

**Archaeological Evaluation
By Trial Trenching On Land at Waterloo Lane Scole
Norfolk**

Grid reference: TM 1426 7893
Planning Application No: 2012/1620
HES No.: CNF 44589
HER No. ENF 130145
Oasis No. 137244

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by a single trial trench on land at Waterloo Lane, Scle Norfolk. (TM 1426 7893). This was in advance of the erection of a new warehouse on the site of a smaller warehouse currently in use. The work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by James Albone, Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service, dated November 2012.

One 15 metre by 1.8 metre wide trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed new development.

The single evaluation trench revealed only one small feature, interpreted as a shallow pit. No finds were made within this single feature and the environmental sample did not produce any evidence for macro plant remains, however, some charcoal was present within the sample. No dating evidence was gained from the pit or the environmental sample from its fill.

1. Introduction and Planning background

Introduction

1.1 An application has been made by the client Keith Day Architects for the construction of a new warehouse on land at Waterloo Lane Scole Norfolk. The National Policy Framework Section 12 (NPPF, Department for Communities and Local Government, 27 March 2012). Planning Policy sets out the requirements for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of a development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made. As a result of the application, and to comply with planning policy, an archaeological evaluation was commissioned from Archaeoserv – DP Archaeological Services. Research was undertaken at the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Records Office. A copy of this report will be deposited with Norfolk County Council H.E.R. and an on-line report will be made available with the Archaeological Data Service/project Oasis.

Planning Background

1.2 Planning permission has yet to be granted. This application is a pre-determination for planning, subject to a condition for a programme of archaeological work. This report provides the results of the evaluation phase of the PoAW, which will be assessed by the Historic Environment Service to determine whether further investigations (archaeological excavation or monitoring) are necessary should archaeological remains be found to exist on the site and these cannot be preserved *in situ*.

1.3 The planning application, 2012/1620 (pre-determination) is subject to a requirement of archaeological works and forms part of the planning application process of the *Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk (Adopted March 2011)* and the *National Planning Policy Framework* (March 2012) at grid reference TM 1426 7893.

1.4 In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site the Planning Authority has been advised by the NCCHEs for a programme of archaeological work. Any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work before development begins in accordance with the *Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk (Adopted March 2011)* and the *National Planning Policy Framework* (March 2012), to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.

