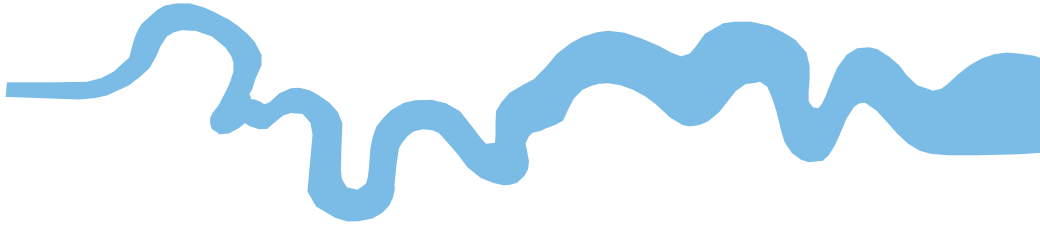


T V A S



EAST MIDLANDS

**Former Martello Caravan Park, Walton on the Naze,
Tendring, Essex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Jon Tierney

Site Code: MCN21/132

(TM 2515 2188)

Former Martello Caravan Park, Walton on the Naze, Tendring, Essex

An Archaeological Watching Brief For Partner Construction

by Jonathan Tierney

TVAS East Midlands

Site Code MCN 21/132

March 2022

Summary

Site name: Former Martello Caravan Park, Walton on the Naze, Tendring, Essex

Grid reference: TM 2515 2188

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: October 10th 2021 to 18th March 2022

Project coordinator: Joanna Pine

Site supervisor: Jonathan Tierney

Site code: MCN 21 /132

Area of site: 1.8ha

Summary of results: The watching brief observed excavations for a pipe trench and two wider manhole access areas. No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed as the works observed were dug almost entirely through deep modern made ground which directly overlay the natural clay.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service Service in due course

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 28.03.22 Steve Preston✓ 22.03.22

Former Martello Caravan Park, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Jonathan Tierney

Report 21/132

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the former Martello Caravan Park, Walton-on-the-Naze, Tendring, Essex (TM251218) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mark Salt of United Living on behalf of Partner Construction, 35 Elvaston Way, Tilehurst, Berkshire, RG30 4LX.

Planning consent (appln 19/01116/FUL) has been granted by Tendring District Council for the construction of 53 dwellings and associated landscaping, roads, parking and drainage works on the southern side of the former Martello Caravan Park. Due to the potential for archaeological deposits to be damaged or destroyed by groundworks for this development, the consent is subject to three conditions (10, 11, 12) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation on the site.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018), and Essex County Council's policies on archaeology. A trial trench evaluation (Carvey 2021) having established the presence of potentially Bronze Age features including a cremation urn on the site, further work was required, to take the form of a small area excavation (CFA 2021) and a watching brief during further groundworks in order to mitigate the development's archaeological impact and meet the conditions on the planning consent. This report documents the results of the last part of this programme of work, the watching brief. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Lanpro 2021) approved by Ms Teresa O'Connor, Historic Environment Consultant for Essex County Council Place Services, the archaeological adviser to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Jonathan Tierney between October 10th 2021 and 18th March 2022.

The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands and will be deposited with Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern side of Walton-on-the-Naze, in the Tendring District of Essex (TM 2515 2188) (Fig. 1). The site occupies the southern part of the former Martello Caravan Park which was formerly used as a recreational area. Part of the western side of the site appears to have been disturbed during adjacent

construction works in 2018. The site is bounded to the east by the rear gardens of housing along Mill Lane, to the south by a road leading from Mill Lane to Kirby Road, and to the east by recent commercial developments (Fig. 2). To the north are new residential developments, as well as the site of a Martello Tower and its associated battery, which form part of a Scheduled Monument (see below).

