

**Creeting St Mary CEVAP School, All Saints Road,  
Creeting St Mary, Suffolk**

**Planning application: 1733/12**

**HER Ref: CRM 068**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

(© John Newman BA MIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(January 2013)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Creeting St Mary CEVAP School, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Suffolk, IP6 8NF

Client: Creeting St Mary CEVAP School & The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1733/12

Development: Erection of classroom extension

Date of fieldwork: 26 & 29 November, 2012, & 8 January, 2013

HER Ref: CRM 068 (within area of CRM 011)

OASIS: johnnewm1-141840

Grid ref: TM 0962 5674

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*Summary: Creting St Mary CEVAP School, All Saints Road (CRM 068, TM 0962 5674) monitoring of foundation and drainage trenches for a classroom extension within the area noted as a moat on historic Ordnance Survey maps did not reveal any archaeological features with the few dateable finds in the upcast spoil being pottery sherds and brick or tile fragments from the later Post medieval period. Occasional oyster shells and small fragments of daub-like fired clay were also noted in the spoil but these finds are of uncertain date but may hint at earlier activity at the site. To complement the monitoring the parish tithe map of 1839 was also examined and this casts doubt on the interpretation of the pond in the northern part of the site as a moat as a smaller pond is shown at this date on the northern edge of the plot where the school would later be constructed. This pond was clearly enlarged in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century before the area was mapped later by the Ordnance Survey (John Newman Archaeological Services for Creting St Mary CEVAP School & The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich)*



Frontispiece- extract from Creting St Mary tithe map of 1839 (Suffolk RO 461/74)  
(School site- plot 350 arrowed, north to top)

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Hoopers Architects on behalf of their clients, Creeting St Mary CEVAP School and the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 1733/12. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the erection a classroom extension plus associated drainage works at Creeting St Mary CEVAP School, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Creeting St Mary parish lies to the north east of Needham Market in an area where the local soils are dominated by the heavier boulder clay or till deposits of central Suffolk. The Primary School is located some 200m north-east of the parish church in a landscape characterised by small concentrations of settlement close to churches and general dispersed settlement along the roads and lanes and around areas of common grazing. The school is close to the 45m OD contour with the land dropping off gently towards the south and the River Gipping and the site fronts onto All Saints Road which forms the main road through the parish giving a linear settlement pattern for the village.

1.3 Archaeological interest in the erection of a new classroom was generated by the location of the Primary School within what is recorded on historic Ordnance Survey maps of the later 19<sup>th</sup> century as a moated enclosure (HER CRM 011) of apparent medieval origin. Part of the surrounding moat (see Fig. 2) still survives as an L shaped pond on the northern edge of the site though, as detailed in section 4 below, examination of the earlier parish tithe map of 1839 casts doubt on the Ordnance Survey interpretation of the feature mapped some 40 years later on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch series.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Three visits were made to the site to observe the excavation of the foundations for the extension and related drainage trenches and soak away as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 500mm or 700mm wide toothed bucket on generally bright, sunny days with visibility good at all times. The foundation and drainage trenches were entered to allow for closer inspection of the exposed soil profiles and hand cleaning of indistinct areas while the soak away was observed from above. Upcast spoil was stockpiled nearby allowing for a close inspection for stray finds. The foundations were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 In total nearly 40m of 700mm wide and 1400mm to 1800mm deep foundation trench were examined along the sides and across the middle of the extension footprint (see Fig. 2) in addition to some 26m of 500mm wide and 500mm to 1000mm deep drainage trench around the new build area. The soak away pit to the

south was 3m by 2m and 2.80m deep while a final 500mm wide and 1000mm to 1500mm deep trench for the overflow ran further to the south to the junction of the playing field and adjacent field. The foundation, drainage trenches and soak away revealed a similar deposit profile across the area of the works with 300mm of topsoil lying over 200/300mm of a mid brown clay subsoil which, in turn, lay over the locally occurring fluvioglacial Till that comprised a stiff pale brown clay with flints numerous small chalk fragments.

3.2 The excavation of some 66m of foundation and drainage trench did not reveal any features save modern services and drains with the only dateable finds seen in the upcast spoil being small, stray sherds of brown glazed red earthenware of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date and glazed white wares of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date plus small fragments of Post medieval brick and tile. Occasional oyster shells and small fragments of pinkish red coloured baked clay were also noted in the upcast subsoil; these latter finds are of uncertain date.

