



**LAND AT THE CORNER OF RIVERSIDE ROAD
& DOCK TAVERN LANE, GORLESTON-ON-
SEA,
GREAT YARMOUTH,
NORFOLK**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



Report Number: 1043

December 2013



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LANE, GORLESTON-ON-SEA,
GREAT YARMOUTH,
NORFOLK**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

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December 2013

Site Code	ENF 132654	NGR	652882 304432
Planning Ref.	06/12/0273/F	OASIS	britanni1-166886
Approved By:	Tim Schofield	Date December 2013	



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Abstract

On the 15th and 18th November 2013, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring on the excavation of foundation trenches for a sales building on the corner of Riverside Road and Dock Tavern Lane, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk (NGR 652882 304432).

The monitoring works recorded one phase associated with the accumulation of natural sea shore deposits, two phases of demolition and a phase of modern construction in the stratigraphic sequence. These results in conjunction with the HER data and map regression show the site appears to have remained largely free from development until the early 20th century when a line of buildings, possibly warehouses, associated with the sea front, were constructed to the south. By the mid-20th century these had been removed and a large engineering works was constructed immediately to the west of the development area. This was in turn demolished in the late 20th century to make way for a super market and finally the adjacent modern development.

The HER data suggested the possible presence of a World War II gun emplacement, however no evidence of this was present. This may in part be due to the extensive demolition associated with later 20th and 21st century development which would have removed much of the evidence for earlier activity.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 15th and 18th November 2013, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring on land located on the corner of Riverside Road and Dock Tavern Lane, Gorleston-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk (NGR 652882 304432), during the excavation of foundation trenches and other intrusive ground works associated with the construction of a new sales office (Figures 1 & 3).

Monitoring work was conducted in accordance with a design Brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service, (NCCHEs) (Ken Hamilton, dated 24/09/2012) and a Written Scheme of Investigation by BA (dated January 2013) and approved by NCCHEs.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Figs 1 & 3)

Gorleston-on-Sea is a small coastal town situated 30km east of Norwich and 2km south of Great Yarmouth. The site is located 200m east of the centre of Gorleston, immediately adjacent to the River Yare and approximately 800m north of the river estuary. It lies at a height of 2.45m AOD and is bounded to the north by Dock Tavern Road, to the East by Riverside Road, to the south by new buildings and to the west by a car park (Figure 1).



The site was until recently part of the adjacent car park, but has been developed with the construction of several 'new build' residential buildings. The proposed sales room lies to the very north of the site and is located in close proximity to the new development.

The superficial geology comprises Breydon Formation clays and silts formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. These were deposited in an environment previously dominated by shorelines. The solid geology comprises Crag Group sand and gravel sedimentary bedrock formed up to 5 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods. These formed in a shallow marine environment (British Geological Survey).

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation was carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2012). The relevant local planning policy is contained in the *Great Yarmouth Local Plan; Core Strategy 2012* and is Policy CS10: *Safeguarding local heritage assets*.

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG March 2012)

The NPPF recognises that 'heritage assets' are an irreplaceable resource and planning authorities should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance when considering development. It requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The key areas for consideration are:

- The significance of the heritage asset and its setting in relation to the proposed development;
- The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance;
- Significance (of the heritage asset) can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification;
- Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred;
- Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.



3.2 Great Yarmouth Local Plan; Core Strategy 2012 Policy CS10.

The Great Yarmouth Local Plan replaces the existing Local Development Framework and Policy CS10 deals specifically with safeguarding heritage assets. The key areas for consideration in relation to archaeology and development are:

- 4.10.2 Archaeological assessments will be required on proposed developments that possess known archaeological deposits, or where it is considered that there is good reason for such remains to exist;
- 4.10.3 The setting of a heritage asset is as equally important as the heritage asset itself. In managing changes to the environment, the Council will treat favourably proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of a heritage asset.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2)

4.1 Archaeological/Historical Sources

The following archaeological background utilises the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record (NHER) and Record Office (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2).

The name Gorleston-on-Sea was recorded in the Domesday Survey as Gorlestuna (1086) and is probably derived from Old English for 'farmstead of a man called Gurl' (Mills, 2003).

