

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/081

A12 Flood Alleviation Scheme Blythburgh, Suffolk

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HER information

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Contents

	Page
Summary	
1. Introduction	1
Project background	1
Site description	2
Topography and geology of the PDA	3
Scope of this report	3
Aims	4
Methods	4
Legislative frameworks	5
2. Results	7
Suffolk HER search	7
All known archaeological sites and Scheduled Monuments within 500m of the PDA	8
Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other constraints	11
Site Visit	18
Historic summary and documentary study conclusions	22
3. Assessment of impacts and effects	29
The archaeological potential of the PDA	29
Regional research framework	30
Potential of preserved archaeological remains within the PDA	30
Assessment of the impact of the development on the archaeological resource	30
4. Mitigation measures	30
5. Conclusions / Recommendations	31
6. List of contributors and acknowledgements	31
7. Bibliography	31
Disclaimer	32

List of Figures

	Page
1. Location of the PDA	2
2. Topography of the PDA	3
3. HER entries within 500m of the PDA	7
4. Listed Buildings within 500m of the PDA	11
5. Other constraints	16
6. extract of plan dated 1812	25
7. extract of 1841 tithe map	26
8. 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 scale sheet	27

List of Plates

1. Blythburgh Bridge, west side, looking north-east	18
2. A12 trunk road, looking north from Blythburgh Bridge	18
3. view from Blythburgh Bridge looking east showing the remains of the former river embankments and timber revetments	19
4. view of the 'causeway' running across the marsh, camera facing north-west	19
5. eastern face of the roadside embankment showing the angular stone	20
6. brick, concrete and girder stumps visible under the south side of the bridge	21
7. a drawing of the writing tablet from Blythburgh	22

List of Appendices

1 Documentary study	33
2. Brief and Specification	57

List of abbreviations used in the text

DBA	Desk Based Assessment
HER	Historic Environment Record
HWM	High Water Mark
PAS	Portable Antiquities Scheme
PDA	Proposed Development Area
PPS	Planning Policy Statement 5
SM	Scheduled Monument
SCCAS/FT	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service / Field Team
SCCAS/CT	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service / Curatorial Team
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

Periods

Prehistoric	BC500,000 - AD42
Palaeolithic	BC500,000 – BC10,001
Mesolithic	BC10,000 – BC4,001
Neolithic	BC4,000 – BC2,351
Bronze Age	BC2,350 – BC701
Iron Age	BC800 – AD42
Roman	AD43 – AD409
Anglo-Saxon	AD410 – AD1065
Medieval	AD1066 – AD1539
Post-medieval	AD1539 – AD1900
Modern	AD1900 -

Summary

This archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) has been undertaken as a result of a proposed scheme to alleviate the potential for flooding on a short length of the A12 trunk road in the vicinity of the crossing of the River Blyth at Blythburgh. This DBA includes an examination of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) and a historic map and documentary search.

The results of this DBA suggest there is a moderate to high potential for encountering Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains due to the location of the PDA, which lies along the line of a causeway and bridge that has been in use from at least the Anglo-Saxon period.

The present site of the bridge is c. 30m to the west of the site of the bridge recorded on the tithe map of 1841. This is probably the result of the new bridge, that was built in the 1850s, being alongside the existing bridge in order enable the earlier bridge to stay in use during the construction phase, or it may be related with the need to create a bridge over the Southwold Railway, which opened in the 1879.

No information has been provided regarding how the flood alleviation is to be achieved and consequently it is not possible to proscribe a mitigation strategy but at a minimum it is likely to involve archaeological monitoring of any groundwork in order to identify and record any remains that may be exposed or potentially damaged. It is unlikely that any large scale open area investigations will be required.

It is the County Council Planning Archaeologist who will make any decisions regarding the need for, and the extent of, any archaeological works and consultation should be at the earliest possible opportunity, as archaeological investigations can have considerable time and cost implications.

1. Introduction

Project Background

This archaeological DBA has been prepared by Mark Sommers of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service / Field Team for ESE Highway Safety and Improvement, Suffolk County Council.

This DBA is the first stage of a programme of archaeological works to establish the archaeological potential of the PDA.

The proposed development is a flood alleviation scheme for an approximately 700m length of the A12 trunk road situated on the approaches to Blythburgh Bridge, the road bridge over the River Blyth at Blythburgh. This stretch of road is low-lying and can be liable to flooding. Previous flood events have resulted in serious traffic delays on what is a major county route.

Site description

The subject of this DBA covers an area of approximately 1.5ha centred at TM 4518 7578, in the parish of Blythburgh (Fig. 1).

A site visit was made on 1/06/2011, to determine the presence of any factors likely to impact on the overall assessment of the archaeological potential of the PDA.