#### 4. Conclusion

4.1 With no clear evidence for medieval period activity at the site from close observation of a substantial length of trenching some doubt must be cast on the identification of it as a moat. This doubt is reinforced by examination of the parish tithe map of 1839 (see frontispiece) which shows a small pond on the northern edge of plot 350 where the school would be constructed later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Plot 350 is called 'St Mary's Pightle' (a pightle being a local name for a small plot of land) and noted as glebe land belonging to the church and in arable use. It is also clear that the pond on the northern edge of this plot was enlarged by the later 19<sup>th</sup> century to its present size making a later interpretation by the Ordnance Survey as a moat more plausible. However it may also be noted that in addition to stray finds of later Post medieval date in the upcast spoil occasional oyster shells and small fragments of burnt clay, or daub, were present. These essentially not datable finds hinting at some level of earlier activity within the area where the school now stands which has left no other evidence in terms of archaeological features in the areas examined to date.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the extent of the monitored strip foundations, drainage trenches and related soak away have had minimal affect to any heritage asset as no archaeological deposits of significance have been identified at the site.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Craig Driver of Hoopers Architects and to the relevant staff from A C Harding Ltd for their close cooperation in relation to this site monitoring)*

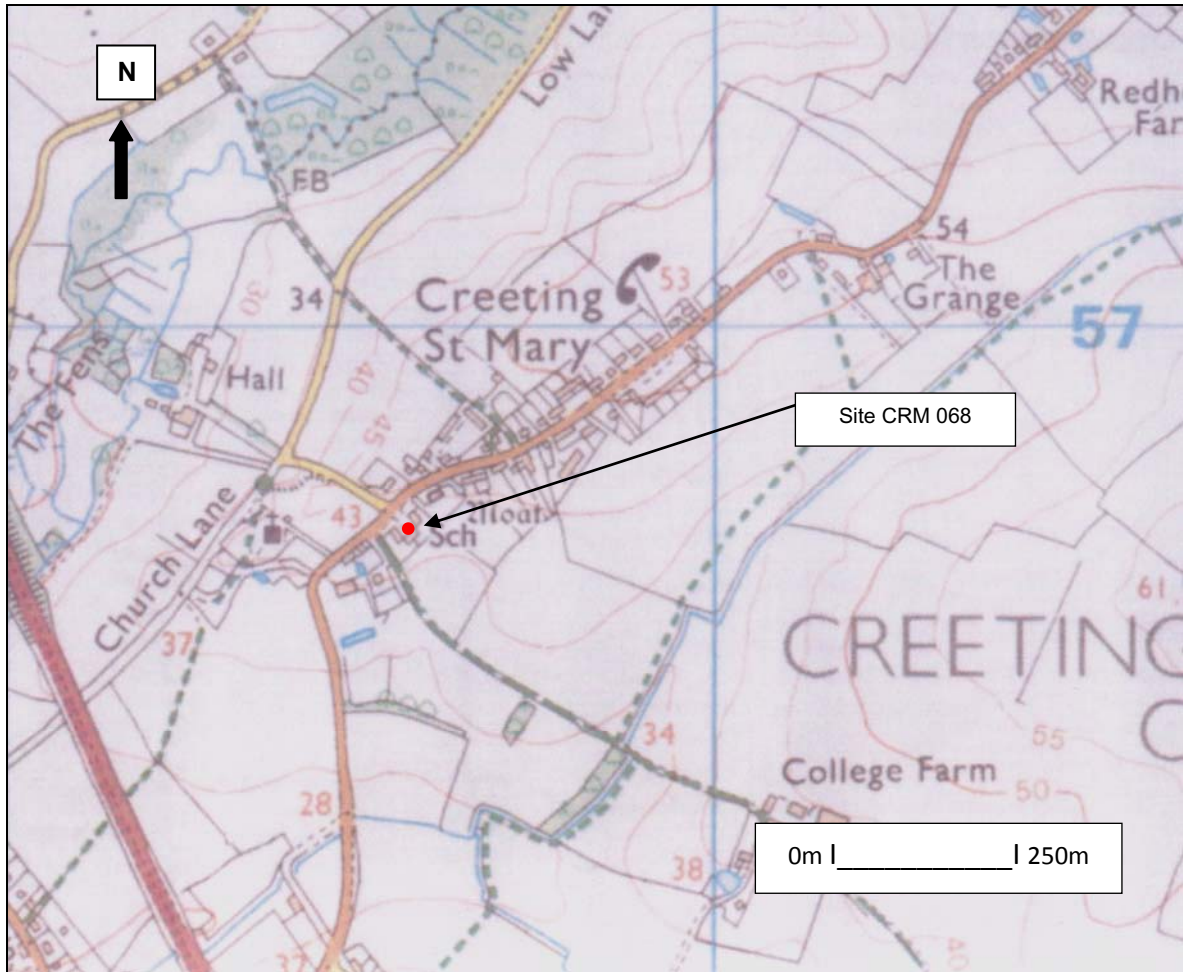


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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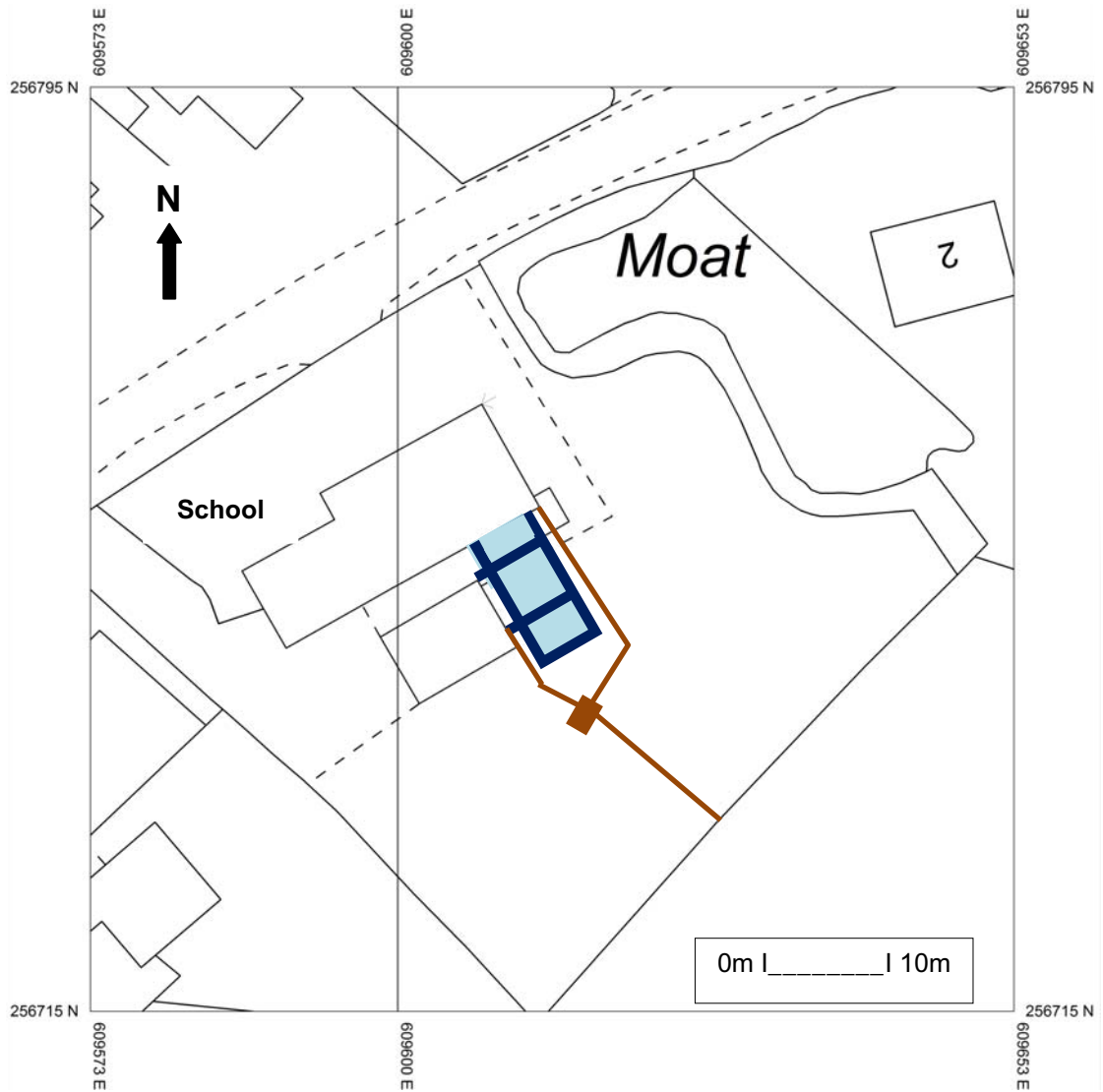


Fig. 2: Monitored ground works  
(foundations- dark blue, soak away & drainage trenches- brown)  
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2012 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



Area of new extension from south-east



Southern foundation trench from east

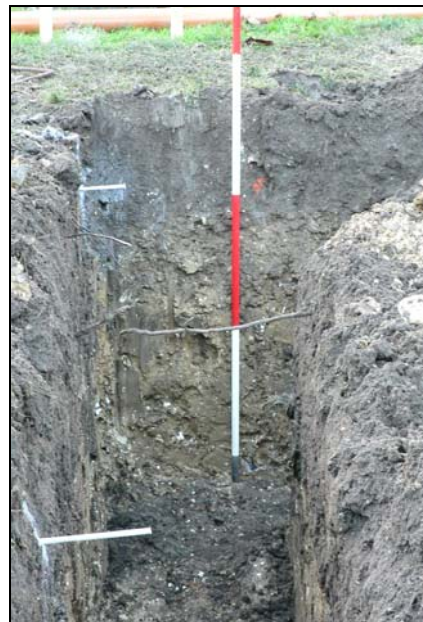




Eastern foundation trench from south



Drainage trench on western side of extension



Typical deposit profile

**Erection of Classroom Extension to  
Creeping St Mary CEVAP School, Suffolk**

**Planning application: 1733/12**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Continuous Archaeological Monitoring**