There are 204 entries held in the NHER that lie within the 1km search radius. The majority of entries relate to World War Two defences and military installations which were significantly strengthened following the outbreak of war in 1939. The assessment area itself is located on the site of a former gun emplacement and associated defences positioned at the junction of Riverside Road and Dock Tavern Lane (42298). Several Anderson Shelters (42294, 42296 & 42299), a Pill Box/Mortar emplacement (42292), a military Nissen hut (42297) and an anti-aircraft battery (32669) are also located within 100m of the site.

The earliest records relate to finds at Middleton Gardens (485m east of site) where two Neolithic Axeheads were found along with an Iron Age cremation (10552). A significant Bronze Age hoard of 118 copper alloy objects (10556) was found approximately 1km south east of the site.

The Iron Age and Romano British periods are thought to be represented via two areas of substantial cropmarks located approximately 1km to the west (43447 and 43466). Both contain multiphase fragmentary field systems, track ways and potential livestock enclosures. It is possible that some of the cropmarks also relate to later medieval activity, however the small area of excavation has not produced dating evidence.



A large medieval Augustinian Friary and church is noted 900m north of the site (10562). The Friary was founded in the 13th century and dissolved in 1538. Inhumations and structures have been excavated since the 18th century and the remains of buildings have also been incorporated into buildings to the north and south of Burnt Lane, however a watching brief at Burnt Lane/Manby Street (32892) did not uncover any features or finds.

Six maps of the site dating between 1885 and 1968 were consulted. The earliest is a town plan dating to 1885 and shows the site to be free from any buildings. Dock Tavern Lane is called Old Icehouse Road and the nearest structure is a pump station on the north side of the road. The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map dates to 1887 and shows the same layout as the earlier town plan. The Second Edition OS map (1906) shows the site was still free from any development, however Old Ice House Road had been renamed Dock Lane and by 1928 it was shown by its current name of Dock Tavern Lane. The 1928 OS map also shows a line of buildings on the eastern boundary of the site where the current new flats have been constructed, although the small area of the sales building remained free from development. The 1958 maps shows little had changed from 1928, but by 1967 a large engineering works was present adjacent to the area of the sales building and the line of structures had been removed. The engineering works was still present on the 1989 maps, but had been demolished to make way for a supermarket by 1999 and the area around the site was hard standing or car parking.

The predominant potential for archaeology at this site is likely to be post-medieval and modern, especially that relating to the World War Two defences identified on the site.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The NCC HES brief states that the aim of the investigation is to monitor the development and all archaeological contexts and artefacts exposed, examined or excavated will be fully recorded on appropriate context, finds and sample sheets, on plans and sections and by photographic record, including black and white film photography (Brief 1 – 3).

6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

Specific objectives have not been set out, however a minimum of the following will be considered:

- To recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. Also that the state of preservation of archaeological features and deposits should be determined.



7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

Excavation of the footings was undertaken using a 5 tonne 360° excavator under the supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist. The foundation trenches were excavated according to the supplied plans to a depth of 0.90m to form a flat surface (Fig. 3). The subsoil layer was inspected for archaeological features and finds and then the foundation trenches were excavated further to a maximum 1.55m depth into the superficial geology (Figs. 4, 5 & 6). Sample sections and plans were drawn to scale, proforma record sheets were completed and appropriate photographs were taken. All excavated spoil was inspected for finds.

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 3-5)

The site visits were undertaken by the author during dry ground conditions. The trenches were excavated in two stages with the first stage being concreted after recording due to the instability of the ground. Stage one comprised the southern trenches located next to the existing building and stage two comprised the trenches adjacent to the road and at either end of the site (Fig. 3)

No specific features were identified, however the majority of layers were associated with demolition (1002 and 1004) and the construction (1000 and 1001) of the adjacent building. A truncated layer of subsoil (1007) was noted below these modern layers and above the natural drift geology.

No further finds or features were present during the works.

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL

The deposit model varied slightly between the north and south of the site due to the surface layers of the adjoining footpath being exposed.

