

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:  
HAMBURG WAY, NORTH LYNN, NORFOLK**

Planning Reference: 14/00750/F  
NGR: TF 6149 2149  
AAL Site Code: NLHW 14  
Museum Accession Number: NWHCM: 2017.390  
Norfolk Event Number: ENF135169  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-281043



Report prepared for JBC Roofing

By

Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number AAL 2017054

June 2017



Allenarchaeology



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Version no.:	1.0	

*Cover image: View across site, looking north*

## **Executive Summary**

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by JBC Roofing undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for the construction of an industrial unit off Hamburg Way, North Lynn.
- The site is situated in an area of archaeological significance, being positioned directly over the remains of a known salt-making site of Late Iron Age/Roman to medieval date.
- The works entailed excavation of a shallow ring beam around piles that had been inserted prior to the arrival of the monitoring archaeologist. Due to the shallow depth of the groundworks, no significant archaeological remains were exposed, and the monitoring condition was ceased before the completion of groundworks.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by JBC Roofing to undertake an archaeological watching brief as a condition of planning consent for during the groundworks for construction of an industrial unit off Hamburg Way, North Lynn.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (CIfA 2014), with reference to regionally identified research aims (Medlycott 2011), and in accordance with a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2015).

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site is located in the administrative district of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, and comprises a 0.19ha area of land, located directly west of Hamburg Way, c.2km north of the centre of Kings Lynn. The site is centred on NGR TF 6149 2149 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The local bedrock geology comprises Kimmeridge Clay Mudstone, overlain by superficial deposits of tidal flat sand, silt and clay (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application (*Reference 14/00750/F*) has been approved by Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council for '*construction of industrial unit including offices and amenities*', including the archaeological condition '*No Demolition/development shall take place/commence until a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing*'.
- 3.2 The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme by a suitably competent archaeologist, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively '*preserving the archaeology by record*'. This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

## 4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The site is located in an area of archaeological significance, being positioned directly over the remains of a known salt-making site. A recent evaluation revealed three potential phases of use: a possible Late Iron Age/Roman phase represented by briquetage (ceramics associated with salt-making) and a possible settling tank, overlain by medieval saltern (salt-making) debris which produced sherds of 14<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, sealed by late medieval silts (Timberlake 2008). Construction work within this area has the potential to impact on these buried remains.
- 4.2 Within the wider area, prehistoric find spots are known from within 500m of the site including a Palaeolithic handaxe near Baldock Drive (HER 14429) and a Neolithic polished flint axe (HER 5491), found near the Old Wash when ploughing.

- 4.3 Roman finds are limited to stray coins (HER 1190, 11997 and 14628), while Saxon spearheads have been recovered just under a mile away at Wooten Road (HER 14673), within land now forming part of North Lynn industrial estate.
- 4.4 Medieval saltern mounds occupy a strip of land approximately 0.75km wide which stretches from just east of the medieval town of Kings Lynn, passing between South Wooton and the River Ouse. Approximately 63 possible saltern sites are referred to within the HER, mostly based on evidence derived from aerial photographs from the 1940s, although some have been investigated archaeologically and produced sherds of 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (HER 27122, 27123, 27124 and 27127). The remains of a mound on this site form part of this broad strip.

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks comprised the monitoring of a shallow ring beam around the piles that were already in place when the monitoring archaeologist arrived (Plate 1). This involved the use of a small, tracked excavator fitted with a toothed bucket.
- 5.2 The groundworks monitoring was undertaken by Mike Wood of AAL over a single day, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Following discussions with the advising archaeologist at Norfolk County Council, it was agreed to suspend the monitoring due to the shallow depth of the groundworks.
- 5.3 All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and deposits. A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets with each deposit, layer or cut, allocated a unique three-digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description. A summary of these are included in Appendix 1.
- 5.4 A comprehensive record of all drawings was maintained, and the location of each section drawing was plotted on the site master plan and correctly referenced. All sections were then drawn at an appropriate scale (1:20). All archaeological deposits and features were also recorded by full colour photography, with an identification number board, appropriate metric scales and a north arrow used in all archive shots. General site shots were also taken to show the location of the groundworks and the stratigraphic sequence.

## 6.0 Results

- 6.1 The stratigraphic sequence over the monitored area was consistent. Only the northeast end of the development was monitored, as the depth of the construction did not reach the archaeological horizon (Figure 2).
- 6.2 The earliest deposit recorded was layer 002, a compact pale clay silt alluvial layer 0.15m thick. This was sealed by 001, a friable grey brown clayey silt topsoil layer 0.15–0.20m thick (Plate 2). Context 003 was remnant of a mixed hardcore levelling, was 0.15m thick and sealed 004 in the southwest corner of the monitored area.



*Plate 1: View across site showing pile locations, looking southeast*



*Plate 2: South-facing representative section, scale 1m*

## **7.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

- 7.1 The monitoring identified no archaeological features and no cultural material. The groundworks were too shallow to impact upon the salt-making evidence previously identified during evaluation of the site, which is known to be deeply buried by an accumulation of silts (Timberlake 2008).

