

2016/1100

**Wideham Farm,
Icklingham Road,
West Stow, Suffolk, IP28 6HE**

Archaeological Monitoring



Planning Ref: DC/14/2010/FUL

**HER Parish Code: WSW 104
HER Event Number: ESF23052**

February 2016

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Client:	Wideham Farm
Location:	Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West Stow, Suffolk, IP28 6HE
District:	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Planning Reference:	DC/14/2010/FUL
Grid Reference:	TL 799 716
HER Parish Number:	WSW 104
HER Event Number:	ESF23052
OASIS ID:	norfolka1-237484
Dates of Fieldwork:	15 January 2016

Summary

NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Leigh Jarrett for Wideham Farm to carry out archaeological monitoring ahead of the extension of a campsite at Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West Stow, Suffolk (TL 799 716).

The proposed development site measures approximately 2.5ha and is broadly rectangular in shape. Works included the excavation of two soak-aways and connected pipe trenches to the south of the development plot associated with a new toilet block. The toilet block was placed above ground level, requiring no excavation. The placement of small pits for 24 trees along the east edge was also monitored.

The site is considered to be in an area of high archaeological potential due to its proximity to the well-known West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village, an associated Anglo Saxon cemetery, and a Roman road, among other known heritage assets. St Edmundsbury Borough Council granted planning consent conditional upon archaeological monitoring and metal detecting during the works.

Monitoring took place on 15 January 2016. Soak-away 1 measured 1.00m deep x 1.6m wide x 2.20m long. Topsoil reached a depth of 0.42m and no subsoil was present. Soak-away 2 measured 1.00m deep x 1.60m wide x 2.70m long, with 0.30m deep topsoil and no subsoil. The pipe trench was a total of 20.80m long x 0.50m deep x 0.40m wide, joining the two soak-aways to the toilet block. No archaeological features were identified during the monitoring.

Twenty-four small pits were excavated for the placement of trees along the east edge of the site. These each measured c. 0.50m long x 0.40m wide x 0.45m deep and were regularly spaced.

Each exposed soil surface and any removed soil was detected by an experienced metal-detectorist. Metal detecting revealed four round casings, a shotgun cartridge, three iron nails, a copper-alloy scrap and a modern screw. No archaeological evidence was recovered.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

- 1 NPS Archaeology was commissioned and funded by Wideham Farm to conduct archaeological monitoring at Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West Stow, Suffolk (TL 799 716).
- 2 The development plot covered an area of approximately 2.5ha. Planning permission was sought for the extension of a campsite on the plot to include 20 pitches for touring caravans, alongside a 20-pitch camping area and associated toilet and shower block. The latter was built above ground level and required no excavation. Two associated soak-aways and a pipe trench required archaeological monitoring and metal detecting.
- 3 A border of 24 trees was placed along the east edge of the development site. The small pits were monitored for any archaeological evidence. These measured broadly the same size and were spaced at regular intervals.



Plate 1: General view of site, looking west

Planning background

- 4 The current work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (DC/14/2010/FUL) and a Brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) (Hoggett 2015). The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by NPS Archaeology (Bryant-Buck 2016/01-04-16-2-1100).
- 5 The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area, following guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).
- 6 The recipients of this report will be Wideham Farm, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

- 7 Bedrock geology across the site was Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and undifferentiated New Pit Chalk Formation. This chalk is sedimentary bedrock formed c. 89–100 million years ago during the Cretaceous period, in an environment dominated by warm, shallow, chalky seas (British Geological Survey 2015).
- 8 Superficial deposits consist of alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel), formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period, in an environment dominated by rivers (British Geological Survey 2015).
- 9 A thick layer of plough/topsoil was present on site, as dark brown, silty-sand, with occasional sub-angular pebbles, ranging in depth from 0.30m–0.45m. No subsoil was present.

Topography

- 10 The site is located to the north side of Icklingham Road, to the west of the parish of West Stow, and approximately 11km west of Bury St Edmunds. Prior to development, the land was used as a well-draining, fallow, grass field, but had previously been subject to heavy ploughing for several decades. The landowner informed the author that the land was sown with grass seeds approximately 6 years prior to the current monitoring.
- 11 The development plot is c. 2.5ha in total, whilst the total area excavated was roughly 0.02ha (225.53m²). The field is at a height of 0.20m OD, overlooking the Lark valley, though buildings and trees to the south of the site currently restrict any view of the river. Land is relatively even, with the river Lark c. 450m to the south.

