

**Carlton Marshes, Carlton Colville,
Suffolk**

Planning application: BA/2012/0124/CU

HER Ref: CAC 052

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(September 2013)

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details for HER

Name: Carlton Marshes, Carlton Colville, Suffolk, NR33 8HU

Client: Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Local planning authority: Broads Authority

Planning application ref: BA/2012/0124/CU

Development: Creation of three scrapes for wildlife habitat

Date of fieldwork: 5 September, 2013

HER Ref: CAC 052

OASIS: johnnewm1-158187

Grid ref: TM 5044 9224

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Summary: Carlton Colville, Carlton Marshes (CAC 052, TM 5044 9224) monitoring of works for three small scrapes designed to enhance the local habitat for wildlife within a marshland reserve at -2m OD in an area traditionally used for seasonal grazing did not reveal any deposits or finds of archaeological interest. The maximum depth of the 12m x 12m scrapes was 1m and below the topsoil a clean, stone-free, alluvial deposit was revealed (John Newman Archaeological Services for Suffolk Wildlife Trust).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 The Suffolk Wildlife Trust 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 BA/2012/0124/CU. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Ms S Poppy then of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II), which was approved by Dr M Brudenell of SCCAS, in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the creation of three scrapes to enhance the local habitat for wildlife (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Carlton Colville parish is located in north-east Suffolk, on the southern side of the River Waveney and just to the south west of Lowestoft. Historically, settlement has been scattered with small concentrations of cottages and farms around the parish church and at least two small greens but in recent years suburban expansion from Lowestoft has all but covered much of the eastern and central parts of the parish. Carlton Marshes are located below the 0m OD contour in the north-western part of the parish along the southern side of the River Waveney and directly west of Oulton Broad. The marshes form an extensive area of seasonally wetland criss-crossed by numerous drains with the area being called 'Carlton Shares' in 1783 on Hodkinson's map of Suffolk. Local information (Matt Gooch pers. comm.) indicated that heavy, silty type soils were to be expected in the area chosen for the scrapes though other parts of the nearby marshes are over area of peat.

1.3 Archaeological interest regarding the works required for the planned scrapes was generated by their location at the base of the lower Waveney valley some 350m south-west of the western end of Oulton Broad. Topographically this being a location where well preserved water-logged evidence for past activity might be revealed such as the nationally important Iron Age timber track ways revealed further up the Waveney valley at Beccles in a similar proximity to the river and its related seasonally wet grazing marshes.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site to observe the works for the scrapes as they progressed using a large 360 machine equipped with a 2000mm wide flat bucket on a bright, sunny day with site visibility good at all times. As the work progressed it was clear that the deposits were uniform and clean so the scrapes were observed from above and the upcast spoil was inspected for stray finds. Finally the scrapes were recorded in relation to local mapped field boundaries and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 All of the scrapes were planned to be 12m across with a maximum depth of 1000mm across a central area that was 5m to 6m across and sides grading back to ground level. The marshland grazing field where the scrapes are located is c1.20ha in area and they have been placed on an approximate north-south alignment along a central axis in the field (see Fig. 2) with the southern and northern scrapes being relatively close to the boundaries of the plot of land.

3.2 The exposed deposit profile in all three of the scrapes proved to be very similar and comprised 350mm of topsoil over 350mm to 400mm of a stone-free pale to mid brown silty alluvial layer which merged into a similarly stone-free grey alluvial clay in the basal 250/300mm of the profile. This latter grey alluvial clay also formed the bottom of the scrapes and it was noted in the central scrape that short lengths of reed still survive at the maximum depth of 1000mm.

3.3 Examination of the upcast spoil did not reveal finds of any date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 From the results outlined above it is clear that this low lying area has seen episodic periods of flooding with the consequent deposit of fine, silty alluvial material in all probability over a very long period in the last few thousand years. That this process was episodic is suggested by the presence of reed stems at the base of the scrapes at 1000mm indicating periods when this area was covered by a relatively shallow depth of water. In all probability it has only been in the last few centuries after the deposit of a considerable amount of alluvium coupled with the creation of a system of drainage channels and river banks that seasonal use of the area for grazing has been possible. Finally it may be suggested that the graduation from a pale to mid brown alluvial deposit to a grey one at a depth of 700mm to 750mm marks a lower zone that has remained fully waterlogged leading to the alluvium having a darker colour as no air has allowed the chemical changes that have occurred above.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the creation of the scrapes at Carlton Marshes has not impacted on deposits of any great archaeological significance.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Matt Gooch of the SWT for his close cooperation during the monitoring)