The proposed development site slopes gradually towards the south-east, from a height of approximately 5.7m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on its north western edge to around 2.5m aOD at its south eastern corner. The coastline lies some 450m south-east of the site. The underlying geology is mapped as clay and silt and this was recorded along the site's southern edge (BGS 2020).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was discussed in a Heritage Impact Assessment (Locus 2019) and the Essex County Council Brief (2020). Overall the Walton area is significant for the presence of prehistoric remains particularly of the later Neolithic period. The evaluation trenches on the site (Carvey 2021) revealed evidence for Bronze Age activity which was confirmed in an archaeological excavation by CFA Archaeology in March 2021. Previous investigations in advance of prior developments in other areas within the caravan park had revealed multiple features of interest from several periods, a possible Roman ditch and four field boundary ditches with associated pottery, possibly related to a so far unlocated settlement, Mesolithic flint blades and a hammerstone, but the majority of the features dated to the Late Bronze Age (Ennis 2015; Pooley 2016; Pooley and Hicks 2016; CAT 2016).

Other archaeology revealed in Walton on the Naze from the Roman period includes features typically associated with salt working ('red hills'). Medieval features and deposits have been identified in the area of Hamford Water, to the north of the site, and relate to marsh edge farming. The place name 'Walton' suggests an early Medieval settlement, the name deriving from the 'Old English' 'walh' and 'tun' meaning 'farmstead or village of the Britons' (Mills 2011, 482).

The Martello Tower K, was built around 1810-1812 as part of the extensive defences of (mainly) England's south and east coasts against the Napoleonic invasion threat which never materialized. This is a grade II listed building (NHLE 1111504), along with an associated battery to the west, and also a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1016787). After the Napoleonic Wars, Walton on the Naze developed into a popular seaside town. A pillbox dating to the First World War is located c. 330m north-east of the development. The development site remained open farmland through the 19th century and into the 20th. Suburban housing was built to the east of

the site by the 1950's. By the 1960s the site formed part of the Martello Holiday camp with a bowling green and associated buildings.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to record and advance understanding of any archaeological remains within the site that were threatened by the development works.

This was to involve monitoring intrusive pipe trench ground works and two manholes in area immediately adjacent to the previous excavation (Fig. 3).

Results

Intrusive ground works covered an area 34.75m by 2.48m for the pipe trench; 2.41 m by 2.70m for the first manhole trench; and 2.10m by 2.60 m for the second manhole trench (Fig. 3; Pls 1–4). All works were carried out under constant archaeological observation and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

The pipe trench works were taken to a maximum depths of 1.77m–2.25m in places (Fig. 4) and this maximum depth was almost entirely within made ground (up to 1.98m deep) in places, but cut more deeply into natural clay in others (only 0.82m made ground). In the manholes, the maximum depth reaches was 2.21m, with the made ground extending to 1.62m of this depth and the natural clay below that.

No archaeological features or deposits were seen. The area surrounding the excavation was confirmed as lying above level of the archaeological horizon. The stratigraphy observed in the excavated area consisted of modern made ground, consisting of a mid brown grey silty clay. Finds from this layer included modern brick, tile, plastic, electrical cable, polystyrene, carpet and clothes fragments. None of this was retained. The natural geology was exposed at various depths and consisted of a mid yellow brown sandy clay.

Nothing of any archaeological interest was observed in any of the associated pipe trenches.