The upper most layer to the south and across the majority of the site was a made ground layer (1000) associated with the final stages of construction of the adjacent building. This overlay a levelling layer (1002) associated with the same building. On the northern edge of the site, these upper layers were replaced by a tarmac surface (1005) and sand bedding layer (1006) forming the footpath.

The remaining layers were present across the whole site. An upper demolition layer (1004) was present below the levelling layer (1002) and contained modern 20th century CBM, plastic and glass (not retained). This likely formed the recent phase demolition prior to the construction of the adjacent building.

Demolition layer 1002 was present below demolition layer 1004 and represents an earlier phase of work, probably associated with the construction of the car park which was later replaced by the current development. This layer contained mid-20th century



CBM, metal armoured electricity cables and late 19th and 20th century pottery (not retained).

Subsoil 1007 was present below demolition layer 1002. It was an organic layer of mid to dark sandy silt and contained various types of broken shell fragments. This represented the earliest archaeological layer in the stratigraphic sequence and would have been part of the shore environment before the construction of the modern quayside embankment.

The final layer in the sequence was the natural drift geology 1003 comprising a light yellow grey sandy gravel.

The deposit model reveals a simple sequence of deposition with significant truncation from two phases of demolition in the 20th and 21st centuries overlying the remains of sea shore deposits probably relating to mud flats or salt marshes.

10 DISCUSSION

The monitoring works recorded one phase of natural sea shore deposits, two phases of demolition and a phase of modern construction in the stratigraphic sequence. These results in conjunction with the HER data and map regression show site appears to have remained largely free from development until the early 20th century when a line of buildings, possibly warehouses associated with the sea front, were constructed to the south. By the mid-20th century these had been removed and a large engineering works was constructed immediately to the west of the development area. This was in turn demolished in the late 20th century to make way for a super market and finally the adjacent modern development.

The HER data suggested the possible presence of a World War II gun emplacement, however no evidence of this was found. This may in part be due to the extensive demolition associated with later 20th and 21st century development which would have removed much of the evidence for earlier activity.

The partial survival of sea shore deposits is potentially interesting for the wider area, however on this site, no evidence of archaeological activity was present within this layer.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr David Fish of Scroby Fayre Ltd, for commissioning the project and for his assistance.

We are also grateful to Dr Ken Hamilton of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service for his time, help and advice.



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The British Geological Survey (Natural Environment Research Council) – Geology of Britain Viewer - www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion2=1#maps

English Heritage PastScape www.pastscape.org.uk

English Heritage National List for England
www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england

DEFRA Magic <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic>

Norfolk Heritage Explorer <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/>



APPENDIX 1 DEPOSIT TABLES AND FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

Sample Section 1 Deposit Table

Sample Section No 1	Orientation E-S	Height AOD	Shot No
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.21m	Made Ground. Light grey brown, loose cement sand gravel.	
1001	0.21 – 0.38m	Levelling Layer. Mid red brown, compact sand & gravel	
1004	0.38 – 0.52m	Upper Demolition Layer. Mid grey & mid red brown, sandy gravel and silty sand with CBM cement inclusions.	
1002	0.52 – 1.19m	Lower Demolition Layer. Dark grey, compact sandy silt & ash.	
1003	1.19 – 1.40m+	Natural Drift Geology. Light grey yellow, loose sandy gravel.	

Sample Section 2 Deposit Table

Sample Section No 1	Orientation E-S	Height AOD	Shot No
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1005	0.00 – 0.21m	Tarmac Surface. Dark grey, hard tarmac	
1006	0.21 – 0.38m	Concrete & Sand Bedding Layer. Light yellow grey, compact sand.	
1004	0.38 – 0.52m	Upper Demolition Layer. Mid grey & mid red brown, sandy gravel and silty sand with CBM cement inclusions.	
1002	0.52 – 1.19m	Lower Demolition Layer. Dark grey, compact sandy silt & ash.	
1007		Subsoil. Mid to dark grey brown, compact sandy silt with occasional sea shell inclusions.	
1003	1.19 – 1.40m+	Natural Drift Geology. Light grey yellow, loose sandy gravel.	