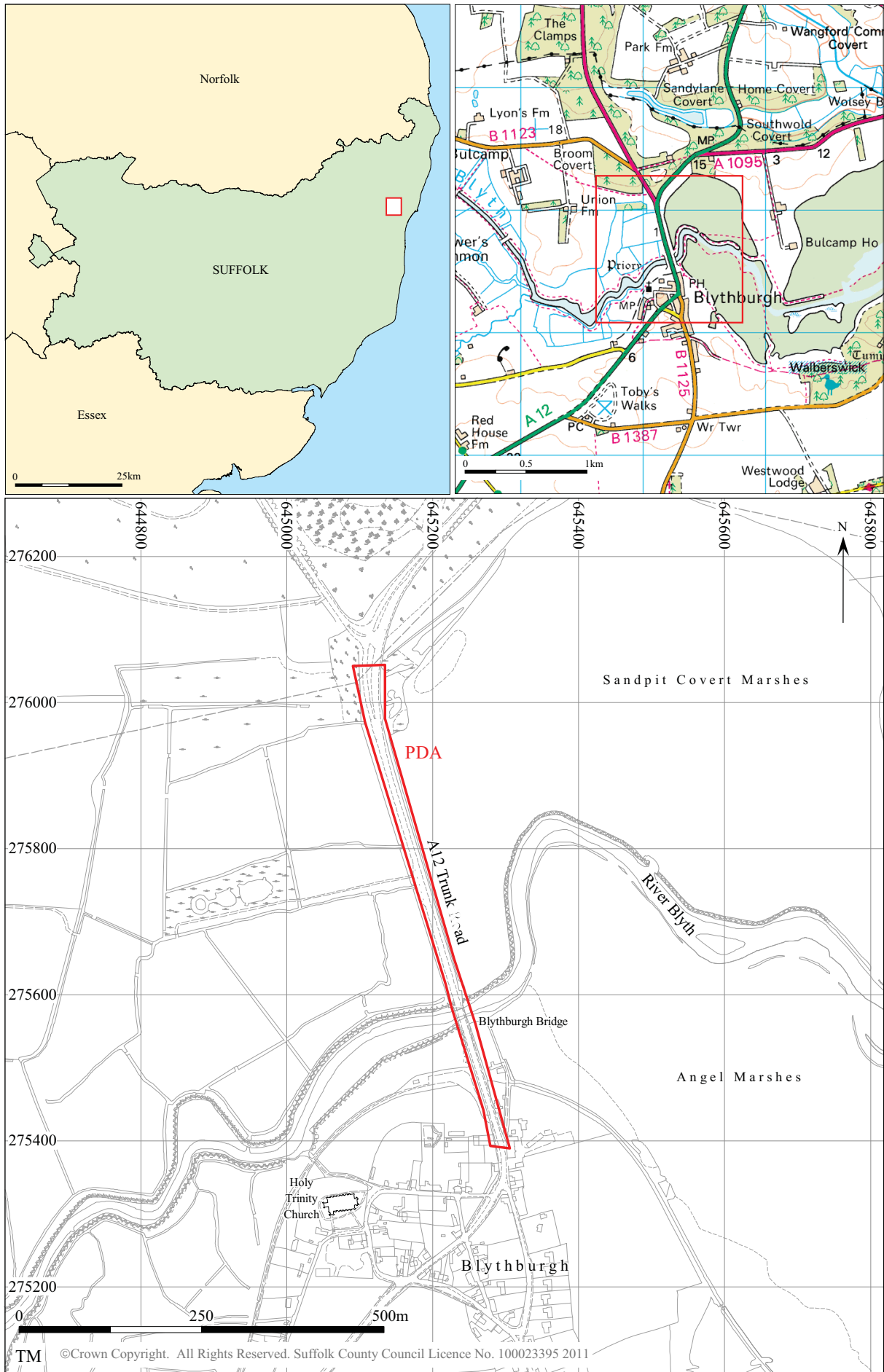


Figure 1. Location of the PDA (in red)

Topography and geology of the PDA

The PDA is located between *circa* 0– 5m above sea level, running across the floodplain of the River Blyth (Fig. 2).

The PDA is on a narrow strip of slightly raised land running between two low-lying areas of marsh or former marsh. The surface geology consists of alluvial deposits of marine origin which in turn overlie sands and gravels.

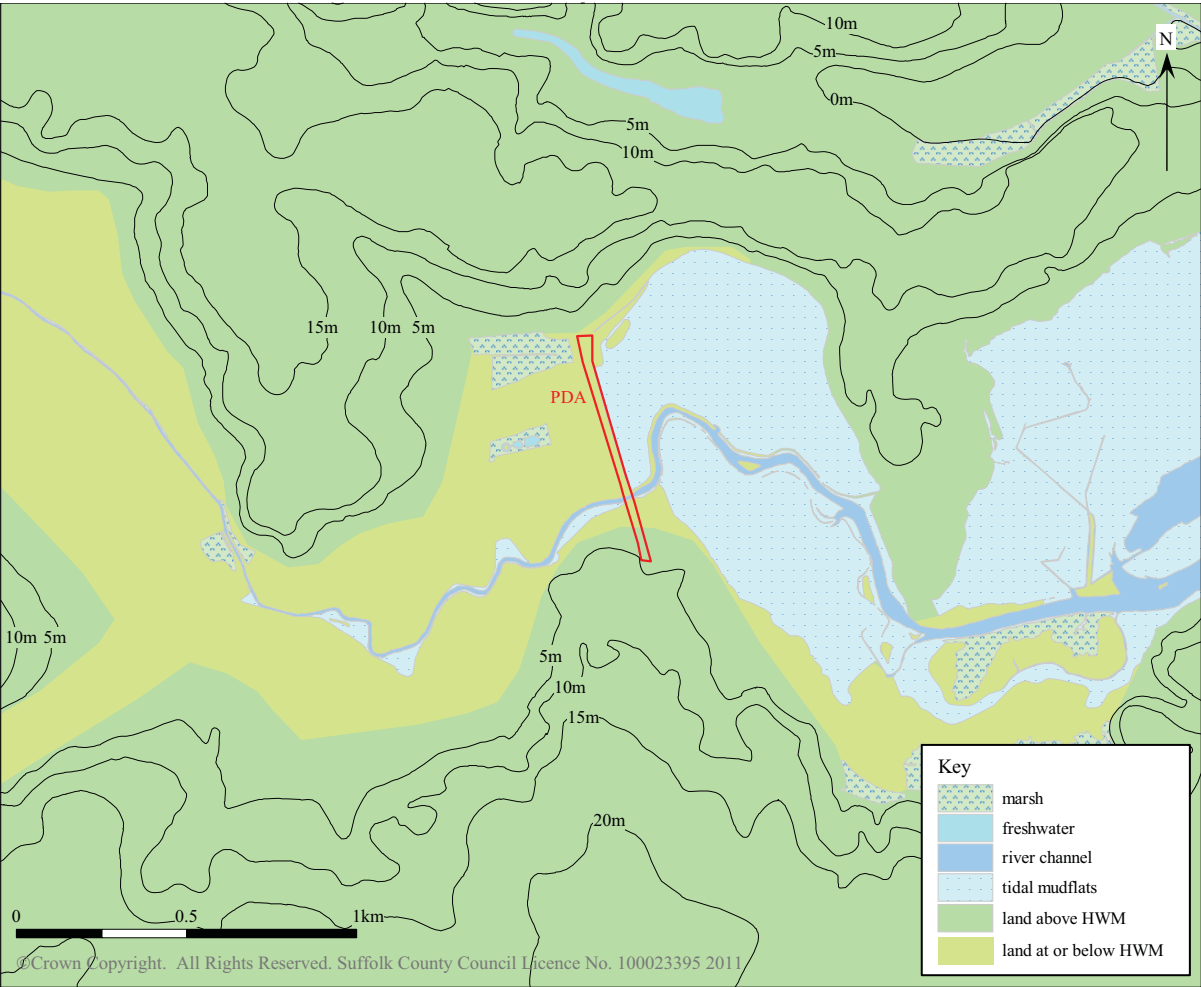


Figure 2. Topography of the PDA

Scope of this report

In order to set the PDA in its archaeological context a HER search area of 500m from the edge of the PDA was selected for examination (Fig. 3).