Finds

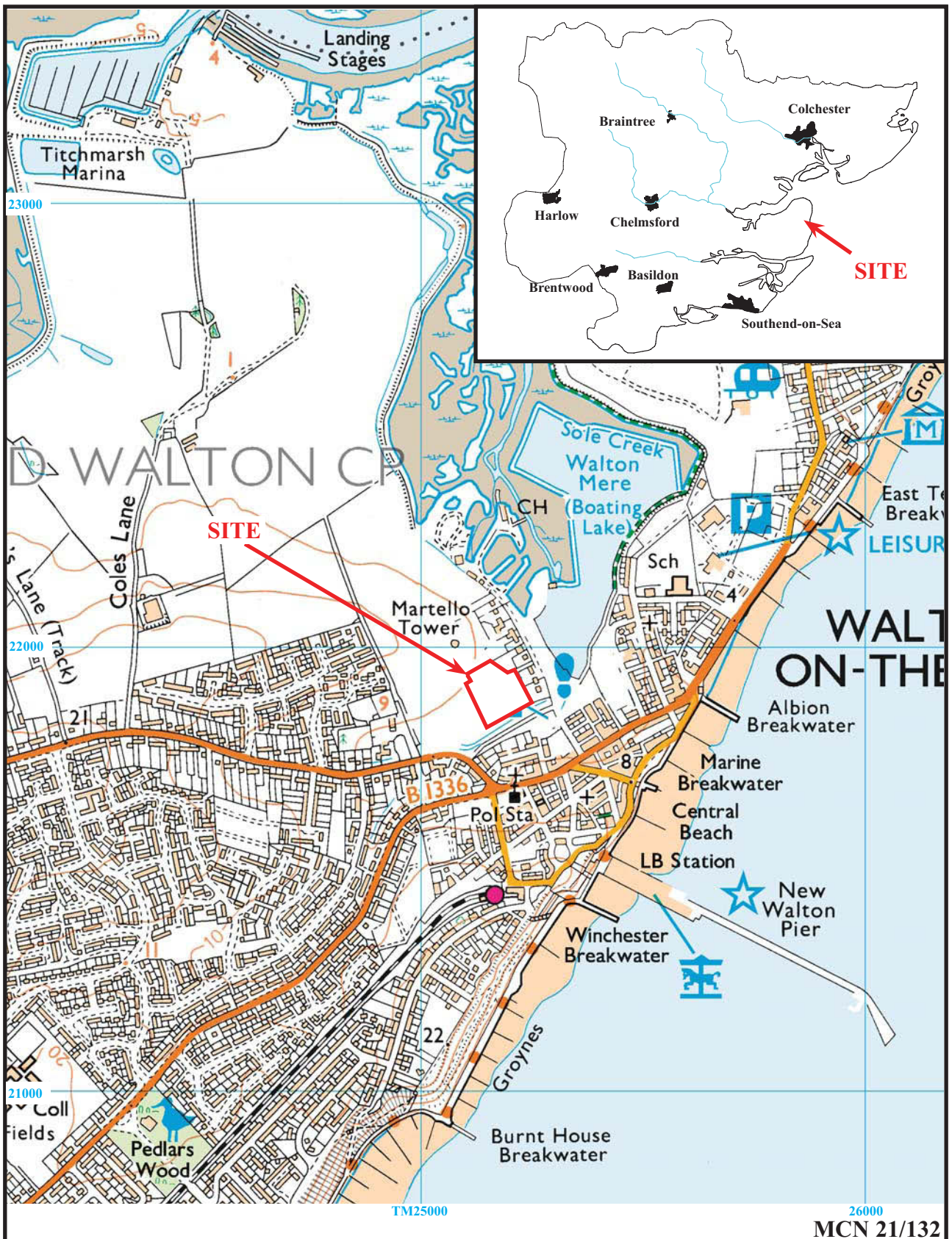
No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the course of the watching brief. Modern material were observed but not retained.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology to be present on the site no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief.

