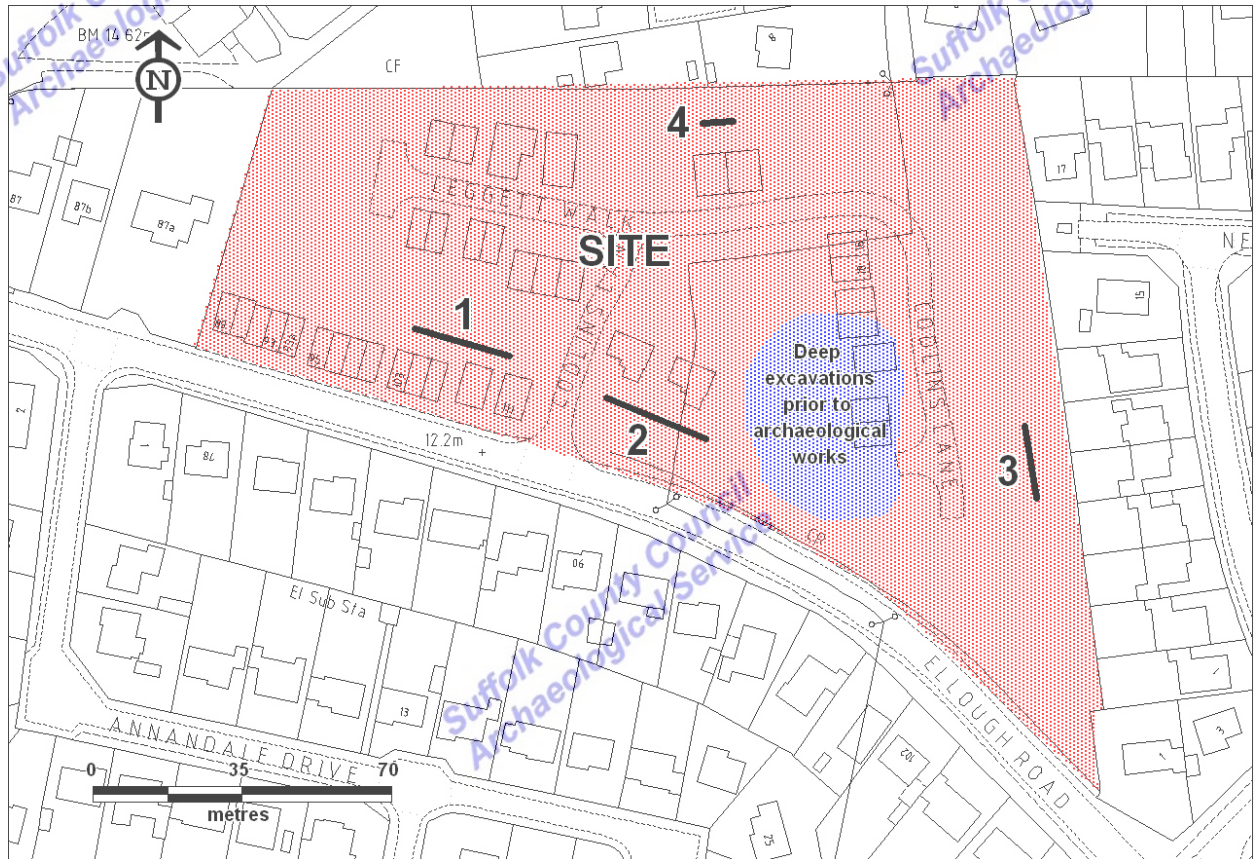
Figure 2. Location of the site in relation to sites recorded on county HER



# Results

## Evaluation

As the site had been stripped in preparation for the house building, topsoil was only present in Trench 3. It comprised a mid brown stony sand with brick rubble and was c.0.3m deep. Visibility in the trenches was generally poor due to the level of disturbance.



©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council. Licence No. 100023395 2008

Figure 3. Location of Trenches 1 to 4

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned SSE-NNW and was 23m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.4m through brick rubble and was completely disturbed by modern and strong smelling contaminated ground. The trench was abandoned at this depth due to the disturbance.

### Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned roughly SE-NW and was 25m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.35m through brick rubble and was also completely disturbed by a large, black, strong smelling pit with brick rubble and stones throughout. Again this trench was abandoned at this depth due to the disturbance.

### Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned roughly N-S and was 17m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.6m through c.0.3m topsoil, c.0.2m subsoil, a contaminated layer of strong smelling brick rubble, c.0.1m of another deposit, comprising a mid yellow brown clean sandy clay onto natural subsoil which comprised a pale yellow brown gravelly sand. No archaeological finds or features were noted within this trench.

#### Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned roughly W-E and was 7m long. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.8m, within a layer of contaminated brick rubble. The trench was abandoned at this depth due to the disturbance.

