

Report 2013/1247



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Watching Brief on the  
Stonham Aspal Flow Compliance Scheme,  
Bell's Lane, Forward Green, Suffolk**

SRL022



**Prepared for**  
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Location:	Bell's Lane, Forward Green, Suffolk
District:	Mid Suffolk
Grid Ref.:	TM 095 598
HER No.:	SRL022
OASIS Ref.:	149406
Client:	Anglian Water Services Limited
Dates of Fieldwork:	30 January-14 February 2013

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during the construction of a pumping station at Forward Green in Suffolk.*

*The monitoring of the groundworks produced no archaeological features. A small number of artefacts were collected from the topsoil, most of which were associated with the area's post-medieval arable agricultural landuse. However one of the objects, a fragment of burnt flint, may provide evidence of prehistoric activity in the area.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief took place on a new pumping station which was being constructed at Forward Green (Fig. 1) as part of the Stonham Aspal STW Flow Compliance Scheme.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Anglian Water Services Limited and a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Monk 2012). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-13-2-1247). This work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Limited.

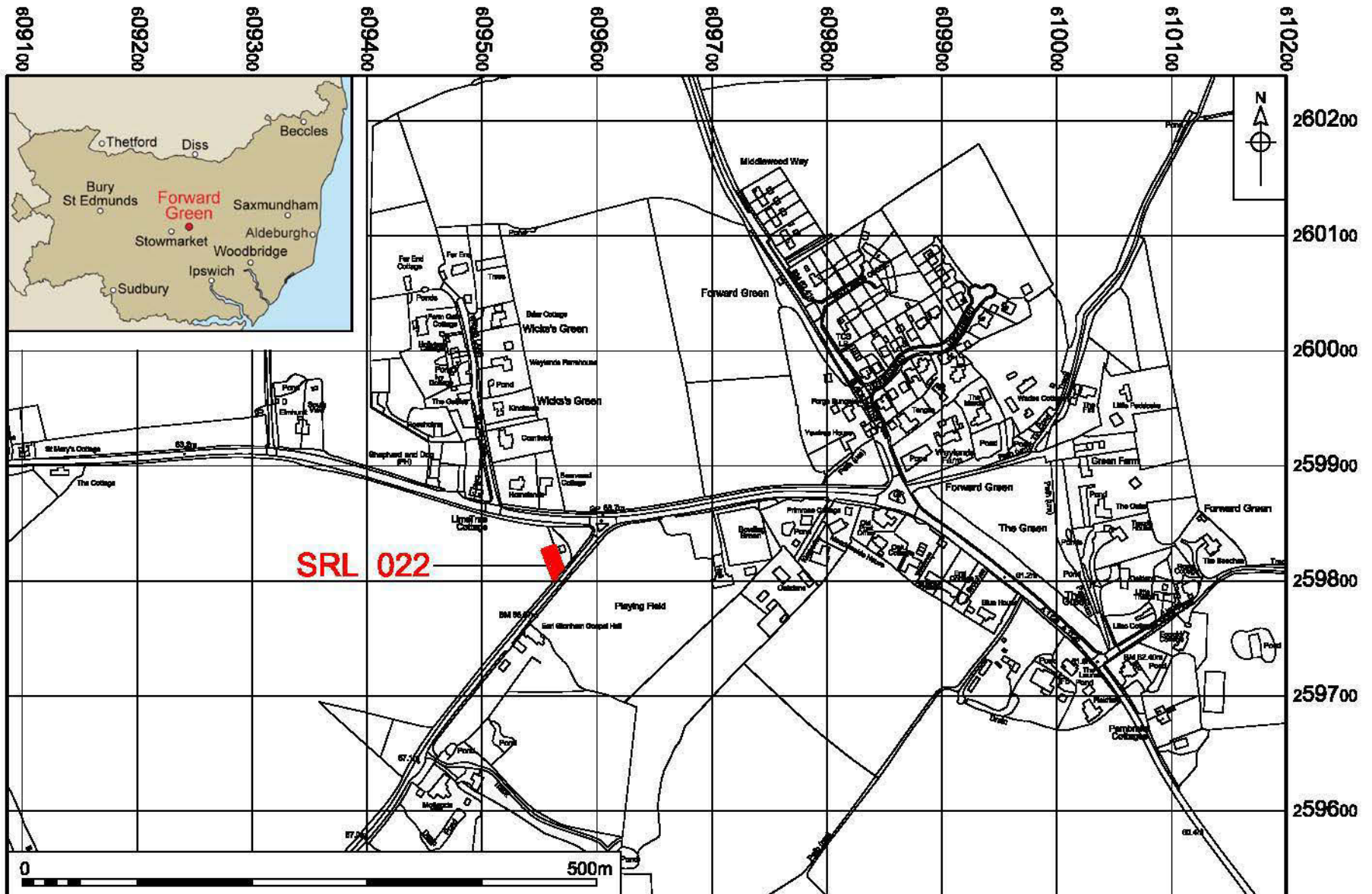
This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