APPENDIX 2

OASIS SHEET (Copied from the OASIS website)

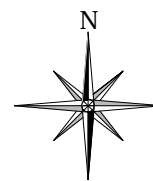
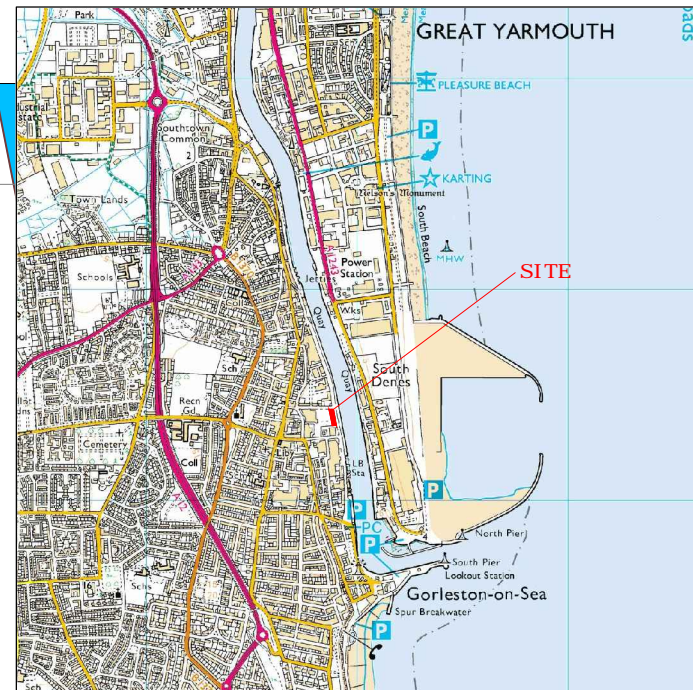
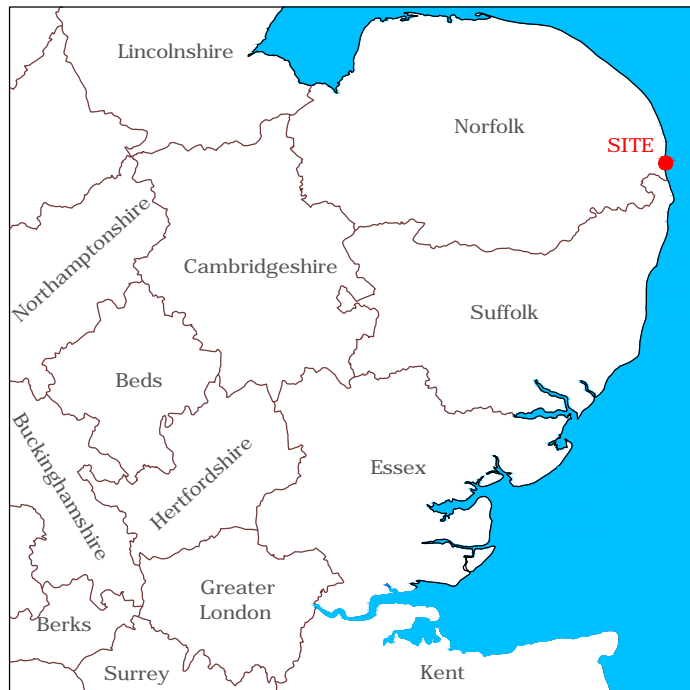
OASIS ID: britanni1-166886	
Project details	
Project name	Land At The Corner Of Riverside Road and Dock Tavern Lane, Gorleston-On-Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
Short description of the project	On the 15th and 18th November 2013, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring on the excavation of foundation trenches for a sales building on the corner of Riverside Road and Dock Tavern Lane, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk (NGR 652882 304432). The monitoring works recorded one phase of natural sea shore deposits accumulation, two phases of demolition and a phase of modern construction in the stratigraphic sequence. These results in conjunction with the HER data and map regression show site appears to have remained largely free from development until the early 20th century when a line of buildings, possibly warehouses associated with the sea front, were constructed to the south. By the mid-20th century these had been removed and a large engineering works was constructed immediately to the west of the development area. This was in turn demolished in the late 20th century to make way for a super market and finally the adjacent modern development. The HER data suggested the possible presence of a World War II gun emplacement, however no evidence of this was found. This may in part be due to the extensive demolition associated with later 20th and 21st century development which would have removed much of the evidence for earlier activity.
Project dates	Start: 15-11-2013 End: 18-11-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 132654 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	P1018 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None





Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK GREAT YARMOUTH GREAT YARMOUTH Land At The Corner Of Riverside Road and Dock Tavern Lane, Gorleston-On-Sea,
Postcode	NR31 6PY
Study area	80.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 52882 04432 52 1 52 34 41 N 001 43 58 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.50m Max: 2.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Matthew Adams
Project director/manager	Matthew Adams
Project supervisor	Matthew Adams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Scroby Fayre Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk HER
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography"



available	
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk HER
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Microfilm", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land At The Corner Of Riverside Road and Dock Tavern Lane, Gorleston-On-Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk - Archaeological Monitoring
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Adams, M.C.
Other bibliographic details	R1043
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Stowmarket, Suffolk
Description	A4 Thermal bound report with A3 figures



	Foundation Trenches
	Site Boundary

NGR: 652879 304434	REPORT NUMBER: 1043
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PROJECT:
**RIVERSIDE ROAD, GORLESTON,
GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK
SUFFOLK**

CLIENT:
SCROBY FAYRE LTD


DESCRIPTION:
GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



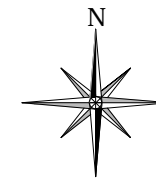
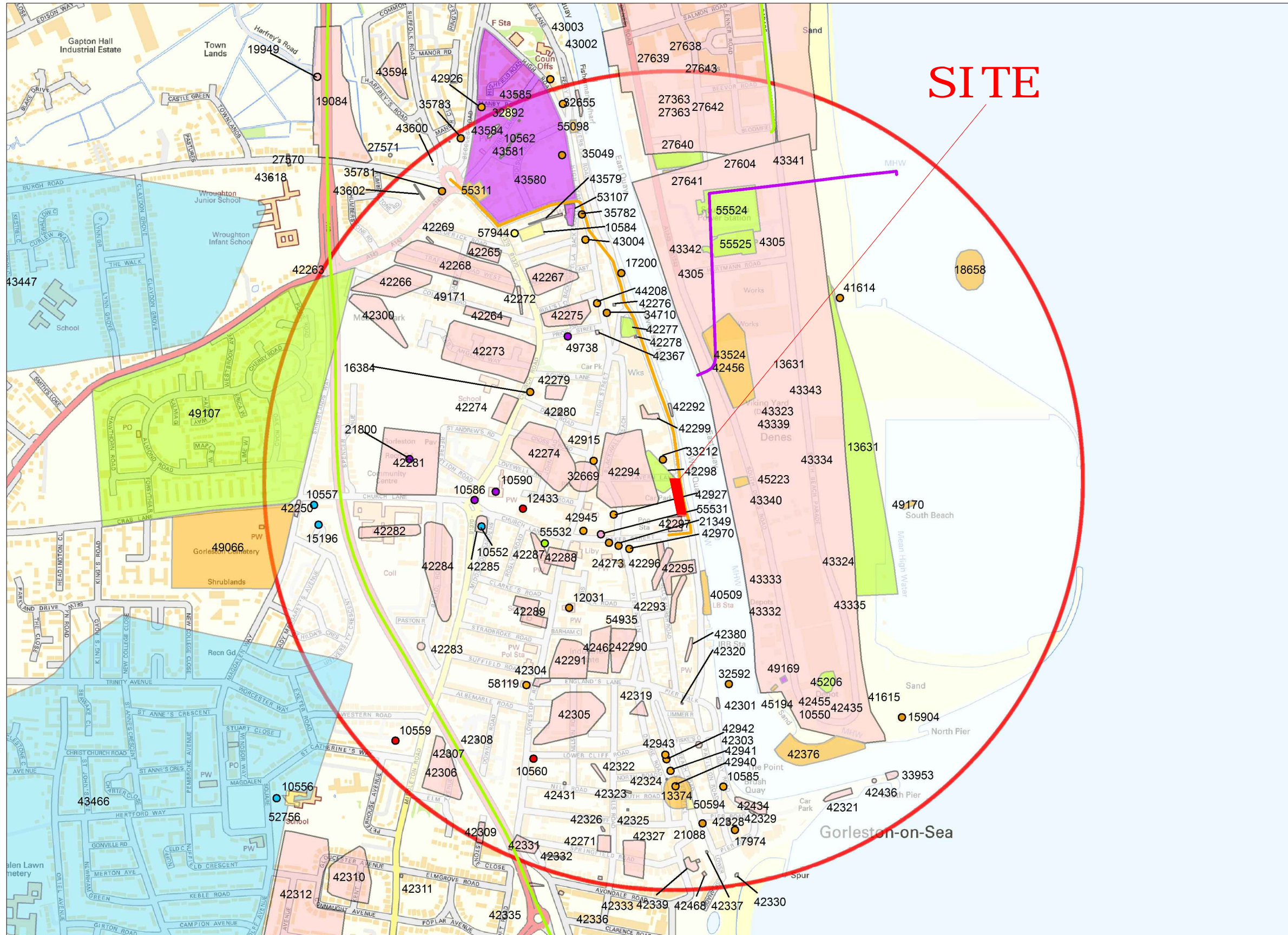
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SCALE:	0	50m
1: 1000		

