

22 Roman Way Felixstowe, Suffolk

Archaeological Monitoring



for
I.N.G. Building Ltd

CA Project: SU0066
CA Report: SU0066_1

October 2019



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	22 Roman Way
Location:	Felixstowe, Suffolk
NGR:	631847 235657
Type:	Monitoring (Watching Brief)
Date:	30 Sept – 1 Oct 2019
Planning Reference:	DC/19/2348/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Site Code:	FEX 446

An archaeological monitoring (watching brief) was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with an extension to a single dwelling at 22 Roman Way, Felixstowe.

Over half of the observed footing trenches were disturbed by modern drains or landscaping/truncation probably associated with the construction of the Roman Way estate in the 1960s. A stretch of footing trench of c.8m length was observed at the rear of the property revealed a thick deposit (0.65m) of loess-type material (a wind-blown sediment of periglacial or later origin). Despite the site being close to possible burials and other Roman evidence, no features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the mornings of the 30th September and the 1st October 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological monitoring for I.N.G. Building Ltd at the site of 22 Roman Way, Felixstowe, Suffolk (centred on NGR: 631847 235657; Fig. 1). The monitoring was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for extensions to this property (Planning ref: DC/19/2348/FUL).
- 1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a *Brief* issued by Hannah Cutler, curator for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) East Suffolk (Cutler 2019). A subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (Boulter 2019) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of the county curator. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014). Hannah Cutler was kept informed of developments by telephone.

The site

- 1.3 The site consists of a single dwelling on a 1960s housing development located on the south-east side of Roman Way, at the north-east end of Felixstowe. The site is located just below the 15m contour and there is a slight slope down from the south-east to the north-west. The coastal cliff is located c.150m to the south-east.
- 1.4 The house and garden occupy a site of c.400m², with the building occupying a central location with lawn gardens to front and rear. Archaeological monitoring was required for a small extension to the front of the house and a slightly larger extension to the rear.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Red Crag Formation and associated sands according to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2019). No superficial geology is recorded for this area. Field observations revealed that wind blown sediments (loess) was overlying the crag and sand natural.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 According to the *Brief* and the *WSI*, the site is within an area of high archaeological potential (Cutler 2019, Boulter 2019). The site is located within a known area of Roman settlement (FEX 093) and close to a human burial, also of probable Roman date.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the *WSI* (Boulter 2019). During the machine digging of strip foundation trenches, an archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks. Stretches of the trenching was through areas of recent disturbance along the rear and side of the property (southern corner and south-west side) while the front of the property (north-west side) exhibited severe levels of truncation. After discussion with the curator by telephone, it was decided that these areas did not require continuous monitoring, in the same way as the undisturbed rear segment (south-east edge) had required (Fig. 2).

4.2 Where deposits were encountered, written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the monitoring is currently held by CA at their offices in Suffolk. This will be deposited with the County archive after the completion of this project in accordance with the County Guidelines (SCCAS 2019). An OASIS entry has been initiated using the reference code Cotswold2-367125.



5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 The observed footing trenches appeared to fall into three separate units that will be discussed in turn: 1), a largely undisturbed section running parallel with the south-east edge at the back of the house; 2), a highly disturbed area of services at the southern corner of the building and running parallel with the south-western side of the house; and 3), a mainly disturbed and truncated section running parallel with the front of the house along its north-western edge but with some evidence for undisturbed deposits. A full list of context descriptions is available in Appendix A.
- 5.2 Along the rear of the property, a stretch of the footings of c.8m revealed predominantly undisturbed, sterile deposits of loess (wind-blown sediments) as seen in Section 1 (Fig. 3; Sect AA). A thin layer of garden soil at the top (layer 0002) was of c.0.15m depth and had a sharp (truncated) contact over layer 0003 below. The loess derived deposit 0003 was of c.0.65m depth and consisted of pale to mid orange brown firm sandy clay silt with very rare inclusions of small flints and occasional flecks of charcoal, mainly towards the base of the deposit, where it became slightly sandier. No finds were seen in this deposit or other cultural indicators other than the charcoal flecks. At c.0.8m depth from the top, a diffuse horizon between layer 0003 and the natural geological deposit 0004 was recorded. At the location of Section 1, the natural was loose pale yellow brown sand with occasional small to medium flints. Further to the south-west of this trench the natural became more crag-like in nature, consisting of a consolidated, iron-stained sandy concretion containing fossil shell fragments. No features of archaeological interest were observed cutting the natural levels.
- 5.3 Towards the southern corner of the dwelling a series of modern drains were encountered (Fig. 2). One of these continued along the south-western edge of the building so deposits to the full depth of the footings (c.0.9m) were highly truncated and of 20th century date.
- 5.4 At the front of the house, along the north-western edge of the house, deposits were also highly disturbed. In some cases the disturbances was to the full depth of the footings to 0.9m (Section 2/BB; Fig. 3). Here deposit 0005 appeared to be 20th century 'made ground' of mixed sandy clay with frequent sandy and crag patches and occasional CBM crumbs. This deposit was not bottomed. No archaeologically significant features, deposits or finds were observed.