## **8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate for the nature and scale of these works. It has indicated that the development has had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource of the area.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

9.1 Allen Archaeology Ltd would like to thank JBC Roofing for this commission, and the groundworkers for their cooperation during the monitoring of this phase of the construction.

## **10.0 References**

AAL 2015, *Specification for an Archaeological watching brief on land at Hamburg Way, North Lynn, Norfolk*

CIfA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*, Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, London: Department (for Communities and Local Government

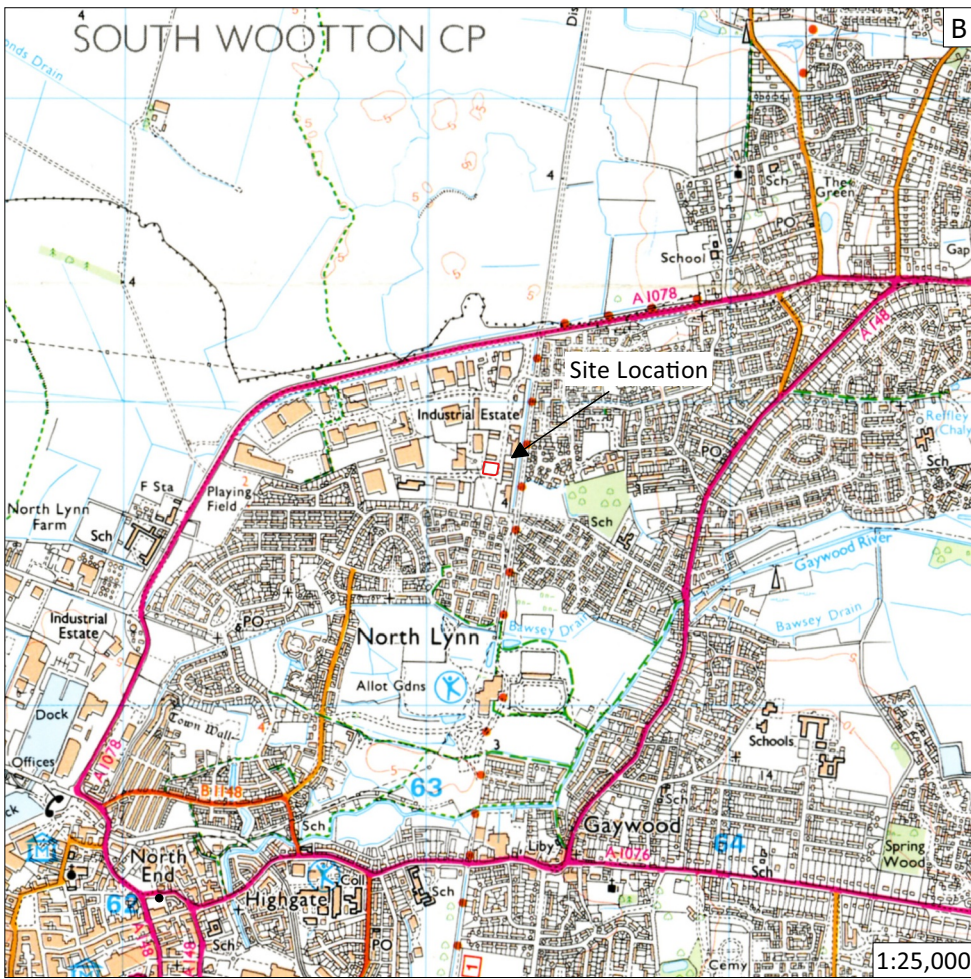
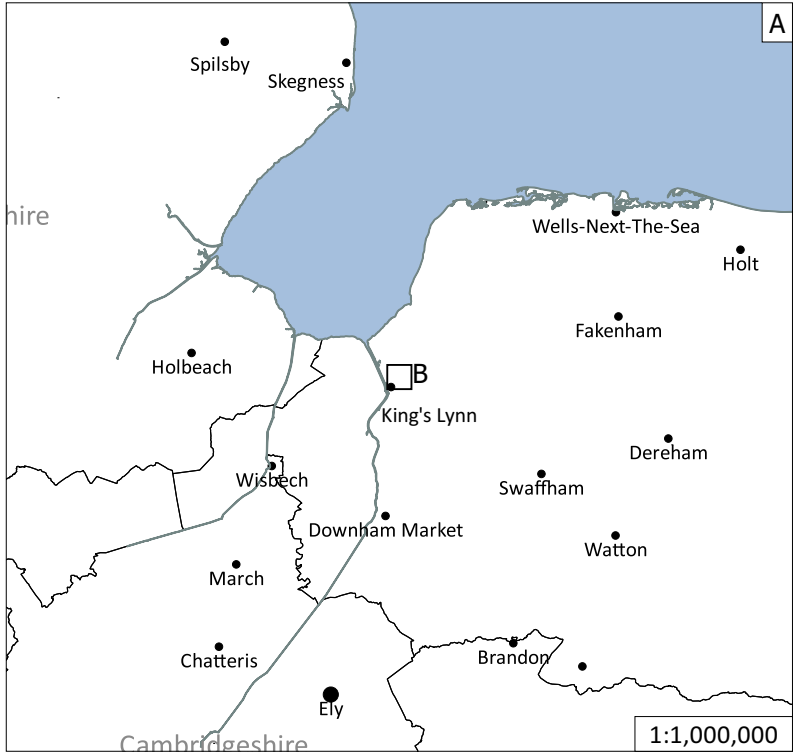
Medlycott 2011, M (ed.), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