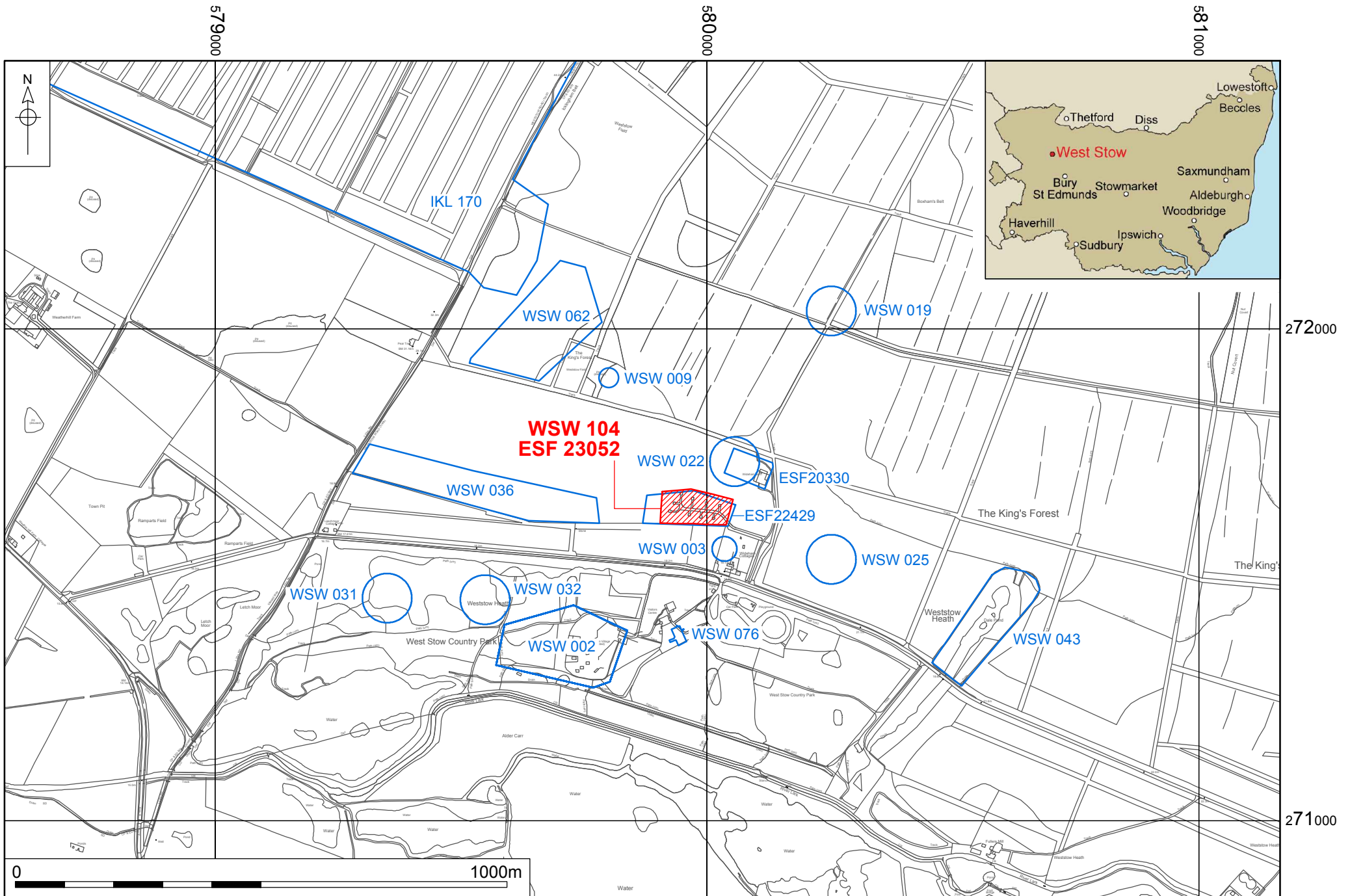


Figure 1. Site location with HER data. Scale 1:10,000

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sources

- 12 The primary source for archaeological evidence in the county of Suffolk is the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record (SHER), which details archaeological discoveries and sites of historical interest. In order to characterise the likely archaeological potential of the proposed development site, SHER record data was purchased for a 500m radius of TL 799 716 (centred). This exercise returned 46 individual records, including monuments, spot finds and buildings, containing evidence of historical activity spanning the prehistoric–post-medieval periods.
- 13 A reference table listing dates for historical periods described in this report is provided in Appendix 2.

HER data

- 14 The HER data that are most relevant to the current work are referenced and summarised below, along with details of previous archaeological work in the vicinity. The information presented that is sourced from Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record remains copyright of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS).
- 15 The surrounding areas show evidence of human activity from the prehistoric period onwards. The most well-known local heritage asset is West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village and Country Park (WSW 002), 300m to the south of the development site. Evidence found during excavations at the Park from the 1940s onwards indicate activity from the prehistoric period, with intermittent occupation through the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. It is best known for the Anglo-Saxon village located here during the mid-5th–early 7th centuries. The site now houses an open-air museum on the archaeological footprint of the Anglo-Saxon village, with experimental reconstructions of the buildings using ancient techniques. These are occasionally used for further experimental archaeology to aid site interpretation, including burning the buildings down to record destruction patterns and post-destruction distribution, and allowing the buildings to fall into disrepair (WSW 002).
- 16 The excavations at West Stow Country Park were extensive, and they are referenced in many of the HER records, though the surrounding fields and woodland have also yielded a multitude of multi-period finds and features, which are noted below.

Prehistoric and Bronze Age

- 17 There are several important prehistoric finds in the immediate vicinity of Wideham Farm. To the north of the site, a collection of fifty Neolithic arrowheads of varying types were found, alongside three flaked axes, one polished axe, one adze, and two knives (WSW 022). Slightly further to the north along a modern trackway in woodland, there was a thin scatter of prehistoric material containing a Neolithic oblique arrowhead and worked flint (WSW 019). To the southeast, a single Bronze Age thumbnail scraper was found in a garden of one of the Wideham cottages, adjacent to the southern edge of the campsite (WSW 003).

- 18 To the northwest of the site, an artefact scatter of national importance (WSW 009) included Bronze Age pottery and at least a dozen Neolithic hand axes, among flint flakes and faunal remains in a primary context (WSW 009).
- 19 Excavations at West Stow Country Park (see para. 15) and its surroundings, to the south of the development site, have revealed Mesolithic occupation in the area. This includes the finding of worked quartzite, flint blades, axe heads, cores, microliths, and scattered debitage, indicating possible 'working areas' found over the whole of West Stow Heath (WSW 002, WSW 031, WSW 032, WSW 312).
- 20 A Neolithic inhumation within a ring ditch, accompanied by a single bead, was also found at the Country Park, alongside 47 cremations thought to be later, perhaps Early Bronze Age in date. An initial Neolithic date for the cremations was amended after green staining suggested the inclusion of copper-alloy artefacts (WSW 002). Excavations also revealed several flint arrowheads, a bronze awl and a lithic implement, dated to the Bronze Age (WSW 002 - MSF6942). With this rich indication of prehistoric activity, the development site was considered to have a high potential for finding similar lithic materials.

Iron Age and Roman

- 21 There have been a number of Roman finds and features of significance in the area. A Roman road is thought to run across the development site from east–west (WSW 036), to join the north–south Roman Icknield Way to the west (IKL 064). In 2009, metal detecting in Kings Forest, northwest of the site, revealed an artefact scatter of seven Roman coins (three stuck together), a lozengiform brooch, a Colchester type two-piece brooch and a knife handle (IKL 170). These finds are possibly associated with travel to, or along, the Roman roads.
- 22 Evidence from West Stow Country Park in 1985 indicates Iron Age activity: a possible house, a hut circle, a round house, and a likely settlement are suggested by ditch systems and pits (WSW 002). Associated finds include pottery and an Iron Age coin mould, among other small finds (WSW 002 - MSF6943). Further excavations in 2008 discovered a multitude of Roman finds, including four different pottery types, a coin, finger-rings, bracelets, a dolphin brooch, a spoon, pin, stylus, miniature object and a balance, as well as Roman pottery kiln waste (WSW 002 - MSF6944). During earlier excavations in the 1800s and mid-1900s, excavators uncovered several Roman kilns, though the accuracy of these early records is debated (WSW 002 - MSF6944, WSW 134).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 23 The closest record of Anglo-Saxon activity, just to the south of the site, concerns an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, which was probably associated with the West Stow settlement. Unfortunately, the exact location of the cemetery, which was found in 1849 during ballast digging, is not accurately recorded, as no formal excavation took place. The scarce records that are available indicate a cemetery of c. 100 burials, with one in a stone coffin. Artefacts thought to have come from the cemetery include domestic pottery, coins, brooches (bow, annular, cruciform, square-headed, and small long types), buckets, rings, pendants, tweezers, and girdle hangers among other items. Several weapons were found, including knives, spears, swords and shields (WSW 003). A decorated antler knife handle was found adjacent to the cemetery and is possibly related (WSW 025).