- 5.5 Also at the front of the house at c.2m to the south-west of Section 2 (Sect BB), Section 3 did reveal some undisturbed deposits at depth (Fig. 4; Sect CC). Here, garden soil (layer 0002) had been laid over the modern 'made ground' deposit 0005. Under this was 0006, a dump of redeposited sandy crag, also of likely 20th century date. At a depth of c.0.7m from the top, layer 0007 appeared to be another loess derived deposit. In all aspects appeared to be similar to layer 0003 seen in Section 1, except for the complete absence of any charcoal flecks. This deposit was not bottomed. No finds of archaeological interest were identified.
- 5.6 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area with burials and other possible Roman remains in the vicinity, the monitoring identified no archaeological features, deposits or finds within the area of observed groundworks. Over half of the footings observed were within areas of considerable disturbance with drains and other modern intrusions encountered in the southern corner and along the south-western side of the building. At the front of the building (the north-western side) a high degree of disturbance was encountered, probably due to landscaping during the construction of the Roman Way estate in the 1960s. Only along the back of the property, along the south-eastern edge, was a thick deposit of loess recorded. This is a wind-blown (aeolian) derived sediment of silt mixed with smaller quantities of clay and sand. Of likely periglacial or later origin, the small quantities of charcoal near the base of this deposit might point to some human activity in the vicinity, although such small flecks could have been introduced through worm or root activity. No obvious archaeological deposits or finds were identified and no archaeological features could be seen cutting the underlying natural.



7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jezz Meredith who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared by Gemma Bowen. The archive has been compiled prepared for deposition by Clare Wooton. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Boulter.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, accessed 23.10.19: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

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Cutler, H., 2019, *Brief for a Continuous Archaeological Recording at 22 Roman Way, Felixstowe, Suffolk*, unpublished document, SCCAS

SCCAS (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) 2019, *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk, Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition*; pdf online document: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/culture-heritage-and-leisure/suffolk-archaeological-service/Archive-Guidelines-for-Depositors-2019.pdf>



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Section No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Spot-date
	0001	Finds	finds	Unstratified finds (none identified)		
1 & 2	0002	Layer	topsoil	Humic loam garden soil	0.2	modern
1	0003	Layer	loess	Pale orange brown sandy clay silt	0.65	
1	0004	Layer	natural	Sand & gravel / crag		
2 & 3	0005	Layer	'made ground'	Mixed sandy clay	0.75	modern
3	0006	Deposit	redeposited natural	Redeposited crag natural	0.3	modern
3	0007	Layer	loess	Similar to 0003	>0.2	

APPENDIX B: OASIS SUMMARY**OASIS ID: cotswold2-367125****Project details**

Project name	22 Roman Way, Felixstowe; Archaeological Monitoring
Short description of the project	An archaeological monitoring (watching brief) was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with an extension to a single dwelling at 22 Roman Way, Felixstowe. Over half of the observed footing trenches were disturbed by modern drains or landscaping/truncation probably associated with the construction of the Roman Way estate in the 1960s. A stretch of footing trench of c.8m length was observed at the rear of the property revealed a thick deposit (0.65m) of loess-type material (a wind-blown sediment of periglacial or later origin). Despite the site being close to possible burials and other Roman evidence, no features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.
Project dates	Start: 30-09-2019 End: 01-10-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FEX 446 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/19/2348/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL FELIXSTOWE 22 Roman Way
Study area	40 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 31847 35657 51.970355118737 1.375785539868 51 58 13 N 001 22 32 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	Cotswold Archaeology