In accordance with PPS 5, the Government’s guidance on planning for the historic environment, (www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps5) and a

brief and specification provided by SCCAS/CT (Appendix 2), this assessment examines the available archaeological sources. These include the Suffolk HER and all readily available cartographic and documentary sources.

Aims

To determine as far as reasonably practicable from the existing records, the previous landuse, the nature of the archaeological resource and the potential resource within the PDA.

Methods

The methodology involved interrogating the following sources of data to meet the aims of this DBA.

- A search of the Suffolk HER for any records within a minimum of 500m from the edge of the PDA. A synthesis of these results are described and mapped in the main body of the report, Section 2.
- A search for all listed buildings within and adjacent to the PDA. A summary is presented in the main report, Section 2.
- An assessment of all cartographic sources relevant to the PDA to identify historic landuse, the siting of old boundaries and earlier buildings, Section 2.
- A historical documentary search was commissioned; the results have been summarised in Section 2, with the full report presented in Appendix 1.
- A site visit was made to assess surviving structures and the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits
- Ascertain whether there are any other constraints on the site (SSSI, etc.)

Legislative frameworks

PPS 5 (March 2010) provides guidance for planning authorities, developers and others on planning and the historic environment. This guidance advises developers to discuss their plans, preferably at a pre-planning stage, with the County Archaeological Planning Officer for any possible archaeological constraints on their development proposal. The planning guidance sets out to protect nationally and locally important monuments and their settings. There will be a presumption in favour of preservation *in situ* of important remains. In certain circumstances field evaluation will be carried out to enable an informed decision to be made. On sites where there is no overriding case for preservation *in situ*, provision will be made for their recording and excavation prior to development.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 statutorily protects Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and their settings as nationally important sites. There is one recorded SM within 500m of the PDA, the remains of Blythburgh Priory.

Listed buildings are protected under the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act of 1990. This ensures that listed buildings are given statutory protection against unauthorised demolition, alteration and extension. Buildings are listed because they are of special architectural importance, due to their architectural design, decoration and craftsmanship; also because they are of historical interest. This includes buildings that illustrate important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural or military history or have a close association with nationally important persons or events. The PDA is adjacent the Blythburgh Conservation Area within which there are nine Listed Buildings within 500m of the PDA. A single Listed Building also lies within 500m of the north of the PDA (Fig. 4).

A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is an area that has been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, due to its flora, fauna or geological or geomorphological features. There is one SSSI within 500m of the PDA.

There are a number of other planning constraints in place within 500m of the PDA (see section 2. Results).

2. Results

Suffolk HER search

The HER only represents the archaeological material that has been reported (Fig. 3) and only represents the 'known' resource. It is not therefore, a complete reflection of the whole archaeological resource of this area because other sites may remain undiscovered, this is considered as the 'potential' resource.

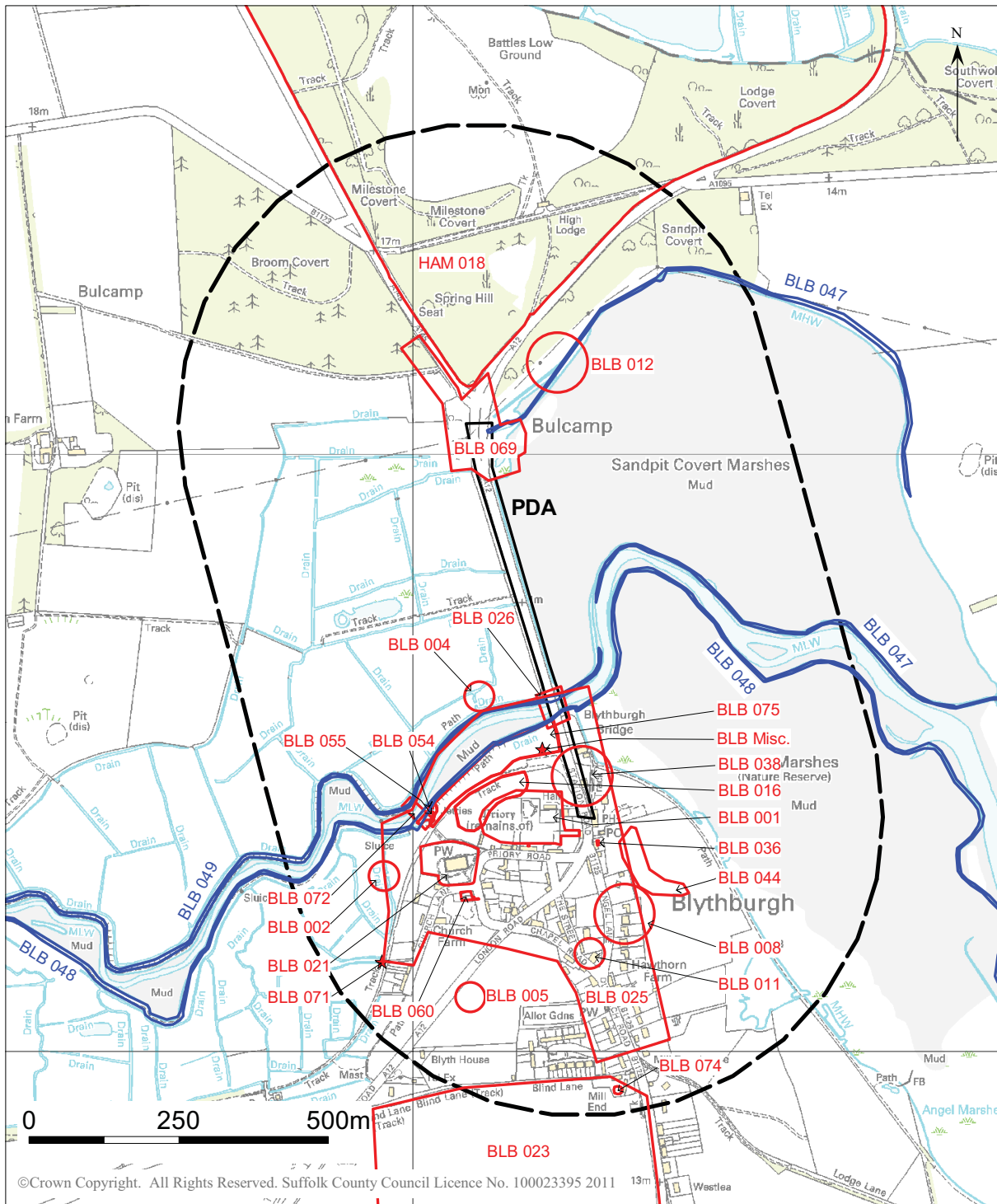


Figure 3. HER entries within 500m of the PDA (PDA and 500m limit marked in black)

All known archaeological sites and Scheduled Monuments within 500m of the PDA

There are twenty-seven HER entries recorded within 500m of the PDA (Fig. 3). One of these, BLB 001, is also a Scheduled Monument.