PLOT: A3	APPROVED: TPS	VERSION: 01
DATE: DEC 2013	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 01

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SITE

	HER Search Area
	Undated Record
	Cold War Record
	World War II Record
	Post-Medieval Record
	Medieval Record
	Roman Record
	Prehistoric Record
	Site Boundary

NGR: 652879 304434 REPORT NUMBER: 1043

PROJECT: RIVERSIDE ROAD, GORLESTON, GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK SUFFOLK

CLIENT: SCROBY FAYRE LTD

DESCRIPTION: NHER DATA

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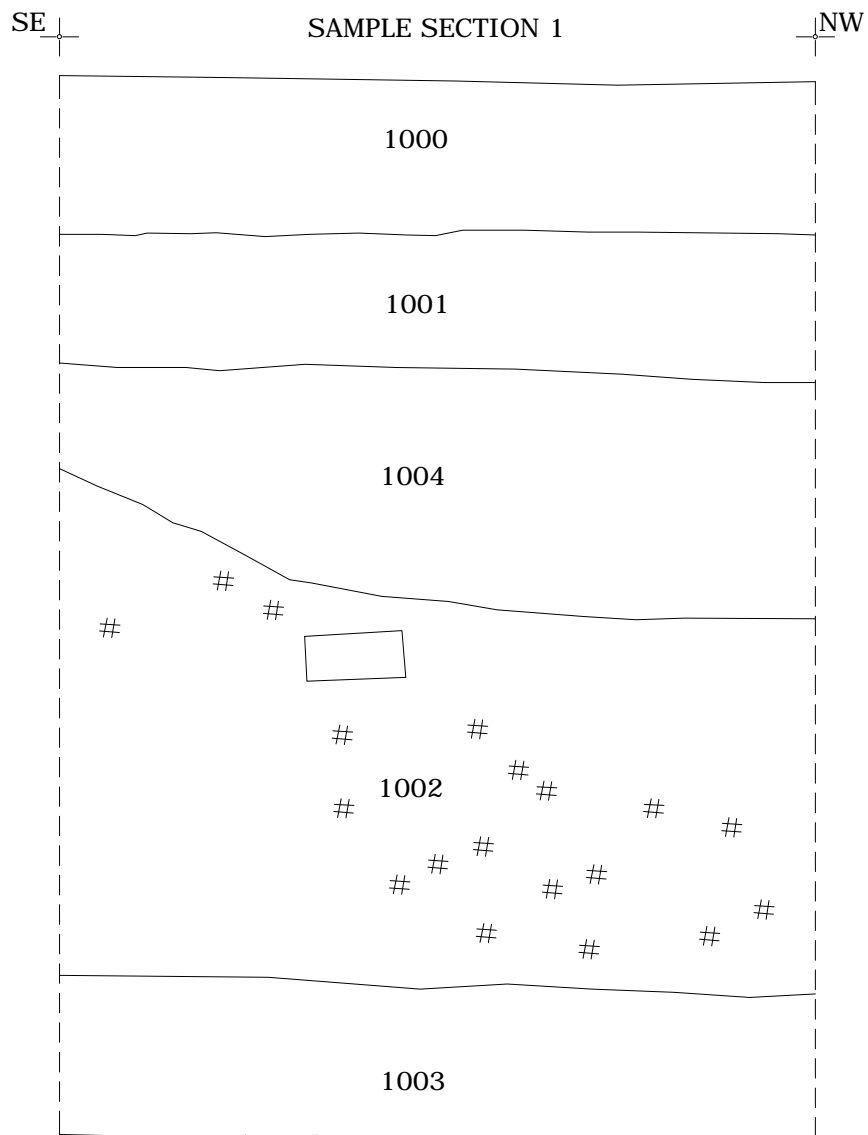
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SCALE: 1:10000