- 24 The village of West Stow to the south (see para. 15) is most famous for its reconstructed Anglo-Saxon village, re-built on the archaeological footprints of the site of an Anglo-Saxon settlement, which housed over 70 sunken featured buildings, eight halls and several smaller, post-hole structures. Hundreds of finds have been recorded over the years, including domestic and industrial artefacts, as well as inhumations and ditches, pits and post-holes.
- 25 Notable artefacts during the earlier excavations (1940s–1970s) included coins, brooches, loom weights, pins, gaming pieces, whistles, plum bobs, shears, a purse, buckles, and jewellery among many others items (WSW 002 - MSF6945).
- 26 An ancient occupation soil was found during monitoring of the new perimeter fence, museum, and store of the Country Park in 2006 (WSW 076). This contained evidence of Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery, though the soil had been truncated by more recent ploughing. Post-holes and pits were also found and are thought to relate to the settlement. Excavations for the new museum and store continued until 2012, and recorded five Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings and a post-hole building to the west of the reconstructed village (WSW 076). A possible early medieval hearth, made from Roman tile fragments, and several sherds of pottery were also identified in the soil layer during excavation of a small test area and pipe trench (WSW 040).
- 27 In the 1980s, in woodland 250m northwest of the current site, a sherd of Middle Anglo-Saxon Ipswich ware pottery was found alongside prehistoric artefacts (WSW 009).
- 28 There are relatively few high-late medieval archaeological assets nearby, when compared to those of prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon date. Metal detecting in Kings Forest, to the northwest of the development, revealed a 12th–14th-century animal harness fitting, made of bronze and gold.
- 29 Much of the subsoil of West Stow Country Park provided evidence of ridge and furrow field systems and pottery dating to the 13th–14th centuries (WSW 002 - MSF6946).

Post-Medieval

- 30 A long stretch of a post-medieval canal leads from Fullermill, on the river Lark, and continues to join Lackford Bridge canal further down river. The nearby Dale Pond is a large, artificially formalised, elongated pond with a bank and ditch and a brick-built outfall at the south end, leading to the West Stow sewerage works (WSW 043). It is located approximately 550m to the east of the development area. More locally, several post-medieval artefacts accompanied a scattering of Roman and medieval finds from Kings Forest to the northwest (IKL 170).

Unknown

- 31 Banks and ditches orientated east–west were identified in the Rapid Earthworks Survey of the Kings Forest, to the north of the development site (WSW 062). These remain undated, but are possibly related to thin, open field boundaries depicted on the 1840 Tithe, and 1836 and 1884 Ordnance Survey maps, and so are perhaps modern features.

Previous archaeological investigations

- 32 Excavations at the site were conducted in 2009 by SCCAS ahead of development of farm buildings on land owned by Wideham Farm (ESF20330). This revealed a 19th–20th-century ditch running northeast–southwest across two trenches. A natural feature was identified to the southeast, being noted as a possible tree-throw or animal burrow.
- 33 Further excavations to the north of the site, around the development of a farm house/manager’s dwelling, were conducted in 2014 by Norvic Archaeology. No archaeological features or deposits were found, but the report indicates that the subsoil had been mixed by modern ploughing, evidenced by plough scarring (ESF22429).

METHODOLOGY

General

- 34 Methodology for the monitoring followed the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (Bryant-Buck 2016/01-04-16-2-1100), where the mitigation strategy for the works is presented in full (Appendix 4).
- 35 Archaeological procedures conformed to guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) and the monitoring was conducted within the context of the relevant regional archaeological framework (Medlycott 2011).

Objectives

- 36 The objective of the 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.

Methods

- 37 The Brief required that all work on the site was monitored for archaeological assets.
- 38 The areas to be stripped of topsoil were examined for surface features and for archaeological artefacts prior to any excavation.
- 39 Machine excavation was carried out by a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was constantly and directly monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Machining was halted at the first identifiable archaeological deposits or natural geology.
- 40 All trench surfaces revealed by machine were hand-cleaned and any archaeological deposits were excavated by hand.
- 41 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those that were evidently modern, were retained for examination. All retained finds were identified by context number to a specific deposit and were processed and recorded in line with relevant guidelines for archaeological finds (CIfA 2014b).
- 42 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Digital photographs were taken of all relevant archaeological features and deposits where appropriate.
- 43 Site conditions were good and the work took place in fine weather.
- 44 All site work was undertaken with respect to Health and Safety provision. Hard hats, high-visibility vests and steel toe-capped boots were worn by all staff at all times.

Archive

- 45 The site archive is currently held at the offices of NPS Archaeology. Upon completion of the project, the documentary archive will be prepared and indexed following guidelines obtained from the relevant Museum and relevant national guidelines (CIfA 2014c). The archive, consisting of all paper elements created

during recording of the archaeological site, including digital material, will be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Store.

- 46 Subject to written consent and donation by the landowner, all archaeological finds recovered by the current work will be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Store.
- 47 A summary form of the results of this project has been completed for Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) under the reference norfolka1-237484 (Appendix 3), and this report will be uploaded to the OASIS database.
- 48 The contents of the site archive is summarised in Table 1.

Item	No.
Contexts	4
Files/paper record sheets	16
Plan and section sheets	4
Photographs	29 digital
Finds	10

Table 1. Site archive quantification

RESULTS

Figures 2, 3

- 49 The areas monitored included soak-away 1, to the east of the site, soak-away 2 to the centre, and an associated pipe trench, running through both soak-aways towards a toilet block. The excavation of 24 small pits for tree planting along the western border of the development was also monitored.

Soak-away 1

- 50 Soak-away 1 was the east-most soak-away, consisting of a rectangular pit measuring 1.00m deep x 1.60m wide x 2.20m long. The topsoil **01** (rich, dark-brown ploughsoil) reached a depth of 0.42m, and no subsoil was present. The natural geology **02** was relatively uniform throughout the remaining depth of the soak-away, as mid–dark orange friable sand with frequent sub-angular gravel and flint inclusions. No archaeological features were present in the soak-away, though a probable animal burrow **03** was noted. The burrow feature was not visible from the surface of the geological deposits, only becoming clear entering at an angle in the pit section, as a small tunnel extending from an irregular circle (see plates 2, 3). No archaeological finds were recovered during the monitoring of soak-away 1, but metal detecting of the spoil recovered two .22 calibre round casings, a modern screw fitting and an iron nail. The soak-away was connected to soak-away 2 to its west via a linear trench.