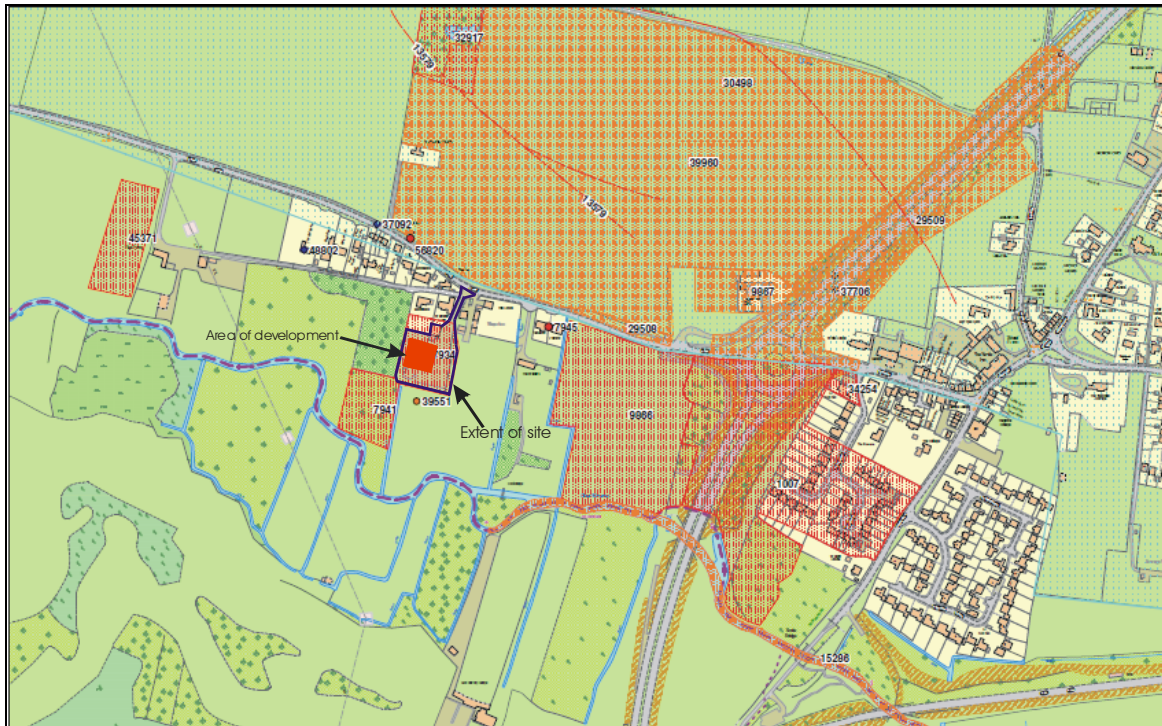
2. Site Location and Description

2.1 The site, Waterloo lane is just to the north of the River Waveney, in the village of Scole which is one mile east of Diss Norfolk. The authority is South Norfolk District Council, Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk (Adopted March 2011).



Figure 1. Site location

2.2 The site is located to the north of the River Waveney on low lying ground. The site lies at a height of 26m OD to the south of the Diss to Scole road, and to the west of the historic medieval core of the village. Currently the area of development lies within a yard already used for industrial purposes.



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Figure 2. Historic Environment Record map showing the site location

3. Archaeological and Historical background

3.1 The archaeological and historical background of Scole has been extensively researched in the course of previous archaeological work and other historical works, therefore it is only summarised here. A comprehensive discussion is to be published shortly in *A Roman-British Settlement in the Waveney Valley: Excavations at Scole, 1993-4* by T. Ashwin (ed). The following summary has been compiled with data from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record Services.

Prehistoric

3.2 Scole lies at the southern extent of a coaxial field system considered to be of prehistoric (or Roman) date covering an area stretching beyond Pulham Market to the north, Harleston in the east and almost as far west as Shelfanger (HER 53075) (Williamson 1986). Excavations to the south-west of the present development site near the River Waveney in the mid 1990s recorded Neolithic or Bronze Age activity in the form of a spread of burnt flints on the northern bank of the river as well as a possible late prehistoric enclosure (HER1007). Further evidence was encountered just south of the river with pottery dating from the Neolithic and flint implements recovered from both the Neolithic and Mesolithic periods. Additionally, evidence of a round house of uncertain date and a prehistoric field system were also found in this area.

3.3 An excavation carried out by NAU in 2005 at the Rectory on Norwich Road produced prehistoric flints that may date the ditch system where they were found (HER41282). Elsewhere in the vicinity, prehistoric evidence is confined to artefacts recovered as a result of two pieces of work; flint tools from extensive field walking surveys to the west prior to the construction of the A140 Scole to Dickleburgh road improvement scheme (HER29509) and a possible Mesolithic bone pin found during dredging of the River Waveney where the previous route of the A140 crossed the river (HER15286).