PLOT: A3 APPROVED: TPS VERSION: 01

DATE: DEC 2013 AUTHOR: MCA FIGURE: 02

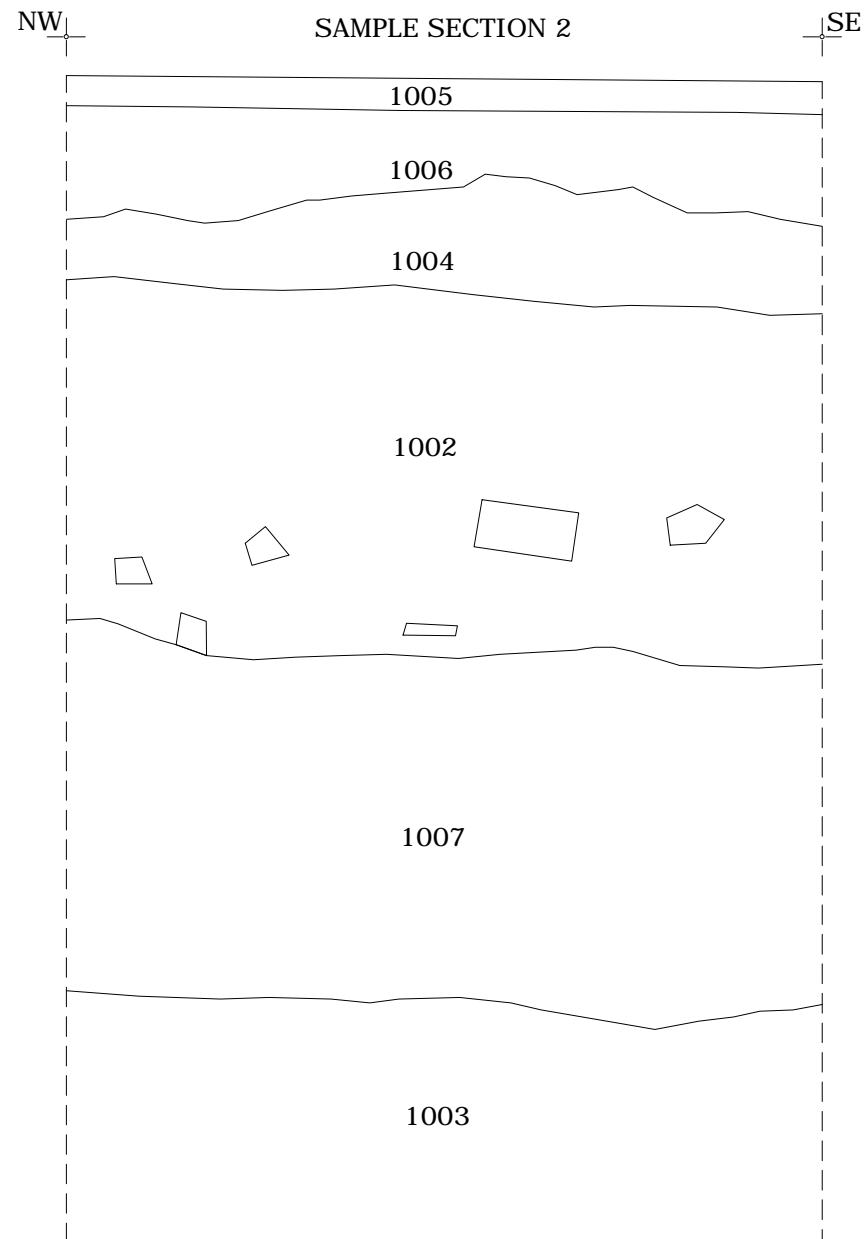
Reproduced NHER GIS data and from Ordnance Survey OpenData™. © CROWN COPYRIGHT & DATABASE RIGHT 2012