#### Monitoring

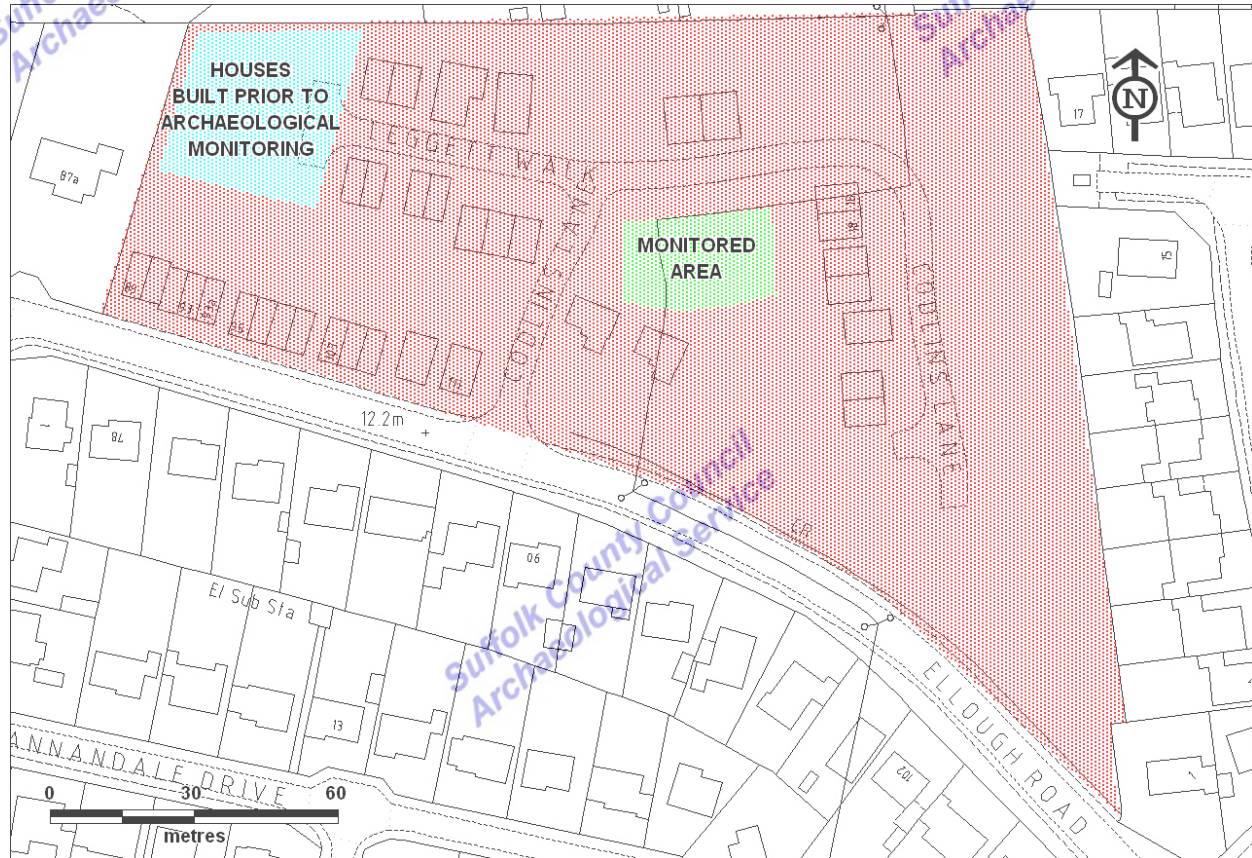


Figure 4. Location of area archaeologically monitored, and area where monitoring was no longer possible due to building works

It was originally considered that the north west of the plot should be archaeologically monitored due to the likelihood that the contamination did not reach this far but due to mis-communication, this area had already been built on at the time of visiting. An open area and a service trench visible in the centre of the plot (Fig. 4) were inspected by Duncan Allan on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2008. These plots had been extensively terraced, with at least 1.5m being removed. However, despite this depth being reached, the land was still thoroughly contaminated with modern, strong smelling black rubble. Again, no archaeology was revealed.

#### Conclusion

This site had been extensively disturbed prior to archaeological intervention meaning no archaeological evidence was revealed during the evaluation or monitoring. This was not surprising due to the site's previous use as an industrial area but this widespread disturbance has potentially masked or destroyed any archaeology in this plot. It appears that this disturbance

stretches over most of the site to some depth, although the strip parallel to Trench 3, which was apparently uncontaminated and where natural subsoil was reached, may still have potential for archaeology.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the strip adjacent to Trench 3 is subjected to an archaeological monitoring condition, meaning that any further development that takes place here should be closely monitored by an archaeological contractor. This is to gauge the extent of the disturbance, and to determine if any archaeology may be present here.

Clare Good, August 2008

## **Disclaimer**

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. 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 service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.