## **2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The underlying geology consisted of Quaternary glacial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation above Quaternary and Neogene sand of the Crag Group (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The new pumping station is located at the western end of the hamlet of Forward Green, on the southern side of the A1120 at a junction with a minor side road.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

The land was very gently undulating and the site lies at an elevation of 59mOD, some two miles north of the river Gipping.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

During the preparation of this section the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) was consulted. A search with a radius of 600m centred on the new pumping station was commissioned which produced a large number of listed buildings and only five other records, four of which relate to Roman evidence and the other is undated.

#### **Roman**

A Roman pottery scatter was found in 1881 (SRL006), 560m south-east of the pumping station.

Roman features including a ditch and a small pit and finds including sherds of Samian, amphora, a few tile fragments and coins were identified after topsoil stripped for sewage pipe (SRL012), 320m north-west of the pumping station.

According to the 1905 Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1905, Roman pottery was found 115m north of the pumping station site in 1864 (SRL013).

Metal detecting has produced a scatter of Roman coins 250m north-west of the pumping station (SRL017).

#### **Late medieval**

Green Farmhouse (DSF4194), 460m east of the pumping station is a late 15th-century three-cell house with an open hall and 17th- and 18th-century additions. It has lost its service cell.

Sunnyside (DSF5686), 430m east of the pumping station, is a timber-framed three-cell house with an open hall, probably dating to the early 16th century with 17th-century additions.

Weylands Cottages (DSF6783), 160m north of the pumping station, were originally a single timber-framed three-cell house dating to the early 16th century, remodelled in 1550 when what is now the third cottage was added.

Yewtree House (DSF5866), 260m east of the pumping station is a timber-framed three cell open hall house of early 15th-century date with later additions. A 16th-century wing was constructed of re-used medieval beams of 1300 or earlier.

#### **Post-medieval**

The former Cricketers Public House (DSF6043), 240m south-west of the pumping station, is a timber-framed three-cell farm house dated to 1630.

Forrold Cottage (DSF6935), 550m east of the pumping station, is an early to mid 16th-century two-cell timber-framed house.

Limes Cottage (DSF6431), 530m south-west of the pumping station, is a late 17th-century two-cell timber-framed house.

Little Thatch and Linden (DSF4203), 530m east of the pumping station, are two houses which were originally one three-celled timber-framed house of the 17th century.

Red Gates and the adjacent cottage (DSF6710), 440m south-east of the pumping station, were originally one three-cell timber-framed house dating to the 16th or early 17th century.

Weylands (DSF4190), 350m east of the pumping station is a late 16th-century timber-framed three-cell farmhouse with a 17th-century parlour wing.

### **Undated**

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land 510m east of the pumping station revealed one undated pit, and no finds (SRL016).

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that all groundworks be monitored.

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

Due to the absence of suitable deposits, no environmental samples were taken.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were variable.