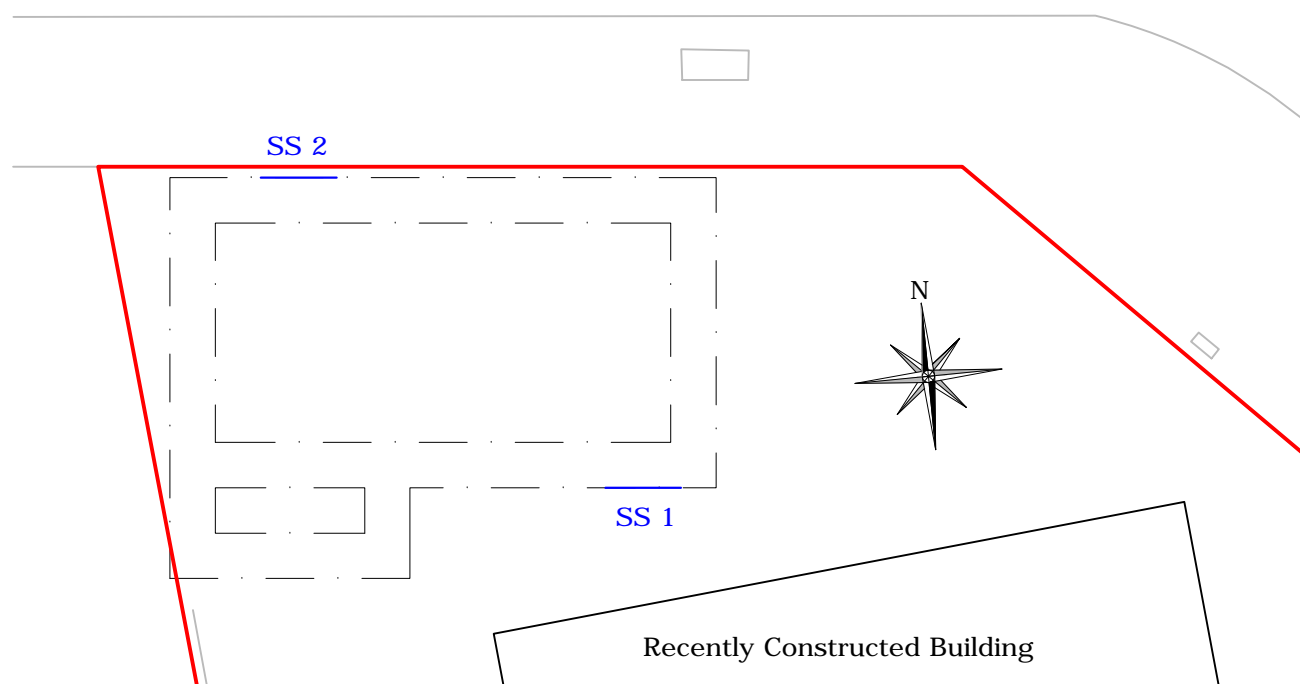
DP 1: Sample Section 1 - Looking SW



DP 2: Sample Section 2 - Looking NE



DP 3: Post Excavation - Looking W



	Foundation Trenches
#	Burning
	CBM Rubble
SS 1	Sample Section
	Site Boundary

NGR: 652879 304434 REPORT NUMBER: 1043

PROJECT: RIVERSIDE ROAD, GORLESTON, GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK SUFFOLK

CLIENT: SCROBY FAYRE LTD

DESCRIPTION: SECTIONS, PLANS & PHOTOGRAPHS

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SCALE: 1:10 0 SECTIONS 0.5m
1:100 0 PLAN 5m

PLOT: A3 APPROVED: TPS VERSION: 01

DATE: DEC2013 AUTHOR: MCA FIGURE: 02