References

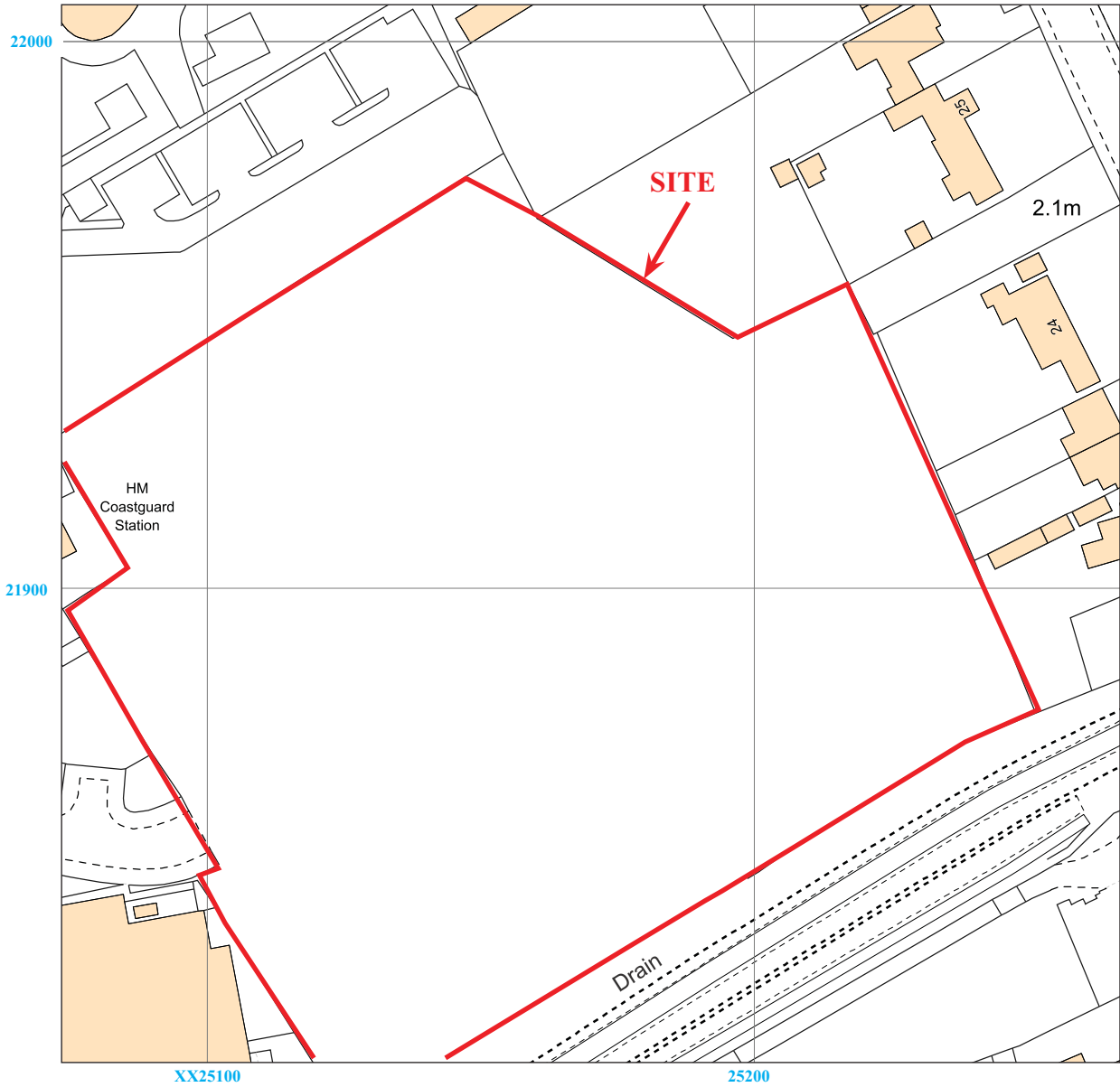
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Former Martello Caravan Park, Kirby Road,
Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, 2022
Archaeological Watching Brief
Figure 1. Location of site within Walton-on-the-Naze
and Essex.