Plate 2. Section 1, Soak-away 1, looking south



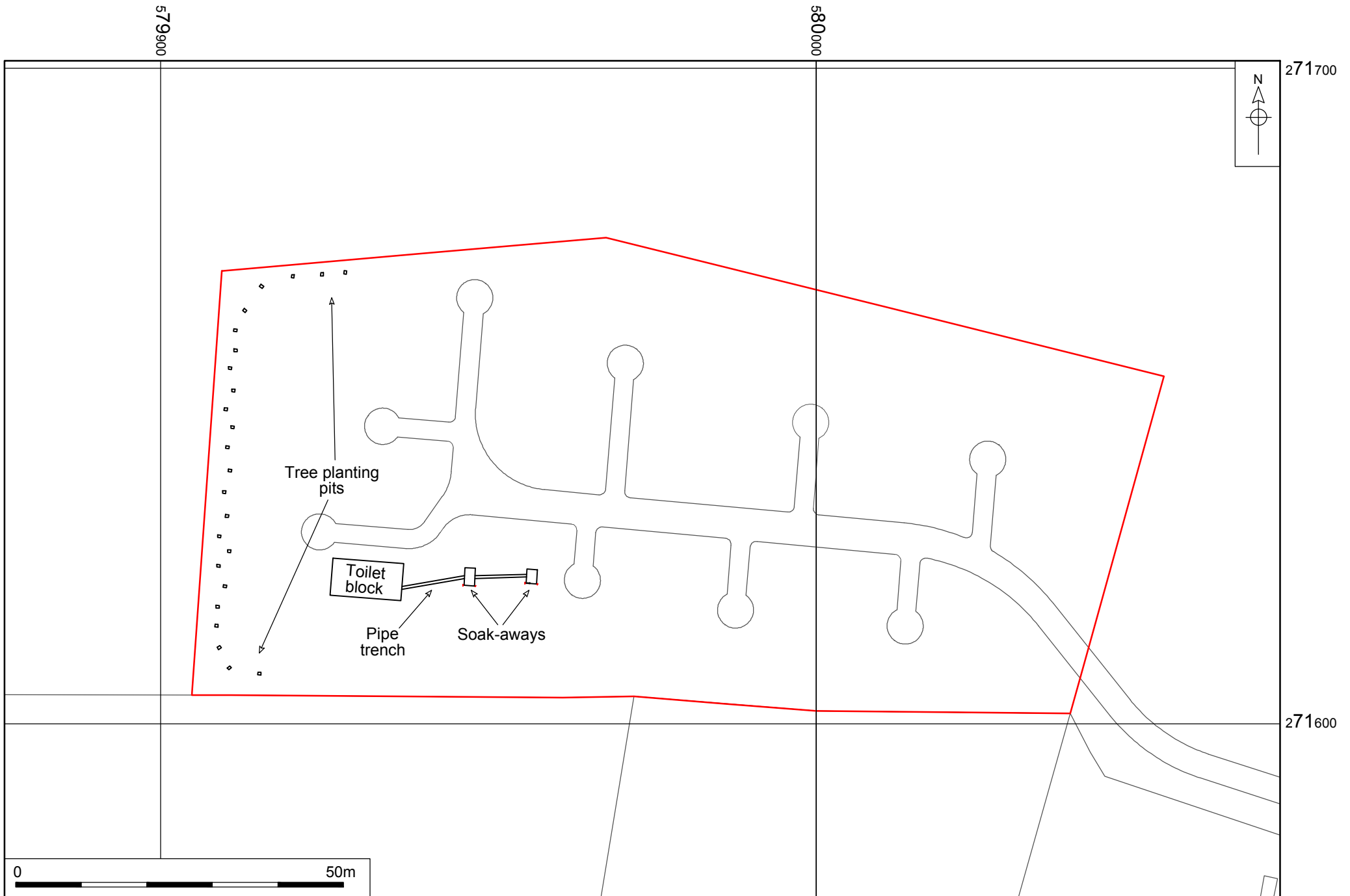
Plate 3. Burrow feature in soak-away 1, looking south

Soak-away 2

- 51 Soak-away 2 was positioned centrally between soak-away 1 to its east and the site of the toilet block to its west. Soak-away 2 was connected to the other features by a pipe trench. The soak-away was approximately rectangular, measuring 2.70m long x 1.60m wide x 1.00m deep. Topsoil 01 measured 0.30–0.40m deep and no subsoil was present. The gravel geology exposed was almost identical to that recorded in soak-away 1, though perhaps with a higher proportion of darker orange patches in the mid–dark orange sand. No archaeological features were observed in the soak-away pit, though metal detecting of the removed soil uncovered modern finds of two .22 calibre round casings, and a post-medieval iron nail.



Plate 4. Soak-away 2, looking south



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Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:750