Roman

3.4 The village of Scole lies along the route of the old Pye Road (Roman in date), a north-south aligned route between key places in the region - Colchester (*Camulodunum*) and Caistor St Edmund (*Venta Icenorum*) – and was established probably in the 1st century by the Roman army (Antonine Itinerary, 4th c.). The results of number major and minor excavations (HERs 1007, 1008, 34254 and 24818) particularly to the south and west have recovered significant evidence of domestic settlement with some industrial activity consistent with a small town developing at the crossing of the Waveney from the 1st century onwards with continuous occupation into the 4th century. Additionally the line of an east-west road has been traced which would have formed a junction with the Pye Road some 200m to the south of the Scole Inn. Other finds have been made in the area: Romano-British pottery and coinage have been retrieved from the adjacent garden and from the area surrounding the junction of The Street with Diss Road (HERs 7944 and 7942). The current development at Waterloo Scole is in the same location as (HER 7934), the site of the 1936 excavations. It is likely that waterlogged wood may be found at this location. Excavations in 1936 (see fig. 3, site 2 on the map) located wooden posts in an upright position buried in the ground in the same location of the current development site (C.H. Gale, 1936) at a site referred to as Mr Musk's duck farm (referred to as site 2 in Gale's report), the location is also shown on the HER map (fig.1; HER 7934). Along with the wooden structure a number of small finds were made including coins, pottery, etc, all of Roman date. This site was interpreted as a possible wharf due to the proximity of the river immediately to the south of the site

Saxon

3.5 Despite the amount of archaeological investigation undertaken in Scole very little evidence of Saxon period has been recovered. Much evidence of occupation has come from metal detecting in the late 1980- 2010 recovering metalwork of both Early and Late Saxon date (HER 24354) and excavations in the area of Robinson Road 200m to the south recovered Early Saxon pottery (HER 1008). However it is not until the construction of St Andrew's Church (HER 7957) with its long and short work quoins typical of the later period and supported by documentary sources that firm evidence of reoccupation emerges.

Medieval

3.6 During the medieval period, the Pye Road, a major route, meant that Scole once again became a prosperous settlement and the medieval occupation area is known to have extend to the west (HER9866) and south (HER1007) of the current settlement. Despite having its origins in the Saxon period St Andrews church is of mostly 14th-century date prior to its 19th-century restoration.

Post-Medieval

3.7 Scole contains numerous buildings of 17th-, 18th- and 19th-century date including the Scole Inn (HER15110) just across the road which is a particularly fine example of a 17th-century inn located on an important transport route.

4. Results

Fieldwork

4.1 A plan of the single trench, sixteen metres (included an extra metre to allow for a service trench) by 1.8 metres, was drawn to a scale of 1:50; sections were drawn to a scale of 1:10.

4.2 A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project.

4.3 An environmental sample was taken (20 ltrs) from a single feature [07].

4.4 A full photographic archive was produced consisting of colour slide, monochrome print and digital at 10 million pixels resolution, and will form part of the site record to be curated at the Norfolk county Council. Site plans and sections were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

4.5 All features were described in detail with an overall statement of the potential for further work.

The Trenched Evaluation

4.6 The trenched evaluation of sixteen metres by 1.8 metres, excavated to a depth of 1m produced one feature [07] which contained no dating evidence. One environmental sample (20ltr) was taken from the single feature located midway along the evaluation trench. Feature [07] was truncated by a modern service trench containing a drainage pipe. No other archaeology was noted within the trench. The natural base of the evaluation trench consisted of an alluvial deposit (04); this layer was machined to ensure that it was not masking any archaeology lying beneath. This layer was machined away to a total depth of 0.20m, which revealed a further layer of darker alluvial deposit in which no archaeology was noted.

In order to test this level, again to ensure no masking was present, a sondage was excavated at the southern end of the trench by machine to a further 0.70 m; the deposit was seen to continue beyond this depth, ruling out any possibility of further archaeology within this deposit or beyond it.

4.7 Two sections were recorded (one in the north of the trench and one in the south) to assess the deposit model in relation to an extinct river terrace expected at this location. The primary layer of alluvial silt (04) was recorded at a depth of 0.20 m in the north of the trench, reducing to 0.07m in the south of the evaluation trench with fluctuations in depth. This concluded that the sighting of the trench revealed the incline of the river terrace valley at this point.