BLB 001 site of Blythburgh Priory. Parts of the crossing and nave walls are extant, standing up to 4m in height. Also a Scheduled Monument (SM No. SF215). A sherd of stamped Anglo-Saxon Ipswich ware has also been found at this site.

BLB 002 findspot of a Neolithic polished axe in grey flint.

BLB 004 A scatter of Anglo-Saxon (Ipswich and Thetford ware), medieval and post-medieval pottery found during fieldwalking. The later pottery includes Siegburg and Limburg wares and Hedingham ware.

BLB 005 An undated inhumation. Adjacent to, and parallel with, the main trunk road.

BLB 008 medieval and early post-medieval pottery recovered from monitored footing trenches.

BLB 011 evidence for medieval features noted in a trench, includes hearths, post holes, pits and a ditch.

BLB 012 reference to 'a small field near the junction of A12 and A1095, north of Angel Marshes, contains many small medieval sherds, bricks, nails and one iron key, which were picked up. At one time there was a landing stage here'.

BLB 016 A scatter of medieval pottery and metalwork and an Early Anglo-Saxon sleeve clasp were recovered by metal detectorists. The medieval metal finds include: a number of coins, a bull of Pope Martin IV, a noble coin weight, French jettons, a dogs head spout in bronze, a lozenge buckle, a gilded strap end and a gilded box mount.

BLB 021 The medieval churchyard and church of the Holy Trinity. The present church is primarily a 15th century rebuild of an earlier building.

BLB 023 An area of fields from metal finds have been recovered by metal detectorists. The assemblage comprises Roman, medieval and post-medieval material. The medieval finds include two buckles, the post-medieval material consists of coins (an Elizabeth I half-groat & two silver pennies) and Nuremburg tokens.

BLB 025 Probable extent of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement of Blythburgh (in 1066 it is recorded as being the site of a market).

BLB 026 Blythburgh Bridge, the present and documented site of. Named as the 'great brygge of Blythburgh' in 1502 and 'Blithburgh Bridge' in 1587. Recorded on numerous maps including: Saxton's (1607), Blome's (1673), Bowen's (1720) and Hodskinson's (1783).

BLB 036 monitoring of groundwork revealed post-medieval pits containing residual medieval material.

BLB 038 trial trenching in the grounds of the White Hart revealed medieval and post-medieval artefacts and features, some of which contained residual Roman and Anglo-Saxon material.

BLB 044 An area of various undated cropmarks as seen in aerial photographs.

BLB 047 Sea banks to the north of the River Blyth and around Bulchamp Marshes, visible on 1945 aerial photographs. Probably post-medieval in date (marked in blue in Fig. 3).

BLB 048 c. 4km of post-medieval sea bank can be seen running along the southern edge of the River Blyth to the north of Blythburgh (marked in blue in Fig. 3).

BLB 049 Sea bank along the north edge of the River Blyth, running for c. 1.75km probably post-medieval in date (marked in blue in Fig. 3).

BLB 054 a group of posts in the area of a small 'bay' on the south side of the river. Marked as jetties on modern Ordnance Survey maps but age and type is unclear.

BLB 055 scatter of medieval pottery recovered from a 30m stretch of the southern riverbank in the vicinity of a small 'bay'. A track leads down to this site from the town. Jetties are recorded on modern Ordnance Survey maps suggesting the area is used for launching small craft. Also the documented site of a bridge (see BLB 072).

BLB 060 monitoring of groundwork at Church Farm revealed a small post-medieval wall stub and a small amount of redeposited human bone.

BLB 069 site of a small hamlet marked on early maps. Named as Bulcum Street (Ogilby 1675), Bulem Street (Bowen 1755) and Bulchamp (Hodskinson 1783). Also the site of Tollgate Cottages (as marked on early Ordnance Survey maps).

BLB 071 possible location of Westwood Lodge, the house of John Hopton (1430 - 1478), as shown on Ogilby's map of 1675.

BLB 072 Site of 'Campy's Bridge' (alternatively Campisbregge or Kempisbregge). Medieval documentary references to a bridge at this location in c.1209-30 and again in the 14th century.

BLB 074 The site of a smock mill, as recorded on early Ordnance Survey maps of the area. Demolished February 1937.

BLB 075 large amounts of medieval and post-medieval pottery have been recovered during fieldwalking of these riverside plots. Additionally, a single sherd of early Anglo-Saxon pottery, over fifty sherds of Ipswich ware and thirteen sherds of Thetford ware were recovered.

BLB Misc. two documentary references for a roadside chapel: 1525: 'Chapel of Holy Cross (wayside chapel) located bedside great bridge' and 1760: 'remains of an ancient chapel called Holy Rood (on) N side (of) main street leading to bridge'.

HAM 018 Henham Park, the estate of Henham Hall Probably medieval in origin although the present park is post-medieval having been designed by Humphrey Repton in the late 18th century following the fire and subsequent rebuilding of Henham Hall. Has been in the Rous family since 1544.

Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and other constraints

Listed Buildings

A search was carried out on the Suffolk HER and on the Heritage Gateway web site <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>, from which the following descriptions have been taken. There are Ten Listed Buildings within 500m of the PDA. One is Grade I, one is Grade II* and the remaining eight are Grade II (for locations see Fig. 4).