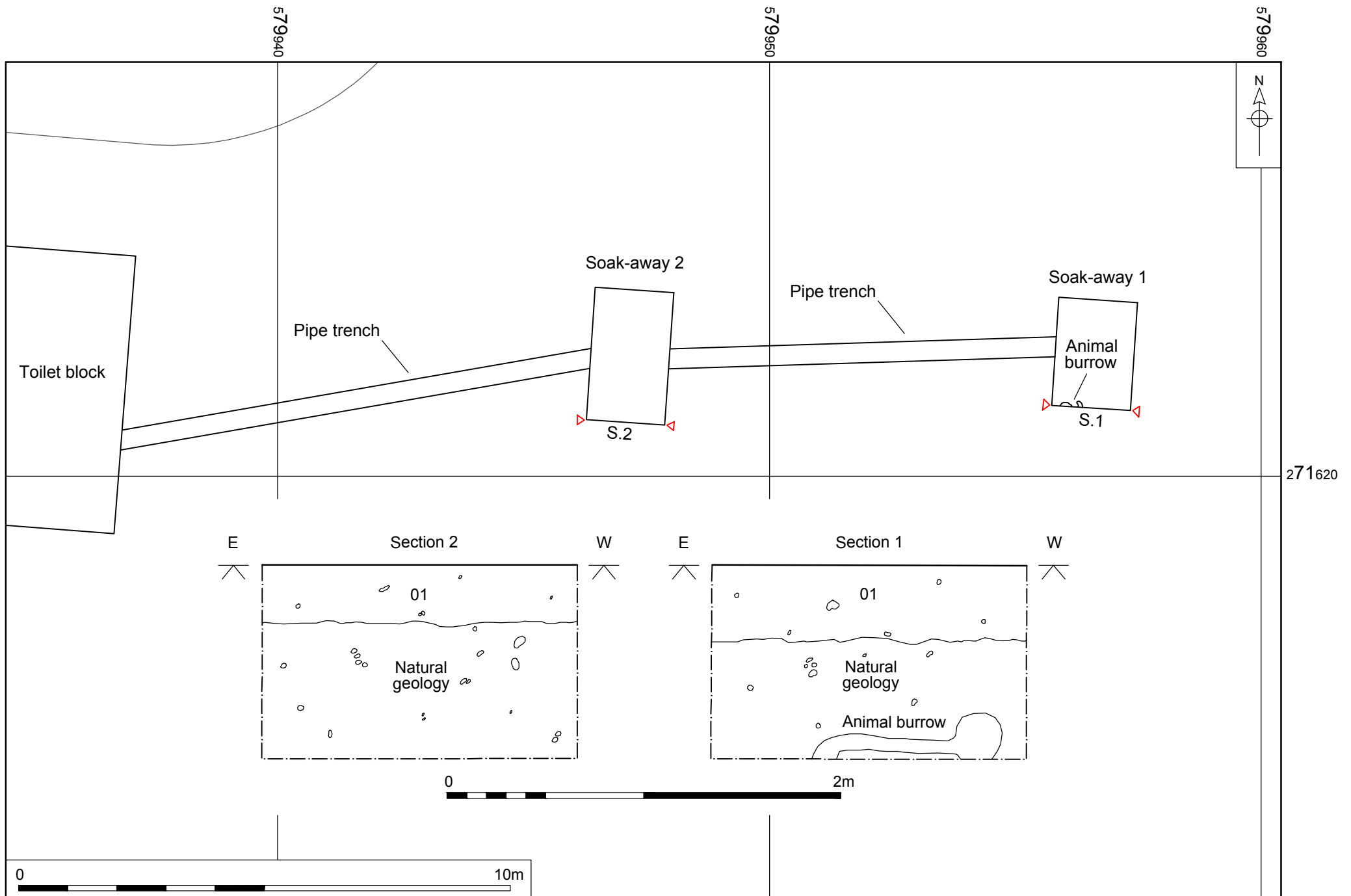


Figure 3. Plan showing pipe trench and soak-aways 1 and 2, with sections 1 and 2. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

Pipe Trench

- 52 The pipe trench ran from soak-away 1 and continued west to the edge of the position for the toilet block. It was excavated using a 0.40m-wide toothless ditching bucket, and measured 20.80m long x 0.40m wide x 0.50m deep. The first section, measuring 8.00m long, joined soak-aways 1 and 2, whilst the second section, measuring 12.80m long, linked soak-away 2 to the toilet block in the west. The pipe trench cut into natural geology, varying from 0.30–0.45m in depth from the ground surface, which was the same mid–dark orange gravel seen throughout monitoring at the site. No archaeological features or finds were identified along the length of the pipe trench, though metal detecting recovered a modern shotgun cartridge and two post-medieval nails.



Plate 5. Pipe trench, looking west

Tree Planting

- 53 Twenty-four pits were dug along the west edge of the development site for tree planting. Each pit, dug using a 0.40m-side toothless ditching bucket, measured 0.50m long x 0.40m wide x c. 0.45m deep. Topsoil measured c. 0.40–0.45m deep, with no subsoil observed. Every pit cut into geological deposits, mid-orange gravel. No archaeological finds or features were recorded from in or around the pits.



Plate 6. Example of a tree planting pit – alongside 0.60m stake



Plate 7. Tree planting pits, looking south

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

- 54 Nothing of archaeological note was found during the monitoring. Four spent .22 calibre round casings, a shotgun shell, three post-medieval or later iron nails and a scrap of modern copper-alloy sheet were found during metal detecting around soak-aways 1 and 2 and the connecting pipe trench. The objects offer no potential for informing historical activity at the site and have been discarded.

DISCUSSION

- 55 The archaeological monitoring carried out by NPS Archaeology at Wideham Farm, West Stow, involved the recoding of two soak-aways, a pipe trench and 24 small pits for tree planting. The monitoring revealed no archaeological features, but a single animal burrow was identified in soak-away 1. No archaeological finds were recorded.
- 56 Soak-aways 1 and 2 were located to the south edge of the campsite extension. The presence of deep ploughsoil indicated that the land had been cultivated by modern farming equipment, which is consistent with earlier excavations close to the site (Craven 2009, Emery 2014). No subsoil was present in either soak-away, and only modern finds were found during the monitoring, which were identified and discarded.
- 57 The planting of trees along the east border of the site required excavation of 24 pits. The pits all revealed a similar depth of dark ploughsoil/topsoil, and none contained any archaeological finds or features.
- 58 The lack of archaeological evidence was likely somewhat influenced by ploughing across the site, though no plough scars were evident in either soak-away pit section. Scarring is, however, mentioned by the report of the 2014 excavations further to the north (Emery 2014). Land in the area has also been extensively quarried for its rich gravel deposits, as recorded to the south on West Stow Heath (WSW 030), and to the southwest of the development site (WSW 003). Such activity may have caused some disturbance across parts of the current site, although this was not seen in the area covered by the archaeological monitoring.
- 59 The monitoring established that no archaeological assets were present that might be disrupted by the development. Although negative, the results from the current work add further information to the history of the changing landscape of Wideham Farm, West Stow and its environs.

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Monitoring on site and digitising of records was completed by Harriet Bryant-Buck.

This report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Robby Copsey.