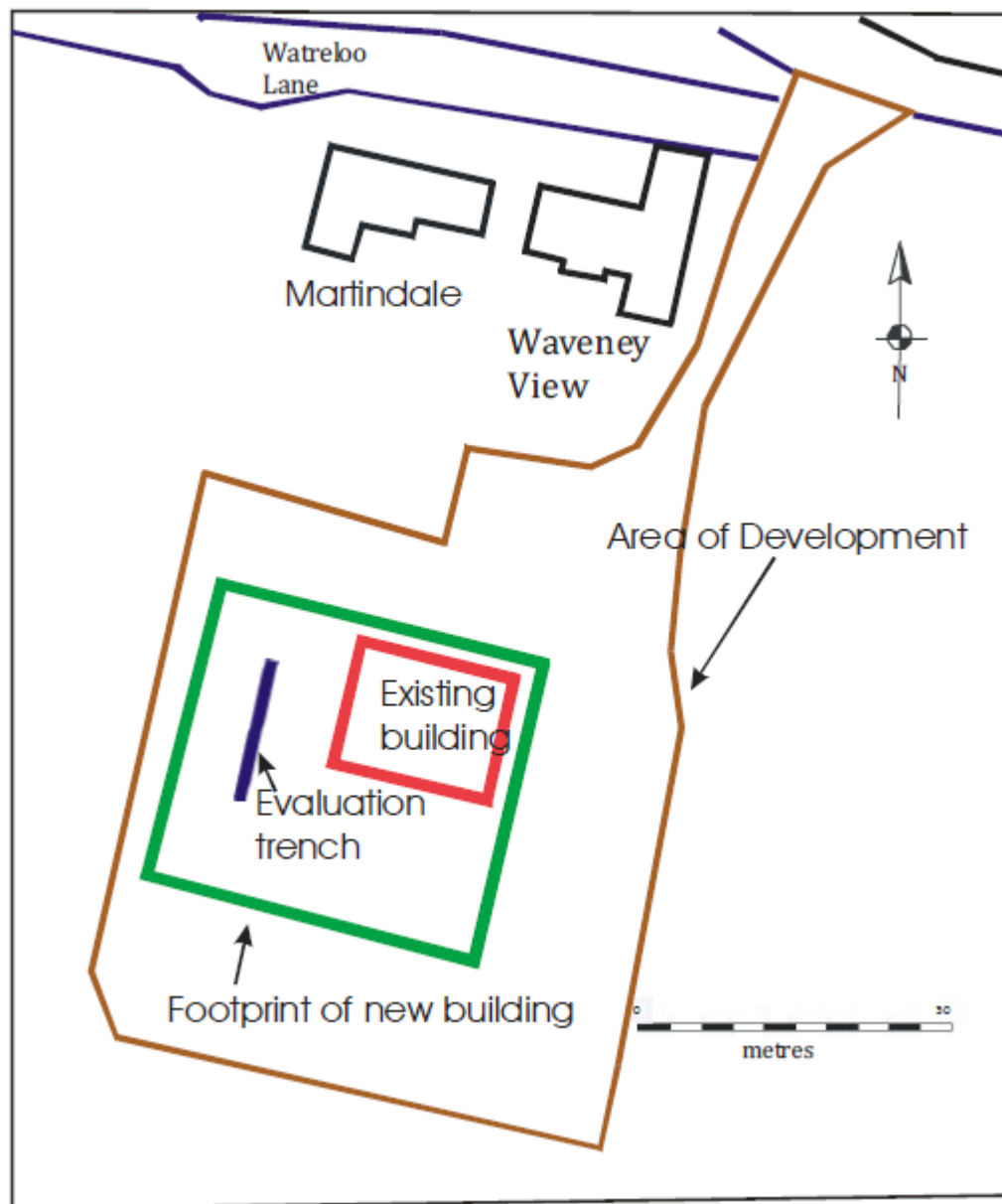


Figure 3. Plan of Evaluation Trench, scale at 1:2500

4.8 The up-cast soils were metal detected, resulting in no finds of archaeological interest.

4.9 The evaluation trench was photographed in black and white, colour slide and digital images. The two 2 metre sample sections of the evaluation trench were photographed and drawn at 1:20 scale. A section was drawn of feature [07], a shallow pit with a further section drawn in relation to the trench section showing the modern truncation also.