## **5.0 RESULTS**

Topsoil was stripped in the area of the new pumping station and its compound on 30 January 2013 (Fig. 2, Plate 2).

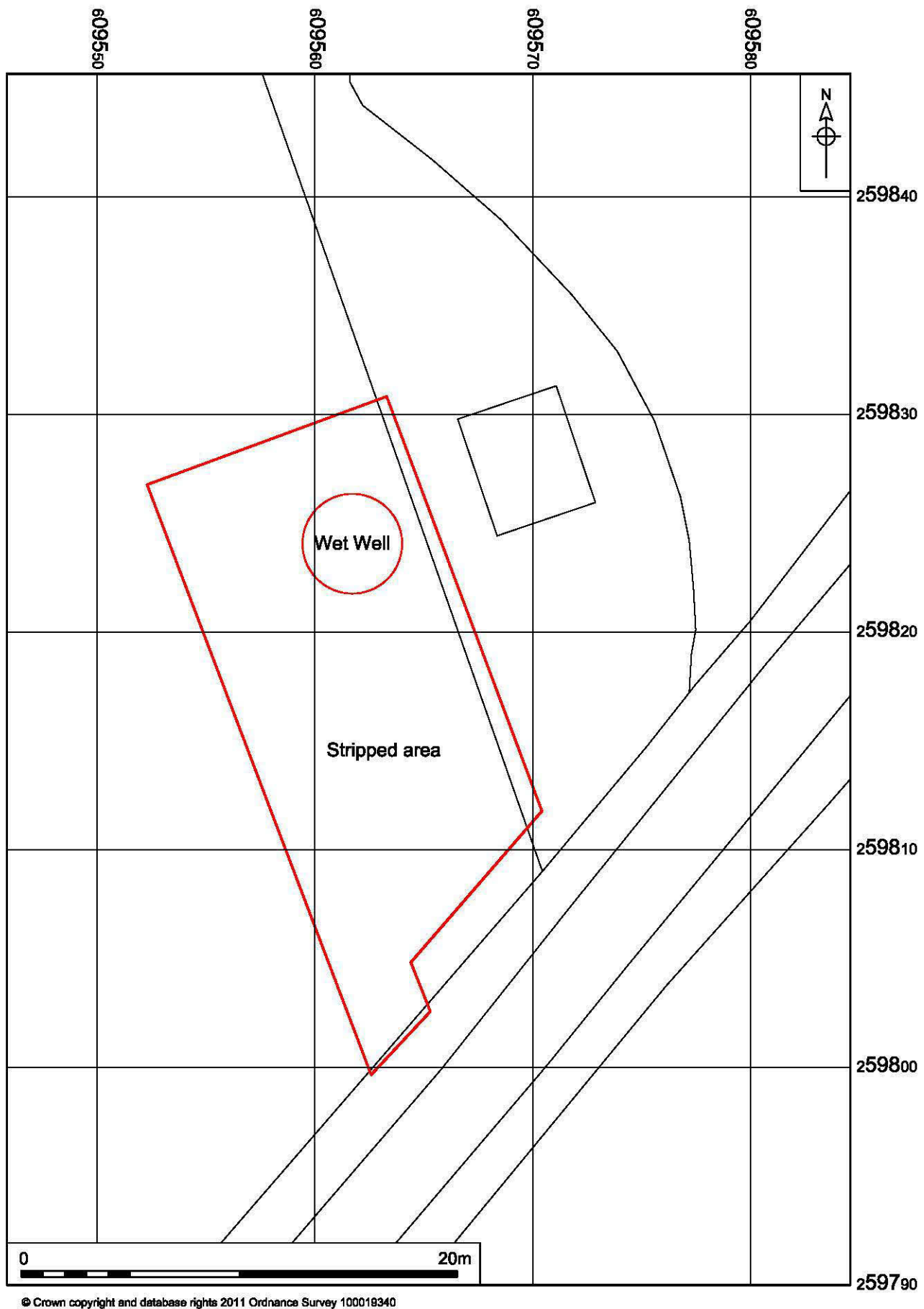
Stripped topsoil ([1]) was 0.35m deep and comprised dark brown clay with moderate amounts of chalk and occasional flint gravel.