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Fill Of	Description	Trench
01	Topsoil	-	Dark brown silty-sand	Site
02	Geology	-	Mid-dark orange friable sand/gravels	Site
03	Cut	-	Animal burrow	Soak-away 1
04	Fill	03	Light brown silty sand	Soak-away 1

Appendix 2: Historical Periods

Period	Date From	Date To
Prehistoric	-500,000	42
Bronze Age	-2,350	-701
Iron Age	-800	42
Roman	42	409
Anglo-Saxon	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Unknown	--	--

after English Heritage Periods List, recommended by Forum on Information Standards in Heritage available at: <http://www.fish-forum.info/inscript.htm>

Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-237484

Project details

Project name	Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West Stow
Short description of the project	<p>NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Wideham Farm to carry out archaeological monitoring ahead of the extension of a campsite at Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West Stow, Suffolk (TL 799 716). The proposed development site measures approximately 2.5ha and is roughly rectangular in shape, with a slight bend to the northern edge. Works included the excavation of two soak aways and connected pipe trenches to the south of the development plot associated with a new toilet block. The toilet block was placed above ground level, requiring no excavation. The placement of small pits for twenty four trees along the eastern edge was also monitored. The site is considered to be in an area of high archaeological potential due to its proximity to the well-known West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village, an associated Anglo Saxon cemetery, and a Roman road, among other known heritage assets. St Edmundsbury Borough Council granted planning consent conditional upon archaeological monitoring and metal detecting during the works. Monitoring took place on 16 January 2016. Soakaway 1 measured 1.00m deep x 1.6m wide x 2.20m long. Topsoil reached a depth of 0.42m and no subsoil was present. Soakaway 2 measured 1.00m deep x 1.60m wide x 2.70m long, with 0.30m deep topsoil and no subsoil. The pipe trench was a total of 20.8m long, with a depth of 0.50m and a 0.40m width, joining the two soakaways to the toilet block. No archaeological features were identified during the monitoring, though a probable burrow was identified in Soakaway 1. Twenty four small pits were excavated for the placement of trees along the eastern edge of the plot. These each measured c. 0.40m wide x 0.50m long and 0.45m deep and were regularly spaced. Each exposed soil surface and any removed soil was detected by an experienced metal-detectorist. Metal detecting revealed four bullet casings, a shotgun cartridge, three iron nails, a copper alloy scrap and a modern screw. No archaeological evidence was recovered.</p>
Project dates	Start: 15-01-2016 End: 15-01-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ESF23052 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	WSW 104 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined

Monument type NONE None
 Significant Finds NONE None
 Investigation type "Watching Brief"
 Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England
 Site location SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY WEST STOW Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West Stow, Suffolk
 Study area 2.5 Hectares
 Site coordinates TL 799 716 52.312540615781 0.639429468093 52 18 45 N 000 38 21 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 0.2m Max: 0.2m

Project creators

Name of Organisation NPS Archaeology
 Project brief originator Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
 Project design originator NPS Archaeology
 Project director/manager Harriet Bryant Buck
 Project supervisor Andrew Crowson
 Type of sponsor/funding body Private Individual
 Name of sponsor/funding body Wideham Farm

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient SCCAS
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West Stow, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Harriet Bryant-Buck
Other bibliographic details	Report 2016/1100
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	NPS Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Norwich
Description	A4, Spiral Bound, double sided, colour printed PDF.
Entered by	Harriet Bryant-Buck (Harriet.bryant-buck@hotmail.com)
Entered on	25 January 2016

Appendix 4: Archaeological Specification



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01-04-16-2-1100

**Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West
Stow, Suffolk**

Expansion of Campsite

Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control

Written Scheme of Investigation

**Prepared for:
Wideham Farm**

Planning Ref: DC/14/2010/FUL

January 2016

nps archaeology

QUALITY ASSURANCE		
Job Number	01-04-16-2-1100	
Client	Wideham Farm	
Location	Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West Stow, Suffolk	
District	St Edmundsbury	
Planning Reference	DC/14/2010/FUL	
Grid Reference	TL 799 716 (centred)	
Completed	Harriet Bryant-Buck	11-01-2016
Reviewed	David Adams	11-01-2016

Disclaimer

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Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West Stow, Suffolk

Expansion of Campsite Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control Written Scheme of Investigation

Introduction

- 1 A refurbishment project (planning ref: DC/14/2010/FUL) involves the extension of a campsite, with associated toilet block and access road, at Wideham Farm, West Stow, Suffolk (centred on TL 799 716). This will necessitate a programme of excavation groundworks surrounding the installation of a treatment plant, associated pipe runs, any cable trenches and possible tree planting. As part of these works, Suffolk Historic Environment Services (SCCAS) stipulated in a brief (Hoggett 2015) that all excavation groundworks are conducted under archaeological supervision and control (a 'watching brief' undertaken by a suitably experienced archaeologist).
- 2 Wideham Farm is located in an area of high archaeological potential. The surrounding land is thought to have been settled from the Mesolithic period onwards, with Mesolithic flint implements being found in the surrounding fields, and a group of fifty Neolithic arrow heads found less 20m to the north of the plot. A possible Roman road travels from east to west to the immediate south of the site, and may be evident in the south-western corner, should any ground disturbance take place there.
- 3 In terms of heritage assets, West Stow is well known for its Anglo-Saxon elements. West Stow Anglo-Saxon village lies c. 340m to the southwest, consisting of the remains of 67 sunken feature buildings and over 2000 post holes, some of which may have been part post-built halls. The settlement is thought to date from c. AD 380 to c. AD 650. A Saxon cemetery site, with approximately 100 burials, including an individual in a stone coffin, was located within the grounds of Wideham Farm during the raising of a ballast in 1849. Site discoveries were documented, but there were no organised excavations, and an accurate location was not given. It is thought to have been located on an area of land measuring approximately 2 acres, which had been 'turned over' for gravel. An Anglo-Saxon decorated antler knife handle found to the east of the site is thought to be connected to the cemetery.
- 4 This rich local history in the vicinity of the campsite has proportionately high potential for the discovery of Mesolithic and later archaeological deposits, particularly those dating to the Anglo-Saxon period.
- 5 SCCAS has recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring ('watching brief') be carried out during excavation works for the new scheme to identify and record any archaeological remains affected by the works, in accordance with the principles set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). Following a visit to the site by the SCCAS case officer, which is currently under grass and is due to remain so under the new scheme, the ground impact of the proposed works has been minimised to protect any underlying archaeology in situ.
- 6 In order to comply with the planning condition concerning archaeology indicated by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Wideham Farm has requested that NPS Archaeology

prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing an appropriate programme of archaeological works that will fulfil the requirements of a brief¹ issued by Suffolk Historic Environment Service.

- 7 The Suffolk County Council Archaeological Officer has commented that planning approval may be given to the works subject to certain conditions concerning archaeology:
- a) The area affected by the development will be recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks. This includes the monitoring and metal detecting of groundworks and upcast soil, before and after excavation, to assure no damage occurs to heritage assets.
 - b) The investigation will provide a record of archaeological deposits, and time must be given for the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations. If unexpected remains are found, the SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately.
 - c) A risk assessment must be carried out prior to fieldwork, minimising potential risks. Any constraints to fieldwork (e.g. SSI's, designated status, tree preservation orders, and other ecological considerations), if present, should be the responsibility of the archaeological contractor and the commissioning body.
 - d) An archive and report will be submitted by the archaeological contractor, detailing the methodology and results of the works, including a clear statement of archaeological value or significance of any archaeological material found. A digital and paper copy will be sent to the SCCAS Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT), and all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed.