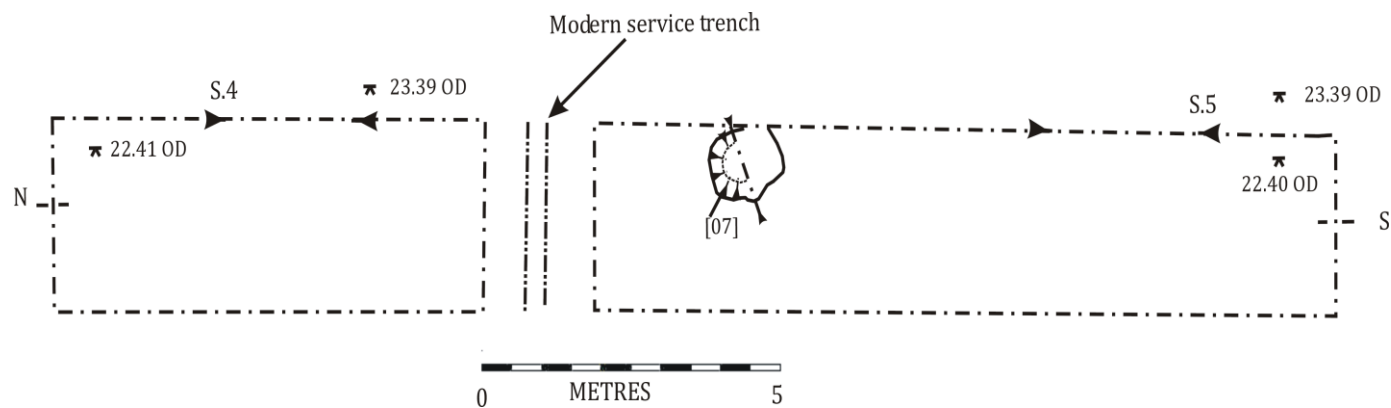


Figure 4. Plan of Evaluation Trench at 1:50

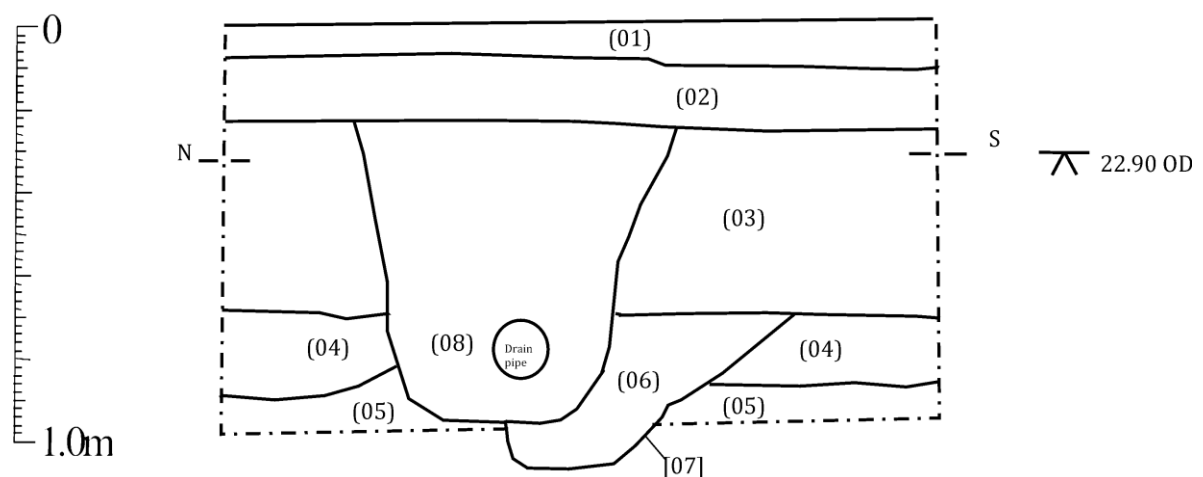
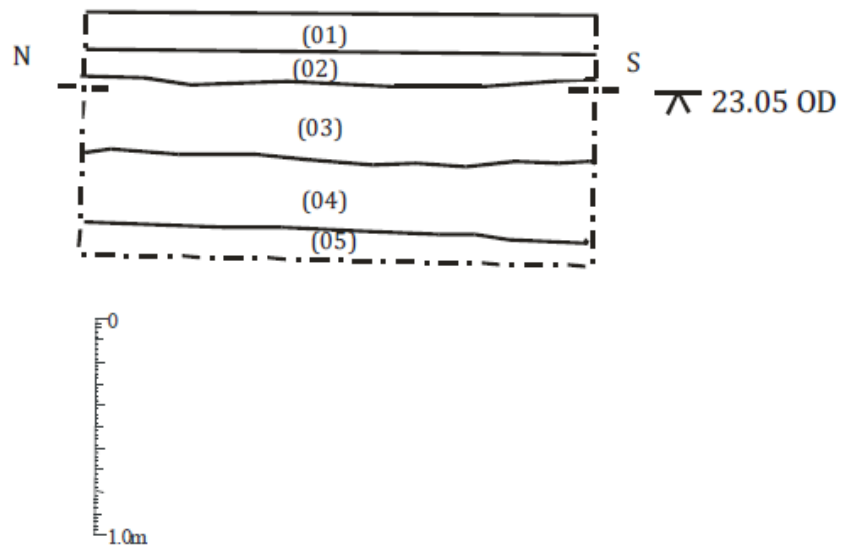


Figure 5. Section of pit [07] with modern truncation

Sample section
north



Sample section
south

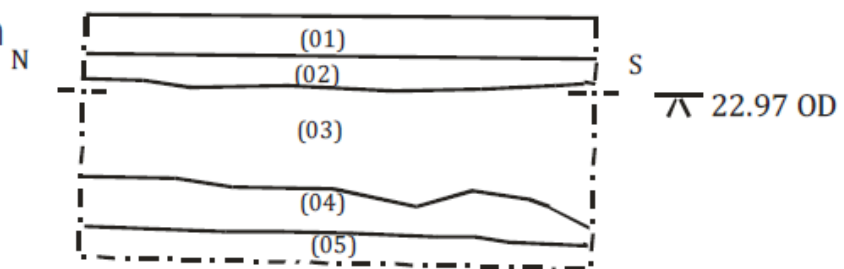


Figure 6. Evaluation trench sample sections 4 (top) and 5 (bottom)

5. Interpretation

5.1 The evaluation trench produced one feature [07], interpreted as a pit. No finds were made within this feature and therefore could not be dated. An environmental sample taken from this feature produced no macro plant evidence or any finds. No further archaeological evidence was gained from this evaluation other than a record of the flood plain evidence for the River Waveney valley.

Context Descriptions

Context	Type	Description/Dimensions	Interpretation	Find-Types, comments
(01)	Layer	Tarmac/gravel; depth, 0.20m (max)	Hardstand	n/a
(02)	Layer	Hardcore comprising of CBM; depth, 0.10m (max)	Base for hardstand	n/a
(03)	Layer	Dark greyish-brown silty clay with greenish-grey clay lenses; depth, 0.35m	Subsoil	n/a
(04)	Layer	Alluvial layer of light beige silt; depth 0.25m	Riverine deposit	n/a
(05)	Layer	Alluvial, dark brown silty natural, depth; 0.10m	Riverine deposit	n/a
(06)	Fill	Fill of pit, a mid-brown silty soil with no inclusions	Fill of pit	n/a
(07)	Cut	Pit; width' 0.70m; depth 018m; length 0.97m	Cut of pit	n/a
(08)	Fill	Fill of modern service trench of mixed clay and sand	Back fill of trench	n/a
(09)	Cut	Modern cut for service trench with existing drain	Modern drain	n/a