## **Site details**

Name: Creeting St Mary CEVAP School, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Suffolk, IP6 8NF

Client: Creeting St Mary CEVAP School

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1733/12

Proposed development: Erection of classroom extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief ref: 2012\_05\_29SCCAS\_Archaeological Monitoring Brief\_Creeting St Mary PS

Grid ref: TM 096 567

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1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Hoopers Architects on behalf of Creting St Mary CEVAP School have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the continuous archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 1733/12. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of a classroom extension to Creting St Mary CEVAP School, All Saints Road, Creting St Mary. While this planning application also included the creation of a playing field on land adjacent to the school these works have now been dropped in favour of another site.

1.2 The monitoring will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Creting St Mary parish lies to the north east of Needham Market in an area where the local soils are dominated by the heavier boulder clay or till deposits of central Suffolk. The Primary School is located some 200m north-east of the parish church in a landscape characterised by small concentrations of settlement close to churches and general dispersed settlement along the roads and lanes and around areas of common grazing. The school is close to the 45m OD contour with land dropping off gently towards the south and the River Gipping and it fronts onto All Saints Road which forms the main road through the parish giving a linear settlement pattern for the village.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The site is located in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the internal area of a medieval moated enclosure (HER no. CRM 011). There is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.'

3.2 The Brief then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording during continuous monitoring of ground works as they progress by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting.

#### 4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential where evidence for medieval deposits in particular might be revealed and continuous monitoring of ground works as they progress can best investigate and record what may be revealed. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to depth of overburden and any evidence for the character and date of any past activity within the exposed deposits. The primary aim being to gain more information relating to what is recorded on early Ordnance Survey maps as a medieval moated site.

#### 5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be strip foundations. The excavation of the strip foundations, and related ground works such as for soakaways and service trenches, will be observed as they are excavated and any up cast spoil examined for finds. Notice of ground works starting and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to hand clean sections as necessary and investigate any possible archaeological deposits within the foundation trenches.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under an overall site HER number supplied by Suffolk CC. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover with the monitored footings shown. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the trench foundations with sections recorded related to the trench sides, if possible, and with levels OD. Even if no

archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land use and topography in the town. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains which would incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (the potential of this site to contain burials is assessed as being low).

5.4 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

5.5 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2) and particularly Appendix 3 and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. As necessary the site digital archive will deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.6 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 4) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in

section 2 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). A draft pdf copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a pdf and a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER and a pdf copy will be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up. As appropriate a dxf type vector plan of the area examined will be supplied for inclusion into the County HER map base.

### 6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots & ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and any ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 Deep holes/trenches going below c1.30m will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

### 7. Specialists

Conservation:

Conservation Services

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Roman period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-141840**

### Project details

Project name	Creeting St Mary CEVAP School, Creeting St Mary, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Creeting St Mary CEVAP School, All Saints Road (CRM 068, TM 0962 5674) monitoring of foundation and drainage trenches for a classroom extension within the area noted as a moat on historic Ordnance Survey maps did not reveal any archaeological features with the few dateable finds in the upcast spoil being pottery sherds and brick or tile fragments from the later Post medieval period. Occasional oyster shells and small fragments of daub-like fired clay were also noted in the spoil but these finds are of uncertain date but may hint at earlier activity at the site. To complement the monitoring the parish tithe map of 1839 was also examined and this casts doubt on the interpretation of the pond in the northern part of the site as a moat as a smaller pond is shown at this date on the northern edge of the plot where the school would later be constructed. This pond was clearly enlarged in the mid to late 19th century before the area was mapped later by the Ordnance Survey.
Project dates	Start: 26-11-2012 End: 08-01-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CRM 068 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK CREETING ST MARY CREETING St MARY CEVAP SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS ROAD
Postcode	IP6 8NF

Study area 100.00 Square metres  
 Site coordinates TM 0962 5674 52 1 52 10 06 N 001 03 56 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 41.00m Max: 42.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation John Newman Archaeological Services  
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
 Project design originator John Newman  
 Project director/manager John Newman  
 Project supervisor John Newman  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Diocese

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service  
 Digital Contents "none"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service  
 Paper Contents "none"  
 Paper Media available "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Creeting St Mary CEVAP School, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report  
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 Date 2013  
 Issuer or publisher John Newman Archaeological Services  
 Place of issue or publication Henley, Suffolk  
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 Entered by John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)