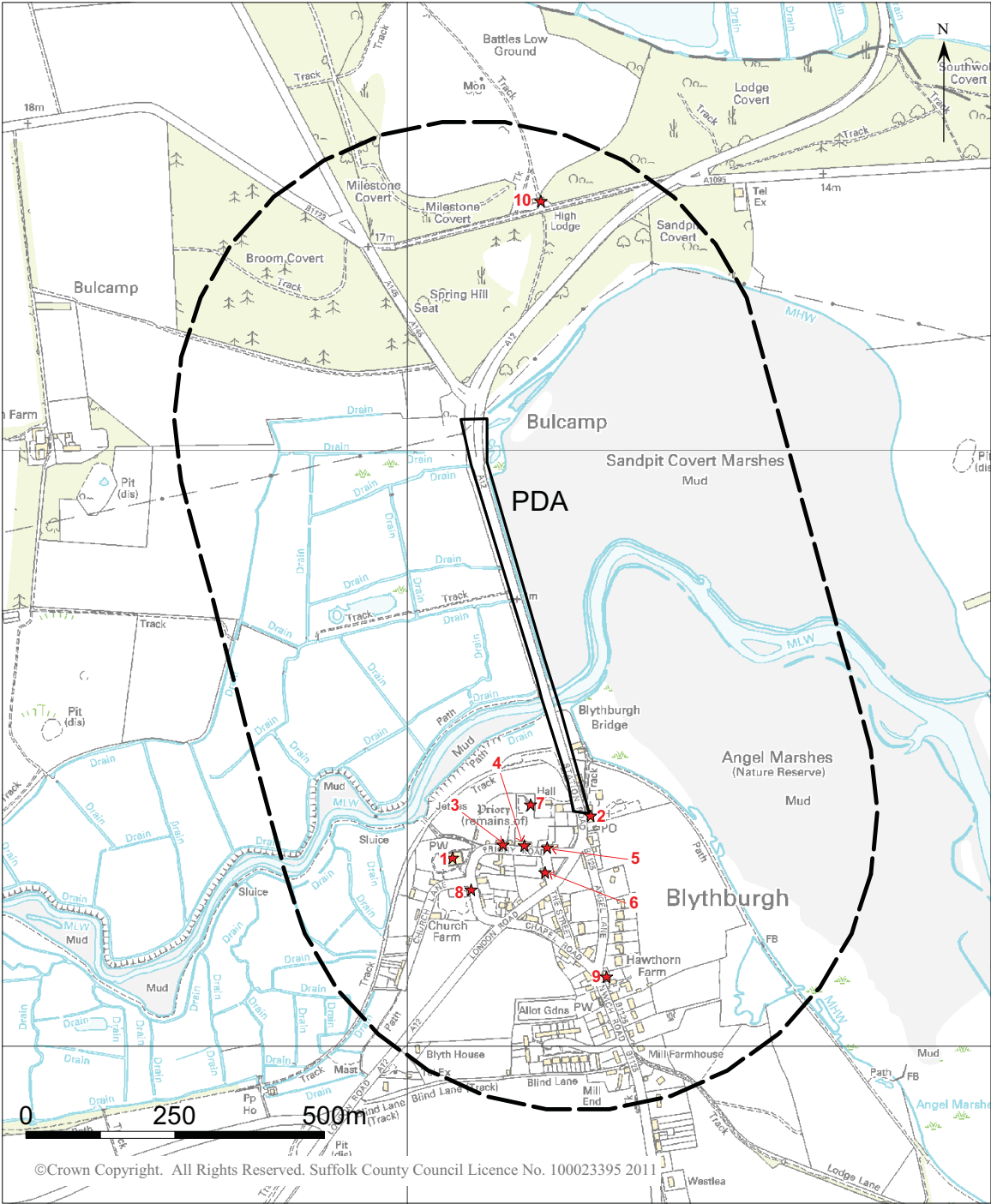


Figure 4. Listed Buildings within 500m of the PDA

1. HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, Grade I, Parish Church. Nave and chancel (under one roof), north and south aisles, west tower, south porch. Tower early-mid C14, remainder mid-late C15. Random flint with stone dressings; some brickwork to window arches; lead roofs. Tower: 4 stages, with 3-stage diagonal buttresses, string courses at each stage level; crenellated parapet with some flushwork; single-light bell chamber openings without tracery; at base of 3rd stage (except east face) is a cinquefoil-headed lancet window; C15 3-light west window, the tracery renewed. Clerestorey with 18 identical 2-light windows to north and south. Chancel extends one bay east of the aisles, these windows being bricked up; east end of chancel with 5-light window, renewed tracery; below is a flushwork frieze of 12 Lombardic letters, with further flushwork to either side of window; at apex of gable is a mutilated carved Trinity. North aisle of 8 bays, south aisle of 7 bays with the porch at the west end; the eastern 2 bays of the aisles have windows to a slightly different design; both aisles have flushwork decoration to the buttresses. South aisle and porch with fine parapet of pierced quatrefoils with ogee cappings, below which is a frieze of lozenge flushwork and a carved string course; the buttresses have pinnacles with grotesque finials. Each aisle has Priest's doorway under a flying buttress, the one to the south with a mutilated stoup. Porch with Priest's room above; knapped flint facade with empty niche over doorway; good external stoup with carved shaft and bowl; tierceron vaulted roof renewed in 1930's. Both north and south doorways have C15 traceried doors. Interior with 8-bay aisle arcades; flooring of red brick and unglazed tile. Fine 10-bay arch-braced roof with firred tie beams; the cornice is missing; at the centre of each tie beam is a carved boss and angels with outstretched wings facing east and west (11 angels remain, some of the wings renewed); much original painted decoration remains. Lean-to aisle roofs with traceried spandrels. Octagonal font, c.1450, formerly carved with the Seven Sacraments. Good set of 18 C15 nave benches with carved finials; C15 lectern; pulpit c.1670; fine alms box dated 1473 with traceried carving; mid-late C17 Clock Jack at east end of south aisle; C15 wooden aisle screens, the nave screen a modern reconstruction to the same pattern. The choir stalls have finely carved frontals with 16 figures of Apostles and Saints, possibly once forming the rood loft parapet. Good monument to Sir John Hopton (d.1489): Purbeck marble tomb chest (brasses missing) with 3 cusped quatrefoils with painted shields, richly traceried and crested canopy. Another plain tomb chest in north aisle; several C17 carved

marble floor slabs in chancel; fragments of medieval stained glass in aisle windows. Graded I for surviving medieval work.