Project director/manager	Stuart Boulter
Project supervisor	Jezz Meredith
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

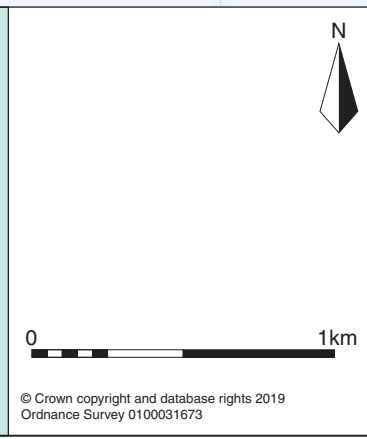
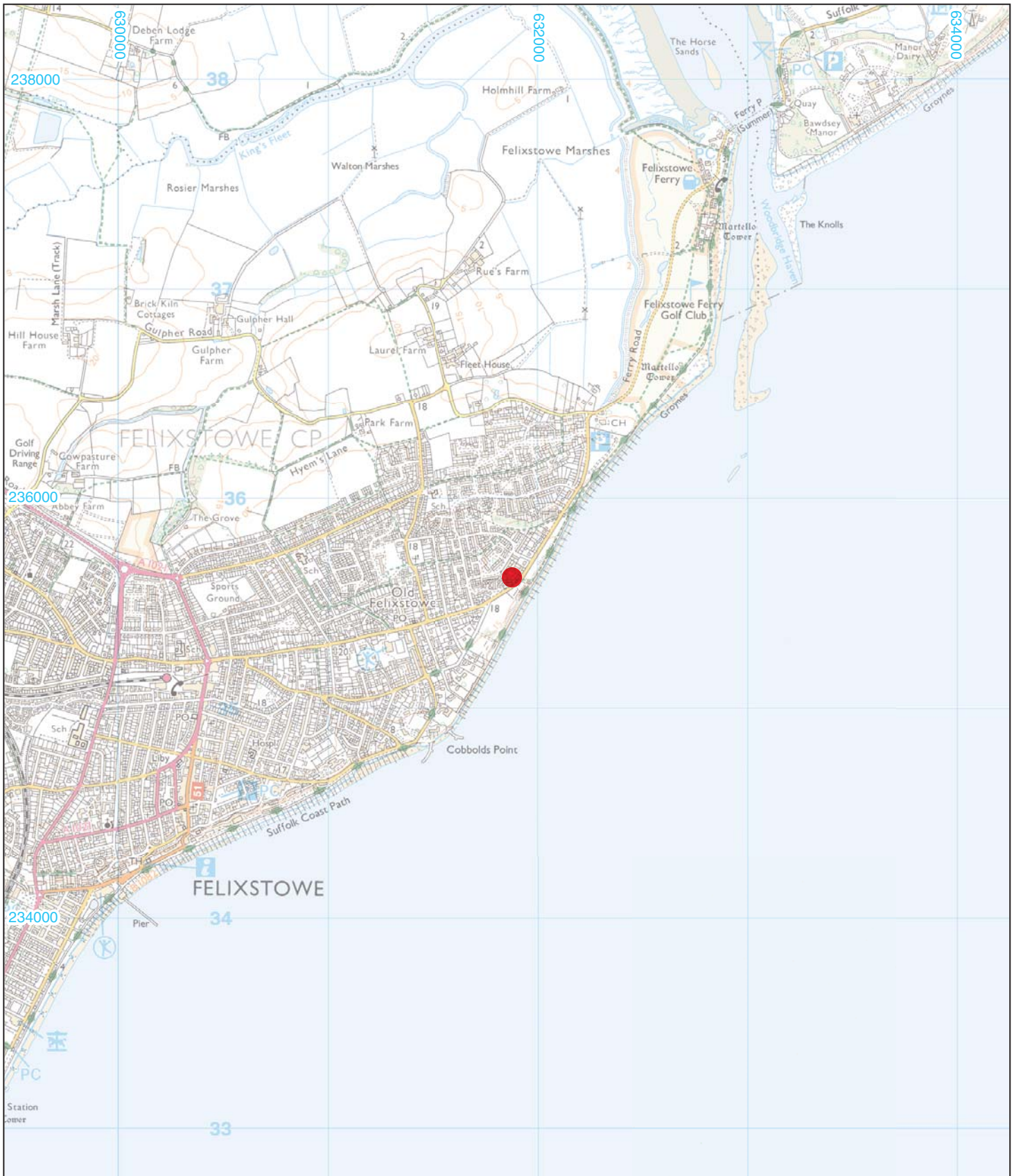
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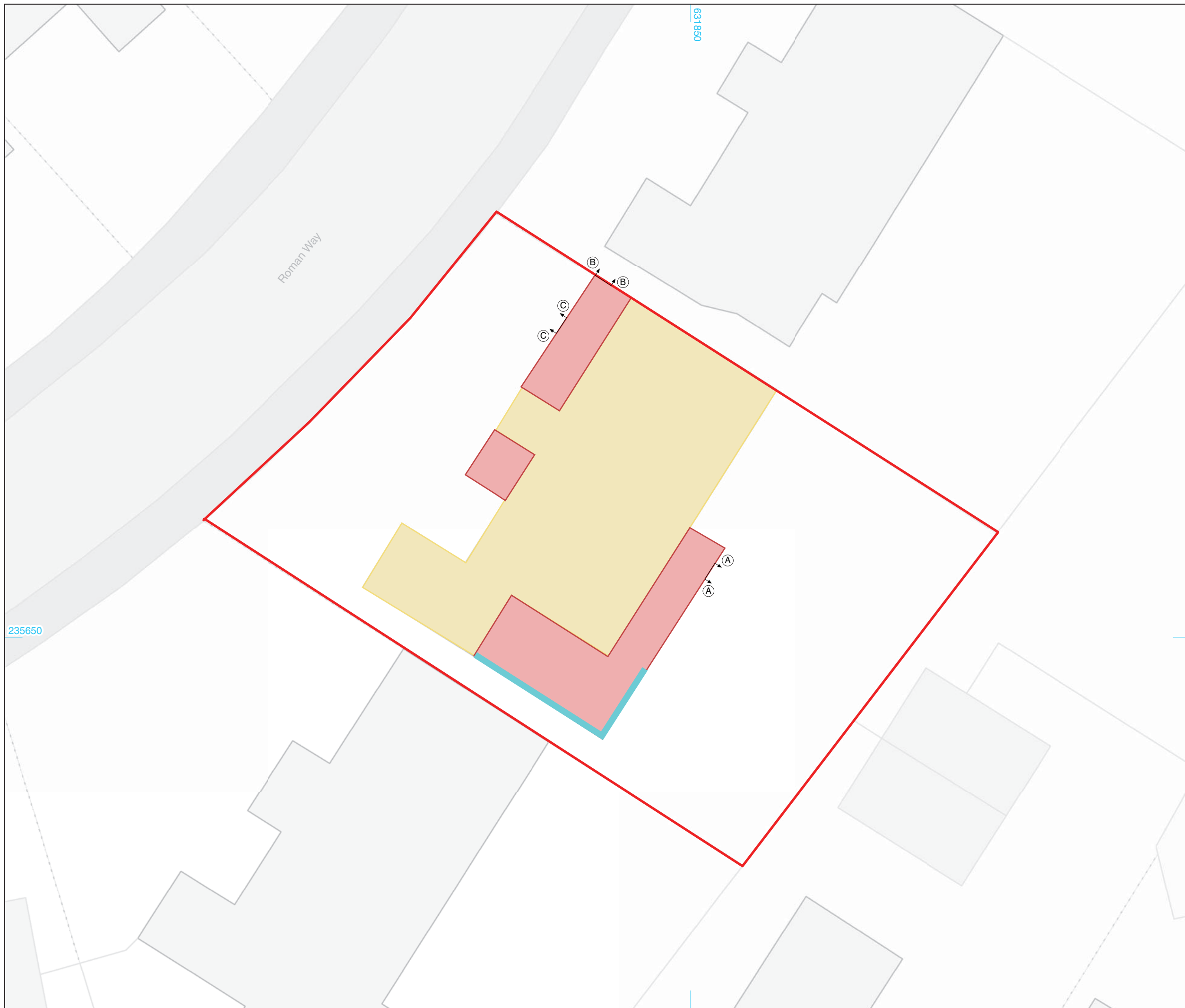