¹ *Brief for Constant Archaeological Recording at Wideham Farm, Icklingham Road, West Stow* (Hoggett 2015)

Mitigation Strategy

- 8 The programme of archaeological works presented in this document has been designed to mitigate the impacts of the proposed excavation works in line with the requirements of the brief (Hoggett 2015). Where archaeological remains are identified, and these cannot be preserved *in situ*, the potential impact of the scheme will be minimised by appropriate levels of archaeological excavation and recording.
 - 9 The works for the campsite expansion that will be subject to archaeological monitoring and are that covered by this Written Scheme of Investigation consist of:
 - External excavations associated with the installation of a treatment Plant.
 - External excavations relating to pipe runs associated with the installation of a new treatment plant.
 - External excavations relating to any cable trenches excavated during ground works.
 - External excavations relating to any additional tree-planting.
 - 10 The mitigation strategy will include archaeological monitoring to record any archaeological remains exposed during the works, and reporting. The different elements to be employed are presented below in the anticipated order that they will take place.
 - 11 The stages of the mitigation strategy may be summarised as follows.
 - 12 *Archaeological Monitoring.* Due to the potential for previously unidentified archaeological remains to exist, all ground disturbance works (and any above ground works where these affect historic structures) related to the refurbishment scheme will be monitored. If archaeological features and deposits are identified and these are deemed to be of significance, appropriate levels of excavation and recording will be required.
 - 13 *Post-Fieldwork Processing.* The drawn and written, photographic, stratigraphic and structural record will be cross-referenced and entered onto a database to provide a consistent and compatible record of the results of the monitoring. Any artefactual, ecofactual and palaeoenvironmental material recovered by the monitoring will be cleaned, marked and packaged as appropriate and in accordance with the archive requirements of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS). A database of these materials will be compiled.
 - 14 *Analysis, Reporting and Archive.* The results of the monitoring will be presented in a report to the client and other bodies. Only if appropriate, a synthesis of the results will be published in a suitable archaeological journal. The archive will be prepared for deposition with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.
 - 15 Procedures and methodology for each of the stages outlined above are detailed below.
- Archaeological Monitoring**
- 16 All ground disturbance works (and any above ground works where these affect historic structures) will be monitored by an experienced archaeologist. The monitoring will be carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014) and guidelines set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

- 17 If areas of significant archaeological remains are observed that cannot be recorded safely or to the appropriate standard by the monitoring, consultation will take place with the client and Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service, and more detailed archaeological excavation may be required.
- 18 Archaeological deposits, features and layers will be sample excavated by hand and will be assigned individual context numbers and recorded on standardised forms employing a pro forma recording system approved by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service. The records will include full written, graphic and photographic elements with site and context numbering. Plans will be made at a scale of 1:50, with provision for 1:20 and 1:10 drawings. Sections will be recorded at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 depending on the detail considered necessary. A photographic record in 35mm monochrome film and digital formats will be maintained of all archaeological deposits, features and layers and to record their characteristics and relationships. Photographs will be taken to record the progress and more general aspects of the refurbishment scheme.
- 19 Exposed surfaces and all archaeological features and deposits will be screened by metal detector. The metal detector will be utilised to scan excavated spoil and *in situ* horizons with the operator ensuring that it is used in a correct fashion. All artefacts and ecofacts materials will be collected and bagged by unique context number.
- 20 Human remains will be left *in situ* unless otherwise instructed by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service. Backfilling of features containing human remains will be carried out manually to ensure that the remains are appropriately protected from any damage or disturbance. If any human remains or burials are located during the monitoring, which because of their location or vulnerability must be removed, an application for a Licence for the Removal of Human Remains will be made in compliance with Section 25 of the Burial Act, 1857, if appropriate. No human remains will be removed until permission has been granted in writing from all the relevant parties.

Post-Fieldwork Processing

- 21 The drawn, photographic and written stratigraphic and structural records will be cross-referenced and, if appropriate, entered into a database or spreadsheet to assist analysis and synthesis of the results of the work.
- 22 The cleaning and cataloguing of any materials recovered will be undertaken on completion of the monitoring. All retained materials will be cleaned, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service. Finds data will be stored on a spreadsheet to allow summary listings of artefacts by category and context to provide basic quantification.
- 23 All finds work will follow the procedures set out in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014). Finds data will be entered on a spreadsheet to aid analysis and report preparation.
- 24 All archaeological materials, excepting those covered by the *Treasure Act* 1996, will remain the property of the landowners. NPS Archaeology will seek to reach formal agreement with the landowners for donation of the full site archive to the Suffolk Archaeological Service or a designated Suffolk Museum.

Report and Archive

- 25 A report will be produced that will present the stratigraphic, structural, artefactual, palaeoenvironmental and photographic evidence and an analysis of that evidence. If excavation work is phased over an extended period of time, reports will be produced at the completion of each phase of works. The report will be undertaken with reference to relevant research agendas identified by Medlycott (2011) where appropriate and to what is already known about the archaeology of the immediate area.
- 26 The report will present data in written, tabular, graphic and appendix form. A list of archive components generated by the work will be included in the report. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, NPS Archaeology will retain copyright in and ownership of all documentation and other materials prepared by NPS Archaeology. NPS Archaeology may publish or jointly publish any description or illustration of the works with the prior consent of the client.
- 27 A draft copy of the report will be presented in digital format, clearly marked DRAFT, to Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service for approval, and to the client within eight weeks of the completion of the monitoring. Multiple copies of the approved report will be produced as appropriate and presented to the client and one digital and one paper copy to Suffolk County Council's Historic Environment Record. One copy of the report may be sent to the Historic England Science Advisor for the East of England, if considered appropriate. If positive results are drawn from the project, a summary report will be prepared for inclusion in the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 28 An online OASIS record will be initiated immediately prior to the start of fieldwork and completed when the final report is submitted to Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service. This will include a pdf version of the final report.
- 29 A single integrated archive for all elements of the work will be prepared according to the recommendations set out in *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC, Conservation Guidelines 3, 1984) and *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), and in accordance with the Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Services' own requirements for archive preparation, storage and conservation.
- 30 The archive will be fully indexed and cross-referenced. It will be integrated with known archaeological information held in the Suffolk County council's HER. A full listing of archive contents and finds boxes will accompany the deposition of the archive and finds.
- 31 If SCCAS/CT is not making new archive accessions and there is no confirmation of when new archives will be accepted, NPS Archaeology reserve the right to make alternative arrangements. From 1 January 2016, NPS Archaeology may charge for storage of prepared archaeological archives.