2. WHITE HART INN, Grade II*, Former coaching inn, now public house. Early-mid C16, with later alterations and additions. Timber framed; plasterwork to rear and to north gable end, mid-late C17 red brick Dutch gable end to south, mid C19 painted brick facade; roof with modern plaintiles to front slope and pantiles to rear. 2 storeys and attic. 6 window range, inset sashes with glazing bars, flat arches with raised keys; asymmetrical doorway with 6-panel door, a second doorway now removed. Dutch gable with brick band at first floor level and brick coping to parapet. One internal stack and one stack to Dutch gable end. C17 gabled staircase extension to rear; various C20 rear extensions. Interior with fine, heavily roll-moulded beams and joists to 2 bays of ground floor ceiling; C17 dog-leg staircase with turned balusters, newels with ornamental finials and moulded handrail; in a first floor room is some C16 panelling, possibly re-used from elsewhere in the building.
3. THE GREEN, Grade II, House. Probably C17; considerably restored and extended from 2 cottages in early C20 by the artist Ernest Crofts RA. Timber framed, with half-timbered facade added in the restoration; south gable end of flint with brick dressings to ground floor and weatherboarded above, north gable end of brick to eaves level and plastered above; thatched roof. Extensions to rear of rendered and weatherboarded brick with plaintiled roof. 2 storeys and attic. 4 window range, early C20 casements with square leaded panes; one oriel window to ground floor and 3 to first floor; asymmetrical doorway with early C20 boarded door. One internal stack and one external stack to south gable, both with altered tops. Interior with good quality exposed timberwork; original panelling in one ground floor room; the extensions incorporate re-used C16 timbers.
4. THE PRIORY, Grade II, House. C17 nucleus, considerably altered and extended in several stages in late C19/early C20 by the artist and antiquarian John Seymour Lucas RA. Timber framed, brick extension to east, the whole plastered or roughcast rendered; pantiled roof. 2 storeys and attic. Windows late C19/early C20 casements with square leaded panes; asymmetrical entrance porch with overhanging first floor, 4-centre arch to doorway, boarded door with cover fillets;

one ground floor oriel window, 2 2-storey splayed bays, each surmounted by a gabled dormer; one dormer window and one half dormer. Original stack to west; 2 late C19/early C20 stacks with tall flues set diagonally. Attached to the west is an annexe which is largely a reconstruction of a medieval chapel associated with the Augustinian Priory, although parts of the walling to the west and north appear to be original ; the remains were formerly incorporated into a cottage. Random flint and stone, red brick dressings, pantiled roof. 2 bays, brick windows with pointed arches, Y tracery and hoodmoulds; corbelled brickwork to eaves, stepped brickwork to west gable, gable end stack. One room of the interior of the house has C16 beams and panelling from a house at Saffron Walden, Essex; 2 ornamental overmantels were also added in the restoration.

5. FORGE COTTAGE (including railings and boundary walling), Grade II, House. Early-mid C19. Painted brick, rendered gable ends; slated roof. 2 storeys. 3 window range, large-pane sashes in flush frames, segmental arches; central doorway with inset 6-panel door, the upper 2 panels glazed, plain rectangular fanlight, architrave with roundels to the corners, simple flat hood. The left hand stack is C17 or earlier and incorporates stone from the Priory. The boundary to Priory Road includes wrought iron railings with spearhead tops and an adjoining section of flint and stone walling with brick copings extending for some 9m to the west.
6. WHITE COTTAGE, Grade II, House, formerly the Crown Inn. C17. Red brick with painted facade; roof pantiled to front and plaintiled to rear. 2 storeys and attic. 4 window range, mainly C19 casements; asymmetrical doorway with C19 4-panel door. One internal stack. Single storey brick and pantile wing to right hand side.
7. REMAINS OF AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY, Grade II (also a Scheduled Monument - No. SF215), Fragmentary ruins of Augustinian Priory, founded c.1125 as cell of St. Osyth priory. Flint rubble. To the south is the base of a C12 column and some C13 shafting. The remains are of the conventual church which was probably a cruciform building.
8. CHURCH FARMHOUSE, Grade II, Farmhouse. C17. Timber framed and plastered with rendered brick gable end to south; roof of modern plaintiles. 2

storeys. 3 window range, 2-light and 3- light casements; asymmetrical doorway with modern boarded door, panelled architrave and small rectangular fanlight. One internal stack and one gable end stack to south.

9. HAWTHORN FARMHOUSE, Grade II, Farmhouse. Mid C16. Timber framed, plastered to north gable end and to rear, brick gable end to south; mid C19 red brick facade; roof of glazed pantiles. 2 storeys and attic. 3 window range (excluding porch), C20 2-light and 3-light casements, segmental arches. Asymmetrical entrance: early-mid C20 2 storey red brick porch with flat roof and large-pane casement windows, 6-panel door facing north. One internal stack and one gable end stack to south. Interior with much exposed timberwork including a ground floor ceiling with moulded joists.

10. HIGH LODGE (including screen walls), Grade II, Lodge to Henham Hall. Originally c.1793 by James Wyatt; considerably rebuilt and enlarged c.1865 by Edward Barrie. White brick with stone dressings, pantiled roof. Symmetrical main block of 2 storeys; the centre section containing the archway is set forward, with a room over. Main block with rusticated quoins, moulded brick string course at first floor level, brick band and moulded stone cornice to eaves; one window range to each side of archway: deeply inset large pane sashes with broad stone surrounds. Semi-circular headed archway, ornamental keystone, moulded brick surround to arch head, roundels to either side; wrought iron gate. Room above archway with 3 inset semi-circular headed sash windows, the arches with stone surrounds and raised keys; 2 stone string courses and moulded stone cornice. 2 matching stacks, shallow pyramidal roof with tall spike finial. To either side of the gateway is a length of curved screen walling, terminating in a shorter straight section. Piers to curved section surmounted by cast iron pyramids; straight sections with 2 larger piers surmounted by stone spheres; pierced stonework to upper part of walling.