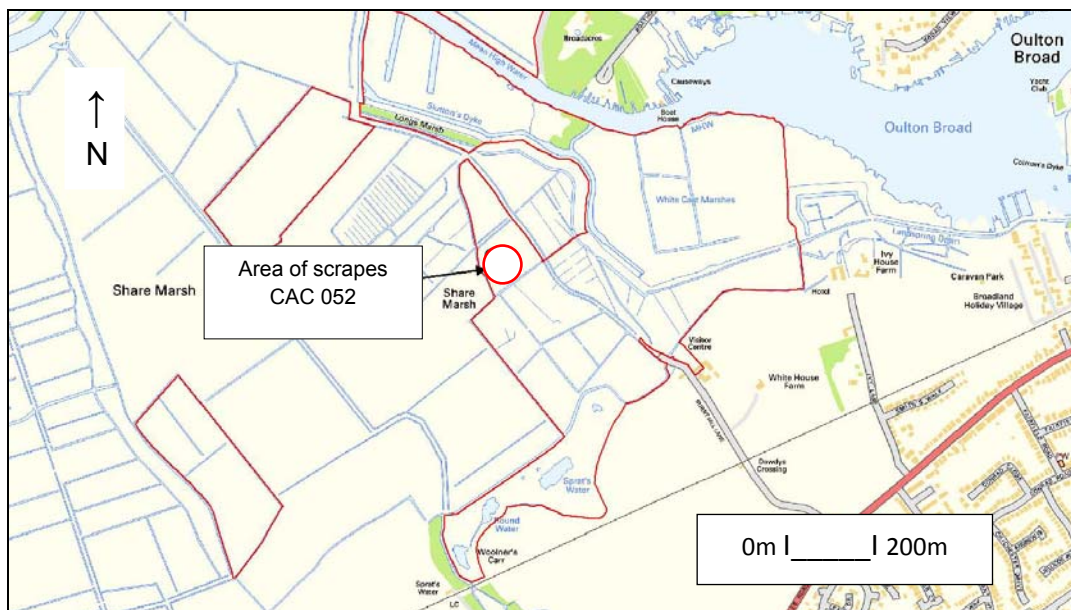


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011
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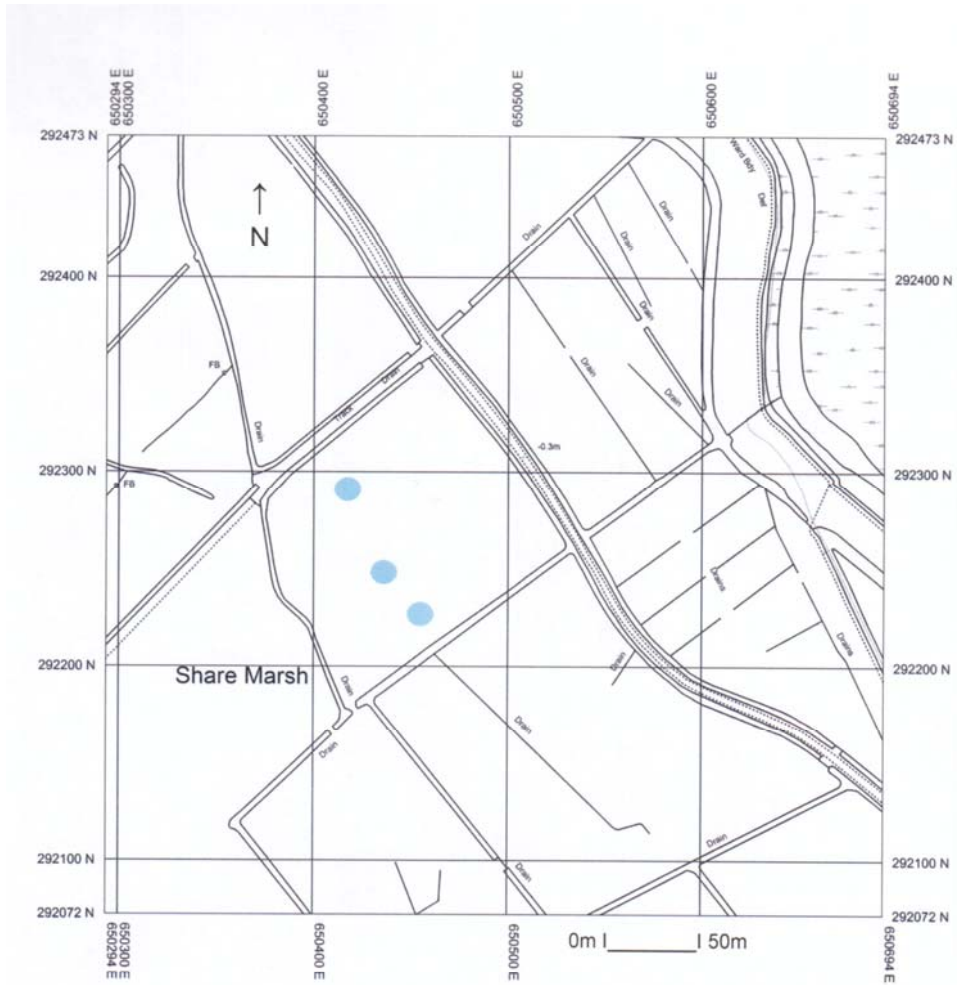