Timetable and Resources

- 32** The different stages of archaeological work have different time and staff requirements. The timetable for fieldwork assumes that there are no major delays to the work programme caused by factors outside of NPS Archaeology's reasonable control. Such circumstances would include without limitation; long periods of adverse weather conditions, flooding, repeated vandalism, ground contamination, delays in the development programme, unsafe buildings, conflicts between the archaeological recording methods and the protection of flora and fauna on the site, disease restrictions, and unexploded ordnance.
- 33** The proposed earliest start date for the archaeological work is two working weeks upon notification from the client.
- 34** It is understood that that the archaeological monitoring will take place during January 2016. The monitoring will be governed by the timetable for the groundworks. Monitoring will not therefore be constant but will be provided at all appropriate times. It is anticipated that one archaeologist will be sufficient to monitor the works.

Project Staff

- 35 The NPS Archaeology Manager will assume responsibility for all aspects of the project including finance, logistics, standards, health and safety, and liaison with the client and curators. The practical aspects of the project will be co-ordinated by a Senior Project Officer who will be dedicated to the project throughout its duration.
- 36 The fieldwork will be conducted by a Project Officer who will have substantial experience of archaeological monitoring projects and archaeological reporting. The Project Officer will be an experienced metal detector user and will have experience with NPS Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.
- 37 Other members of staff involved in the project will include a Finds Officer to coordinate post-fieldwork processing and reporting of artefacts, ecofacts and palaeoenvironmental remains
- 38 NPS Archaeology staff associated with the project will be:

Project Management	
Archaeology Manager	Jayne Bown, BA, MCIFA
Project Staff	
Project Staff	Robby Copsey, BA, MA
Finds Officer	Rebecca Sillwood, BA, ACIFA

- 39 NPS Archaeology reserves the right to change its nominated personnel at any time should project programmes change.
- 40 The analysis of artefacts and ecofacts will be undertaken by NPS Archaeology staff or nominated external specialists Nominated NPS Archaeology and external specialists and their areas of expertise are as follows:

Research Field	Staff
Metal-detectorist, numismatic items	Andrew Barnett
Worked flint	Sarah Bates
Palaeoenvironmental remains, worked stone	Frances Green
Faunal remains, shell	Julie Curl
Post-Roman ceramics, brick and tile	Sue Anderson
Materials conservation	Debbie Harris
Metalwork, glass	Rebecca Sillwood
Plant and animal macrofossils	Val Fryer
Prehistoric and Roman ceramics	Andrew Peachey

Conditions

- 41 NPS Archaeology will not commence work until a written order or signed agreement is received from the client. Where the commission is received through an agent, the agent is deemed to be authorised to act on behalf of the client. NPS Archaeology reserve the right to recover unpaid fees for the service provided from the agent where it is found that this authority is contested by said client.
- 42 NPS Archaeology expect information on any services crossing the site to be provided by the client.
- 43 A 7.4 hour working day is normally operated by NPS Archaeology, although their agents may work outside these hours.
- 44 NPS Archaeology expect the client to arrange suitable access to the site for its staff, plant and welfare facilities on the agreed start date.
- 45 NPS Archaeology expect any information concerning the presence of TPOs and/or protected flora and fauna on the site to be provided by the client prior to the commencement of works and accept no liability if this information is not disclosed. No excavation will take place within 8.00m or canopy width (whichever is the greater) of any trees within or bordering the site.
- 46 NPS Archaeology shall not be held responsible for any delay or failure in meeting agreed deadlines resulting from circumstances beyond its reasonable control. Such circumstances are detailed in para. 30.
- 47 Whether or not CDM regulations apply to this work, NPS Archaeology expect the client to provide information on the nature, extent and level of any soil contamination present. Should unanticipated contaminated ground be encountered during the trial trenching, excavation will cease until an assessment of risks to health has been undertaken and on-site control measures implemented. NPS Archaeology will not be liable for any costs related to the collection and analysis of soils or other assessment methods, on-site control measures, and the removal of contaminated soil or other materials from site.
- 48 Should any disease restrictions be implemented for the area during the evaluation, fieldwork will cease and staff redeployed until they are lifted. NPS Archaeology will not be liable for any costs related to on-site disease control measures and for any additional costs incurred to complete the fieldwork after the restrictions have been removed.
- 49 NPS Archaeology will not accept responsibility for any tree surgery, removal of undergrowth, shrubbery or hedges or reinstatement of gardens. NPS Archaeology will endeavour to restrict the levels of disturbance of to a minimum but wishes to bring to the attention of the client that the works will necessarily alter the appearance of landscapes and especially gardens.

Quality Standards

- 50 All staff employed or sub-contracted by NPS Archaeology will be employed in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Practice*.
- 51 NPS Archaeology operates under a recognised Quality Management System and is accredited with BS EN ISO 9001:2008.
- 52 The guidelines set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) that remain current will be adhered to. Provision will be made for monitoring the work by the SCCAS in accordance with the procedures outlined in the document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage [now Historic England] 2006). Monitoring opportunities for each phase of the project are suggested as follows:
 - a) during archaeological monitoring
 - b) during post-fieldwork analysis
 - c) upon completion of the archive
 - d) upon receipt of the final report
- 53 A further monitoring opportunity will be provided at the end of the work upon deposition of the integrated archive and finds with SCCAS.
- 54 NPS Archaeology operates a Project Management System. Most aspects of this project will be co-ordinated by a Project Officer who has the day-to-day responsibility for the successful completion of the project. Overall responsibility for the successful delivery of the project lies with the Archaeology Manager who has responsibility for all of NPS Archaeology's work and ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation.

Health and Safety

- 55 NPS Archaeology will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with NPS Property Consultants Limited's Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in *the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (SCAUM 2007).
- 56 A risk assessment will be prepared for the archaeological fieldwork. All NPS staff will be briefed on the contents of the risk assessment and required to read it. Protective clothing and equipment will be issued and used as required.
- 57 NPS Archaeology will provide copies of NPS Property Consultants Limited's Health and Safety policy on request.

Insurance

58 NPS Archaeology's Insurance Cover is:

Employers Liability	£5,000,000
Public Liability	£50,000,000
Professional Indemnity	£5,000,000

59 Full details of NPS Archaeology's Insurance cover will be supplied on request.