6. Discussion

6.1 In spite of the location of this development, in close proximity to the major Romano-British settlement at Scole, (see Ashwin, T. (ed), forthcoming) no archaeology was discovered. The evidence of a wharf, found in the 1930's, (Gale, C, H., 1936) remains speculative considering the evidence presented by the excavator, being of minimal use today in interpreting what the wood found then was actually used for or what date it was.

6.2 The evaluation trench was in the approximate location to identify any possible wharf, had there been one, as was shown by the deposit model which followed a natural dip down towards the course of the present river, immediately to the south of the site. However, it is thought that the site of the excavation in which the wood was discovered in the 1930's was a little way over to the east of the current location; had it been a small wharf then it is likely that the current inspection would have missed it.

6.3 This evaluation has successfully shown that no archaeology will be compromised by the present development, however, the discovery of one feature may indicate the presence of others and further work on the site has to be at the discretion of the NCCHEs.

7. Archive deposition

7.1 The paper and photographic archive will be held at the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

7.2 There are no physical finds.

7.3 A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at the Norfolk County Council Council Historic Environment Service.

7.4 The digital report may also be viewed at the following site:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>.

8. Acknowledgements

8.1 The author would like to thank Keith Day Architects who commissioned this work.

8.2 This report for archaeological evaluation was written by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) (Archaeoserv), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work.

Bibliography

Ashwin, T. (ed) Forthcoming *A Romano-British Settlement in the Waveney Valley: Excavation at Scole, 1993-4*

British Geological Survey. Sheet 175 (1990)

Gale, C, H., Roman Remains at Scole, 1936

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

Further Reading

For further reading on the Roman settlement at Scole and its environs see:

Rogerson, A. 1977 *Excavations at Scole*, East Anglian Archaeology 5, 97-222.

Trimble, G. 1999 *Archaeological Evaluation at Karen Close, Scole* NAU Report 415

Williamson, T. 1986 *Parish boundaries and early fields, continuity and discontinuity in* Journal of Historical Geography 12, 3, pp 241

Online References

PastScapes <http://www.pastscape.org/homepage/index.htm>

APPENDIX I: Digital Images



Plate 1. Pre-excitation, view from the south



Plate 2. The opened trench from the north



Plate 3. Evaluation trench viewed from the south



Plate 4. Pit [07], viewed from the south-west



Plate 5. Pit [07], viewed from the north



Plate 6. Sondage showing depth of deposit (05) in the south end of the trench



Plate 7. Trench sample section 5 (south), viewed from the west

Appendix II:

Environmental Report by Anna West, Suffolk County Council

An assessment of the plant macrofossils from an evaluation at ENF 130141, Scole, Norfolk.

By Anna West

Introduction and Methods.

A single bulk sample was taken from fill (0006) of Pit [0007] during an evaluation at **Scole, Norfolk**. The sample was processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and the potential for radiocarbon dating of the features.

The sample was processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts are noted on **Table x**.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total.

Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = *rare*, ++ = *moderate*, +++ = *abundant*

Results

Sample No	Context No	Approx date of deposit	Flot vol (ml)	% Flot scanned	Flot Contents
1	0006	-	300	100	fibrous roots/stems +++, charcoal +

Table 1. Results

Results

The majority of the flot material from the sample was made up of very fragmented fibrous roots, stems and other plant debris which resembled a peat-like material.

No plant macro fossils were observed within the flot remains and no finds were recovered from the non floating residues. The only plant remains that were present other than root and stem fragments were occasional small fragments of wood charcoal.