The topsoil was visually scanned and subjected to survey by metal detector. A fragment of probably prehistoric burnt flint, a post-medieval buckle and clay tobacco pipe fragment and a modern two penny piece were collected.

On the same day as the topsoil strip a number of trial holes were dug in order to locate existing services along the eastern edge of the site. No archaeological features or finds were present.

Excavations for the wet well were monitored on 14 February 2013. Despite assurances that notice of this excavation would be given, the wet well had been dug and installed without prior notification. Fortunately it would appear that no archaeological remains had been present in this area.





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Figure 2. Plan of site. Scale 1:250



Plate 1. The stripped pumping station area facing north



Plate 2. The installed wet well

## **6.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL**

by Rebecca Sillwood

Finds recovered during the archaeological monitoring were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet produced outlining broad dating. Each material type has been considered separately and is presented below organised by material. A list of finds in context number order can be found in Appendix 2a.

Given the combination of modernity and relatively unstratified nature of these finds, they were discarded after recording.

### **6.1 Clay Pipe**

A single fragment of undecorated clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered from the topsoil [1].

The piece is not more closely dateable than post-medieval.

### **6.2 Metal Finds**

Eight iron nail fragments were recovered from topsoil [1], along with a piece of molten aluminium, a modern D-shaped harness buckle and a two penny coin minted in 2009.

### **6.3 Flint**

A single piece of burnt flint was recovered from topsoil [1].

The piece is not intrinsically dateable, but is possibly prehistoric, used to heat liquids quickly after having first been heated itself over a fire.

## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The monitoring of the groundworks produced no archaeological features.

The topsoil produced a small number of artefacts, which were associated with the area's post-medieval arable agriculture landuse apart from a fragment of burnt flint. The flint may be evidence of prehistoric activity in the area.

## ***Acknowledgements***

The author would like to thank Jerry Parker of Barhale Construction and his staff for their help and cooperation during the fieldwork phase of this project.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood.

This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

## ***Bibliography and Sources***

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| Department for Communities and Local Government | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>   |
| Monk, R.  | 2012 | <i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording for Stonham Aspal STW Flow Compliance Scheme</i> |

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 03.04.2013

### Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Modern

### Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
1	Aluminium	1	7g	Modern	Molten blob
1	Clay Pipe	1	2g	Post-medieval	Stem only
1	Copper-Alloy	1	10g	Modern	Harness buckle
1	Copper-Alloy	1	6g	Modern	Coin; 2 pence piece; 2009; Elizabeth II
1	Flint – Burnt	1	30g	Unknown	
1	Iron	8	33g	Unknown	Nail fragments

### Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Post-medieval	Clay Pipe	1
Modern	Aluminium	1
	Copper-Alloy	2
Unknown	Flint – Burnt	1
	Iron	8

## **Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: norfolka1-149406**

### Project details

Project name	Stonham Aspall STW scheme
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during the construction of a pumping station at Forward Green in Suffolk. The monitoring of the groundworks produced no archaeological features. A small number of artefacts were collected from the topsoil, most of which were associated with the area's post-medieval arable agricultural landuse. However one of the objects, a fragment of burnt flint, may provide evidence of prehistoric activity in the area.
Project dates	Start: 30-01-2013 End: 14-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SRL022 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK STONHAM ASPAL Stonham Aspal STWFlow Compliance Scheme, Forward Green,
Study area	280.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 095 598 52 1 52 11 45 N 001 03 56 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	David Whitmore
Project supervisor	Steve Hickling
Type of sponsor/funding body	Utility
Name of sponsor/funding body	Anglian Water Services Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief on the Stonham Aspal Flow Compliance Scheme, Bell's Lane, Forward Green, Suffolk
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