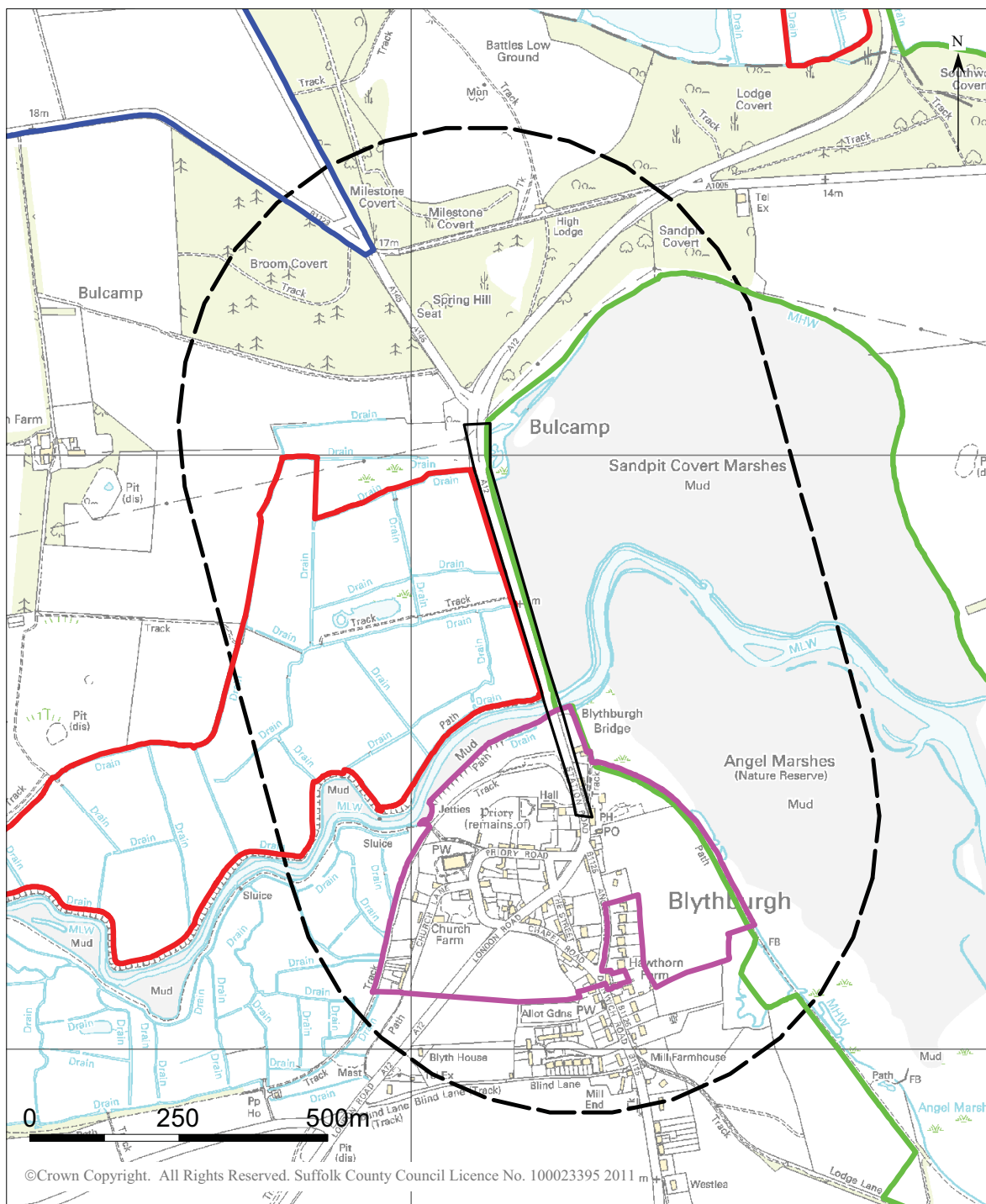


Figure 5. Other constraints

(purple - Conservation Area, green - SSSI & Ramsar,
blue - northern limit of AONB, red - County Wildlife Sites)

Conservation Areas

The PDA is located partially within the Blythburgh Conservation Area (outlined in purple in Fig. 5).

SSSI/Ramsar

The entire area of Sandpit Covert Marshes and Angel Marshes, which lie immediately to the east of the PDA, are part of the extensive Minsmere and Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SSSI (outlined in green in Fig. 5). This area is also an agreed entry on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The entire PDA lies within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB (the northern boundary is marked in blue in Fig. 5).

County Wildlife Site

The area of reed beds immediately to the west of the PDA is a designated County Wildlife site (outlined in red in Fig. 5)

Site Visit

The PDA was visited on the 1st June 2011 to assess surviving structures and the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits.



Plate 1. Blythburgh Bridge, west side, looking north-east



Plate 2. A12 trunk road, looking north from Blythburgh Bridge

Site Description

The PDA consisted of the length of the A12 trunk road as it passes across the flood plain of the River Blyth. A modern road bridge (Plate 1) over the man river channel is present towards the southern end of the PDA. Spot height information recorded on the modern Ordnance Survey data for this area indicates the deck of the bridge is at a height of 3.5m OD. The road from the south approaches on a raised embankment

c. 130m in length. Going north the road slopes down gently to a level of 1m OD at a point 170m from the bridge (Plate 2) before gently rising again to 3m OD as it climbs up northern side of the floodplain.

On the eastern side of the road lies a large expanse of tidal mudflats known as Sandpit Covert Marshes. This area lies below the level of high water mark and consequently are covered by seawater at high tide. The marshes were formerly embanked although the defences have been allowed to fail leading to the tidal flooding of these areas. Large parts of the former embankments and the remains of timber revetments, which mark the main river channel, can be seen meandering across the mudflats to the east (Plate 3).



Plate 3. view from Blythburgh Bridge looking east showing the remains of the former river embankments and timber revetments



Plate 4. view of the 'causeway' running across the marsh, camera facing north-west

The area to the west of the road as it passes across the floodplain consists of substantial reed beds criss-crossed by numerous drainage channels. They are low-lying, probably below the high water mark, and are separated from the river by raised banks. A sluice allows these channels to drain into the river at low tide only.

The main road runs across the floodplain of the Blyth, between the mudflats and the reed beds at a slightly higher level. This may be an exploitation of an existing natural feature although appears to be unnaturally straight suggesting it actually rests on an artificially created causeway built across the marsh (Plate 4). At present, a low bank runs along the eastern side of the roadside verge to protect against extreme high tides. On the eastern face of this bank, the slope extends down to the level of the tidal mudflats and is washed by the successive tides. To reduce erosion a spread of angular stone, partially retained behind longitudinal planks held by regularly spaced uprights, is present along its entire length, all of which appeared to be relatively modern in origin (Plate 5).



Plate 5. eastern face of the roadside embankment showing the angular stone

Surviving Structures

No obviously significant surviving structures were noted during the site visit. A number of what may be timber uprights were noted within the mudflats close to the northern half of the PDA. Their precise nature could not be determined due to a covering of seaweed but they are likely to be the stumps of trees that grew here prior to the flooding of the marshes (one of which visible to the right in Plate 5). This area was covered by a recent Coastal Survey project (Good and Plouviez, 2007) which did not identify any significant remains worthy of recording in the vicinity of the PDA.

The present Blythburgh Bridge is constructed of concrete beams on concrete piles and is clearly modern. Beneath the bridge evidence for an earlier structure is present in the form of brickwork, concrete and the stumps of 'H' section girders (Plate 6). These are not likely to be of any great antiquity, being probably 20th century or, at the earliest, late 19th century in date.



Plate 6. Brick, concrete and girder stumps visible under the south side of the bridge

Potential for survival

Much of the PDA appears to be on what is presumably an artificially created causeway with a flood prevention earthwork along the eastern edge. There is no obvious evidence for any large scale excavation work that could have destroyed any buried remains that may predate the causeway. Archaeological evidence for the causeway's construction and use is also likely to remain intact beneath the present earthworks and the existing ground surface.