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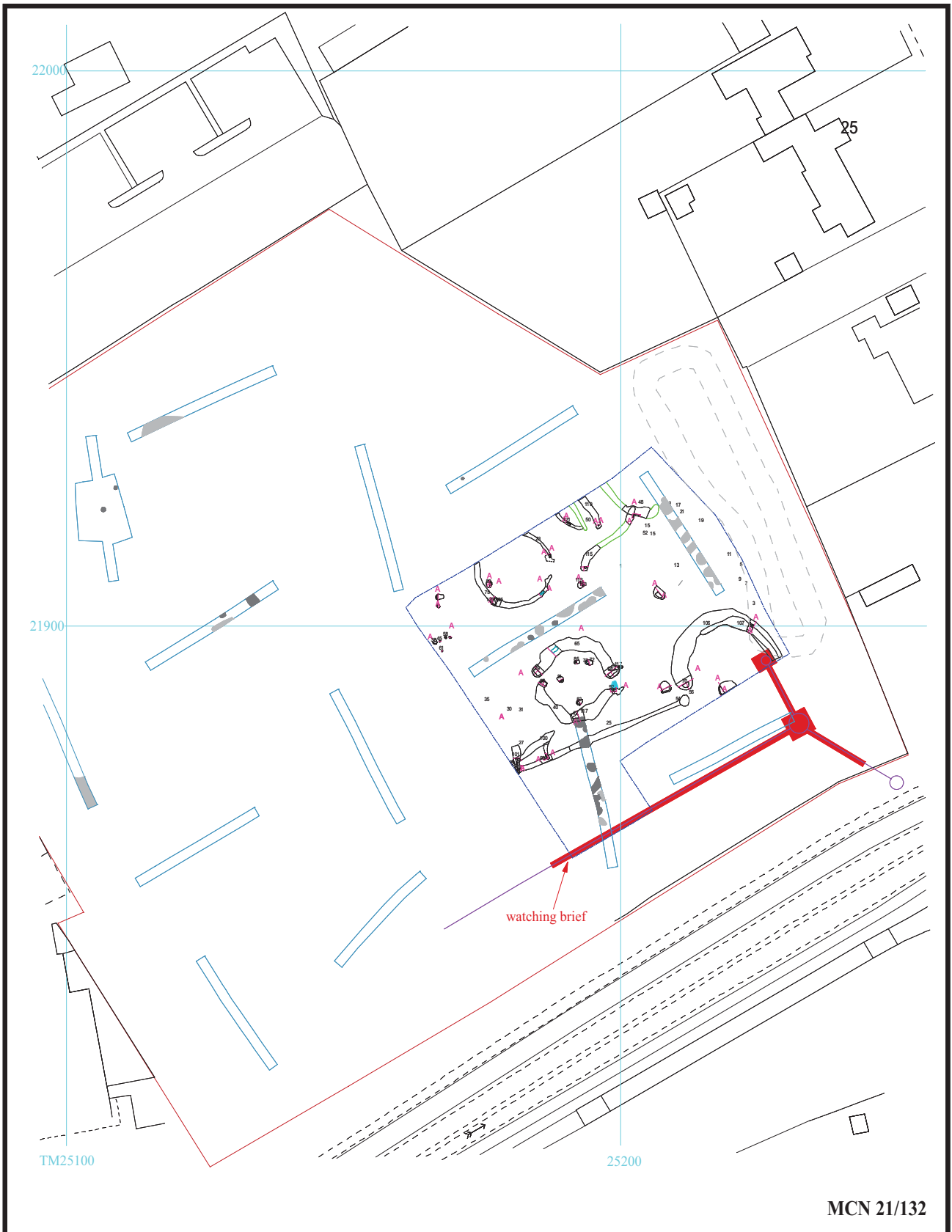
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**Former Martello Caravan Park, Kirby Road,
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Archaeological Watching Brief
Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

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MCN 21/132



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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Area of watching brief, and showing previous phases of archaeological investigations.





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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Manhole Trench 2, looking South East, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Pipe Trench, looking South East, Scales: 2m and 1m.

MCN 21/132

**Former Martello Caravan park, Kirby Road,
Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, 2022
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 and 2.**





Plate 3. Pipe Trench, looking North East, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Main Pipe Trench, looking South East, Scales: 2m and 1m.

MCN 21/132

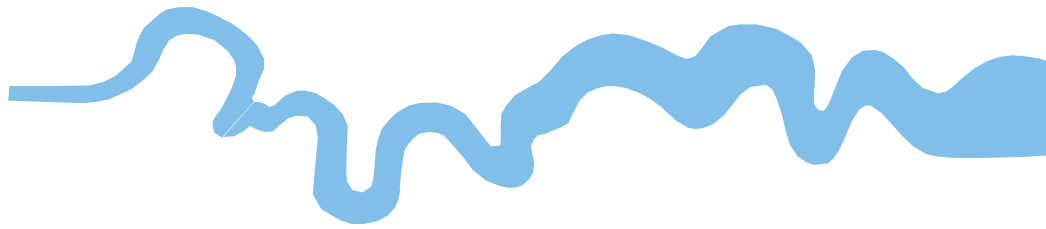
**Former Martello Caravan park, Kirby Road,
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Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 3 and 4.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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