Timberlake, S, 2008, *Plot 13, Hamburg Way, North Lynn Industrial Estate, King's Lynn, An Archaeological Evaluation*, Unpublished CAU Report

### Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
001	Layer	Friable grey brown clay silt	0.15m–0.20m thick	Topsoil
002	Layer	Compact pale grey clay silt	0.15m thick	Alluvial layer
003	Layer	Compact crushed brick and concrete	0.15m thick	Hardcore layer



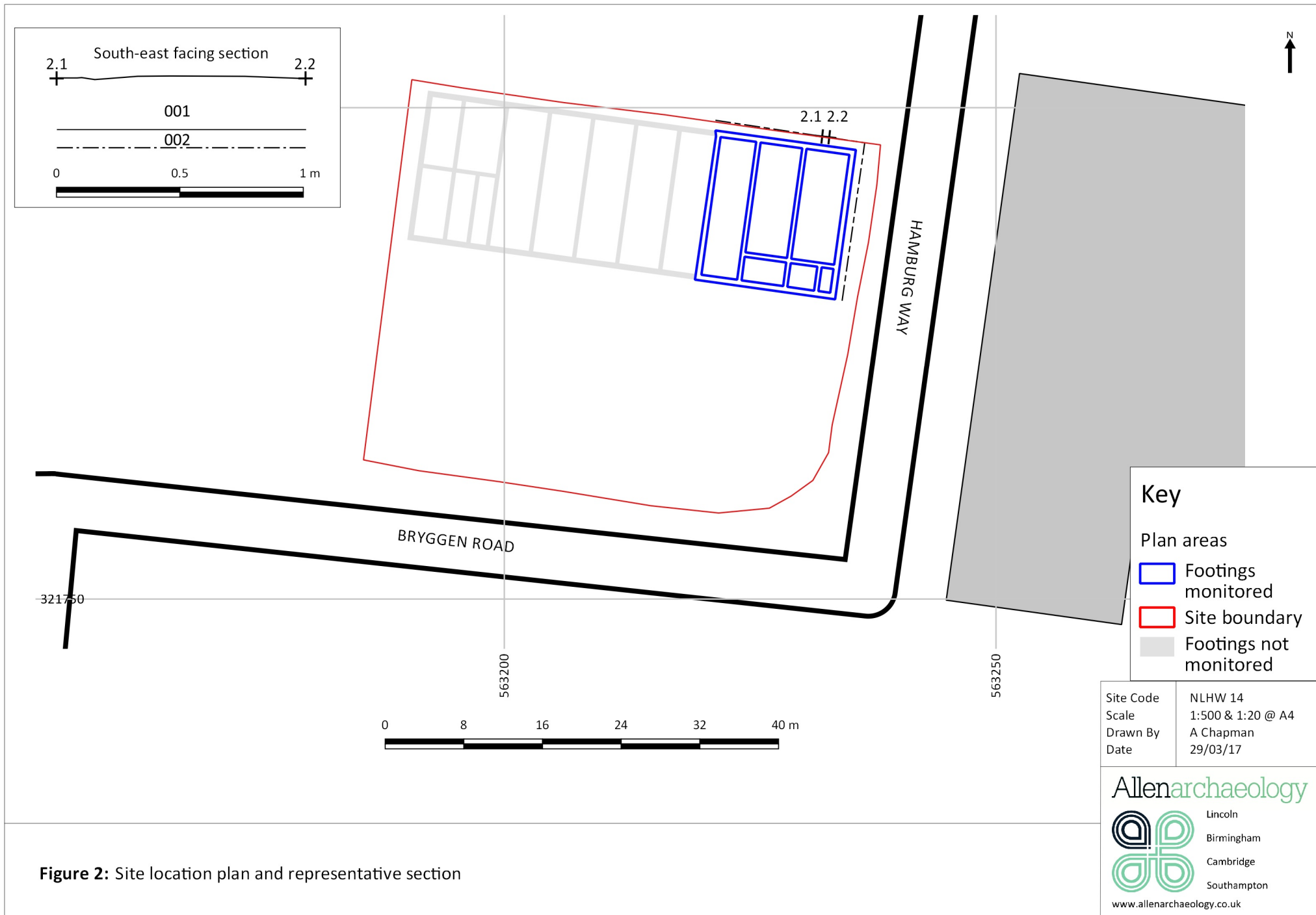


**Figure 1:** Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	NLHW 14
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	A Chapman
Date	28/03/17

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**Figure 2:** Site location plan and representative section



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