Fig. 2: Monitored scrape areas (light blue)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from south across marshes



Northern scrape from south



Central scrape from south-east at maximum depth



Southern scrape from south-east at maximum depth

**Carlton Marshes, Carlton Colville,
Suffolk**

Planning application: BA/2012/0124/CU

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

Site details

Name: Carlton Marshes, Carlton Colville, Suffolk

Client: Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Local planning authority: Broads Authority

Planning application ref: BA/2012/0124/CU

Proposed development: Creation of 3 scrapes for wildlife habitat

Proposed date for ground works: Early September 2013

Brief & Specification ref: Archaeological Monitoring Carlton Marsh

Grid ref: TM 504 922

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2. Location, Topography & Geology
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1. Introduction

1.1 The Suffolk Wildlife Trust have 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 BA/2012/0124/CU. 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 Ms S Poppy, then 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 creation of 3 wildlife habitat scrapes at Carlton Marshes, Carlton Colville.

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 Carlton Colville parish is located in north-east Suffolk, on the southern side of the River Waveney and just to the south west of Lowestoft. Historically, settlement has been scattered with small concentrations of cottages and farms around the parish church and at least two small greens but in recent years suburban expansion from Lowestoft has all but covered much of the eastern and central parts of the parish. Carlton Marshes are located below the 0m OD contour in the north-western part of the parish along the southern side of the River Waveney and directly west of Oulton Broad. The marshes form an extensive area of seasonally wetland criss-crossed by numerous drains with the area being called 'Carlton Shares' in 1783 on Hodkinson's map of Suffolk. Local information indicates that heavy, clay type soils are to be expected in the area chosen for the scrapes.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The site is located in an area of high archaeological potential, recorded in the county Historic Environment Record, and which has not been subject to any systematic archaeological investigation. Iron Age timber trackways of likely national importance have been encountered during ground works elsewhere in the Waveney Valley. There is high potential for encountering hitherto

unknown important and well preserved waterlogged archaeological remains within this area.'

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 as ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting. In this case archaeological deposits, if revealed, can also be left in situ following consultation with the relevant SCCAS officer and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust by modifying the form and exact location of the scrapes.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above by comparison with similar locations along the Waveney Valley the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential where evidence for later prehistoric, and potentially well preserved, waterlogged deposits in particular might be found and continuous monitoring of ground works as they progress can best record what may be revealed. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to depth of overburden and evidence, character and date of any past activity that is revealed with the primary aim of gaining more information relating to past activity in this location. In addition the ability to review the form and exact location of the scrapes will form a vital part of the monitoring so if significant archaeological deposits are revealed they can suffer minimal disturbance and be left in situ and not compromised by potential de-watering.

5. Methodology

5.1 The 3 scrapes will be mechanically excavated using a suitably sized machine equipped with a flat bucket and will be a maximum of 1m deep. This process will be under continual archaeological supervision. 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 areas as necessary and investigate by hand any possible archaeological deposits within the scrape areas and the upcast spoil will be examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for finds.

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 1:10, 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 scrapes where they cannot be left in situ. 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 at the site. 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. Any waterlogged organic finds if following recording in situ and if lifted will be kept wet in appropriate containers/bags and kept cool until they can be assessed by the relevant specialist. 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 very 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 be 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). An unbound draft 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 bound hard copy will be provided plus another for the County HER, a copy will be sent to the client so they can gain full 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

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. Due to the isolated location of the site there will be at least two people on site at all times during the archaeological monitoring.

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's agent 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.

John Newman Archaeological Services

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

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-158187

Project details

Project name	Carlton Marshes, Carlton Colville, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Carlton Colville, Carlton Marshes (CAC 052, TM 5044 9224) monitoring of works for three small scrapes designed to enhance the local habitat for wildlife within a marshland reserve at -2m OD in an area traditionally used for seasonal grazing did not reveal any deposits or finds of archaeological interest. The maximum depth of the 12m x 12m scrapes was 1m and below the topsoil a clean, stone-free, alluvial deposit was revealed.
Project dates	Start: 05-09-2013 End: 05-09-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CAC 052 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	BA/2012/0124 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Park
Current Land use	Wetlands
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY CARLTON COLVILLE CARLTON MARSHES
Postcode	NR33 8HU
Study area	12000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 5040 9220 52 1 52 28 10 N 001 41 13 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: -1.00m Max: 0m

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	Other Charitable Trust

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)
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