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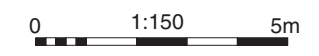
PROJECT TITLE
 22 Roman Way, Felixstowe, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	GB	PROJECT NO.	SU0066	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	23/10/2019	1
APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- Site boundary
- Existing building
- New footing
- Modern drain
- Section location



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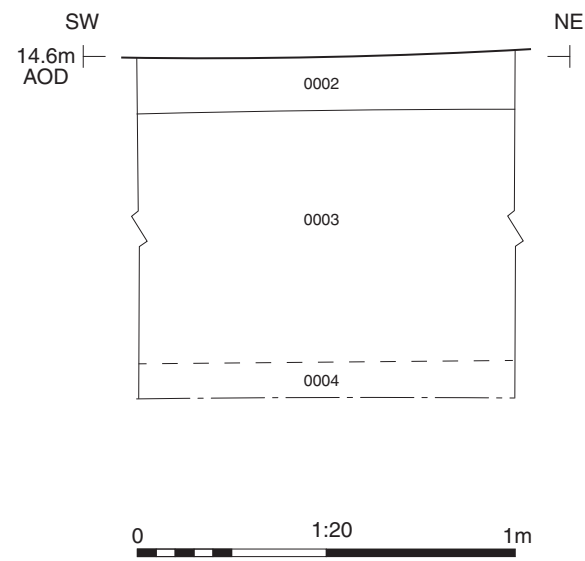
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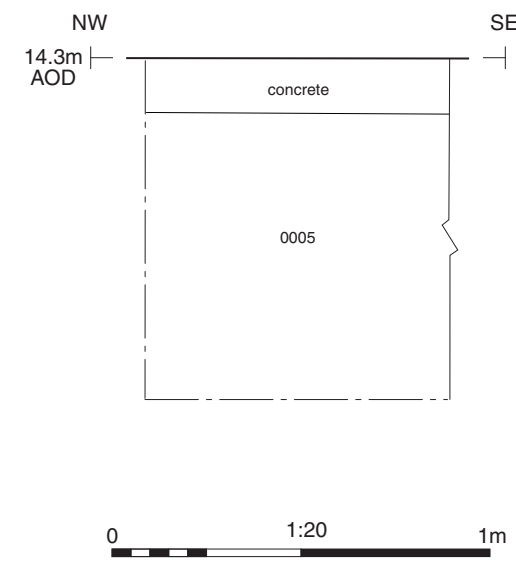
FIGURE TITLE
 Groundworks, showing section and drain locations

DRAWN BY GB CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY JM	PROJECT NO. SU0066 DATE 29/10/2019 SCALE @A3 1:150	FIGURE NO. 2
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Section AA



Section BB



Section AA, looking north-west (1m scale)



Section BB, looking north-east (1m scale)

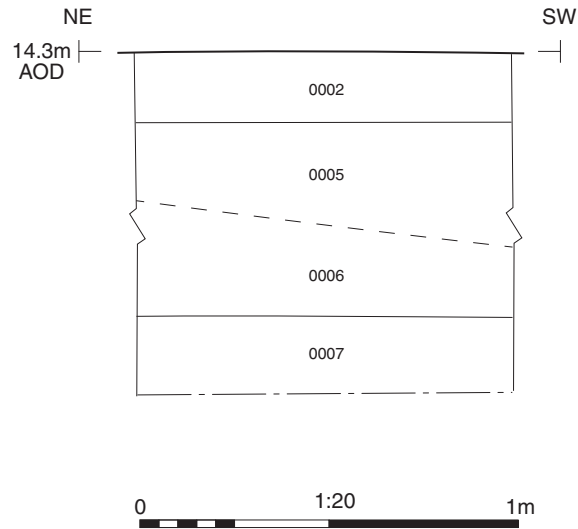

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	GB	PROJECT NO.	SU0066	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	31/10/2019	3
APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE	@A3 1:20	

Section CC



Section CC, looking south-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Section and photograph

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