Historic summary and documentary study

Historic summary

Blythburgh is located at the lowest convenient crossing of the tidal estuary of the river Blyth on the main road between London and Yarmouth. It is an Anglo-Saxon foundation and may also have been a port. By the mid 7th century it had a Christian church, as testified by historic references (Bede & the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle) that state the bodies of the East Anglian King Anna and his son, Jurmin, were brought to a church in Blythburgh after they fell in a battle with the Mercian King Penda in AD 653 or AD 654, at Bulcamp, on the north side of the river. It has been theorised that the church could have been one of King Ælfwald's Minsters (Mackley, 2001) and that it was also a site of pilgrimage. The 12th century chronicle, *Liber Eliensis*, claims that Anna's tomb was still 'venerated by the pious devotion of faithful'. Although Anna himself was not canonised, all five of his children, including Jurmin (later translated to Bury St Edmunds), became Anglo-Saxon saints.

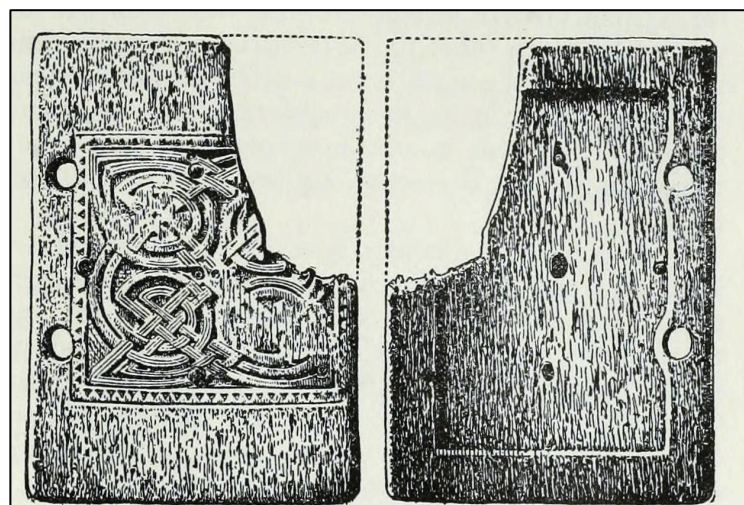


Plate 7. A drawing of the writing tablet from Blythburgh

(source: *The Victoria History of the County of Suffolk*, vol. 1, pub. 1911)

Alongside the documentary references there is a large body of archaeological evidence for high status activity in Blythburgh during the Anglo-Saxon period in the form of an 8th century writing tablet (Plate 7), stylii and significant amounts of Ipswich ware pottery.

At the time of the Norman Conquest Blythburgh was part of the royal estate and a market town. It is unlikely that it was a significant port in the medieval or later periods as the river mouth was restricted and pushed further to the south by shifting shingle banks. Despite this the town prospered as a commercial centre throughout the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and into the beginning of the fourteenth.

Around 1120 Henry I granted Blythburgh church to the Augustinian canons of St Osyth's Priory in Essex. There were canons at Blythburgh by 1147 although the priory was never large and was in decline by 1407. Its suppression was authorised by the Pope in 1528 to contribute to the foundation of Cardinal College in Ipswich although it was reprieved until 1537. Its properties were then granted to Walter Wadelond of Needham Market and in 1548 they reverted to the Hopton family. In 1592 the Blythburgh, Walberswick and Westleton manors were sold to Alderman Robert Brooke who also bought the Hoptons' Yoxford estate with Cockfield Hall. This became the seat of his son, also Robert, from 1602. From that date Blythburgh's major landowner lived outside the parish. Later the estate passed to the Blois family through the marriages of Sir William Blois (1626-75).

In 1676 Blythburgh suffered a substantial fire and a number of inhabitants moved elsewhere. Very few buildings predating the fire now survive.

The Blyth navigation between Southwold and Halesworth was completed in 1761 and the drainage of the adjacent marshes, which started in the medieval period, continued apace. In 1785 a new turnpike road was built through the centre of the village with some of the remaining fabric of the priory being used in its foundations. In 1766 Bulcamp House of Industry, designed to house 400 paupers, was opened.

In the later post-medieval period Blythburgh's population rose rapidly, peaking in 1851 at 1,118 (a figure which including the workhouse). The Southwold Railway opened in 1879 and a hump-backed bridge was built to carry the main road over the tracks (located within the PDA although now demolished). The national rail network had an

adverse affect on river navigation so that by the start of the twentieth century commercial river traffic had ceased and the river allowed to flood back over the marshes downstream of Blythburgh (Mackley, 2001).

Documentary study conclusions

A.M. Breen, 2011 (see Appendix 1 for the full report)

The river Blyth was crossed by the bridge at Blythburgh as early as the twelfth century, if not before. The bridge and causeway leading to the bridge are mentioned in late twelfth century charters published in the cartulary and these charters were confirmed in the royal charter of Richard I published in Suckling's history. At the head of the causeway on the Bulcamp or northern side of the river there was at least one dwelling. The bridge has since been rebuilt but elements of the causeway may remain. Beyond the bridge on the northern side of the river all the former heath was enclosed in the late eighteenth century by Sir John Rous without resort to Parliament to obtain an act of enclosure. Sir John did obtain a highway diversion order in 1788 to close a road that ran through his park and to divert the road to the south. He also began to acquire all the lands on the northern side of the river and began to improve the drainage. His tenants or estate workers cut new ditches and set up river walls. The straightening of some ditches and drainage channels possible obscures evidence that they may have originally been cut at an earlier date.

At some point during the 20th century the flood defences on either side of the River Blyth, in the area east of the bridge have been allowed to fail. This has resulted in large areas of the former Sandpit Covert Marsh and Angel Marsh becoming tidal mudflats.

By 1761 the Blyth Navigation Commissioners had assumed responsibilities for repairs to Blyth Bridge. They also set up or repaired a bridge to the west crossing from Blythburgh to an area of marsh in Bulcamp. This second bridge is shown on a dated plan of 1812 (Fig. 6) and on a sketch map in the Isaac Johnson Collection but it is not shown on the 1841 tithe map (Fig. 7). It was one of a number of small bridges that formerly crossed the river between Blythburgh and Blyford Bridges as shown on a plan of the river dated 1753. Many of these bridges may not have been capable of bearing road traffic in the form of carts or heavier wagons. The Commissioners did not establish new river walls or set out a tow path as the traffic on the navigation was carried by wherry boats driven by sail.

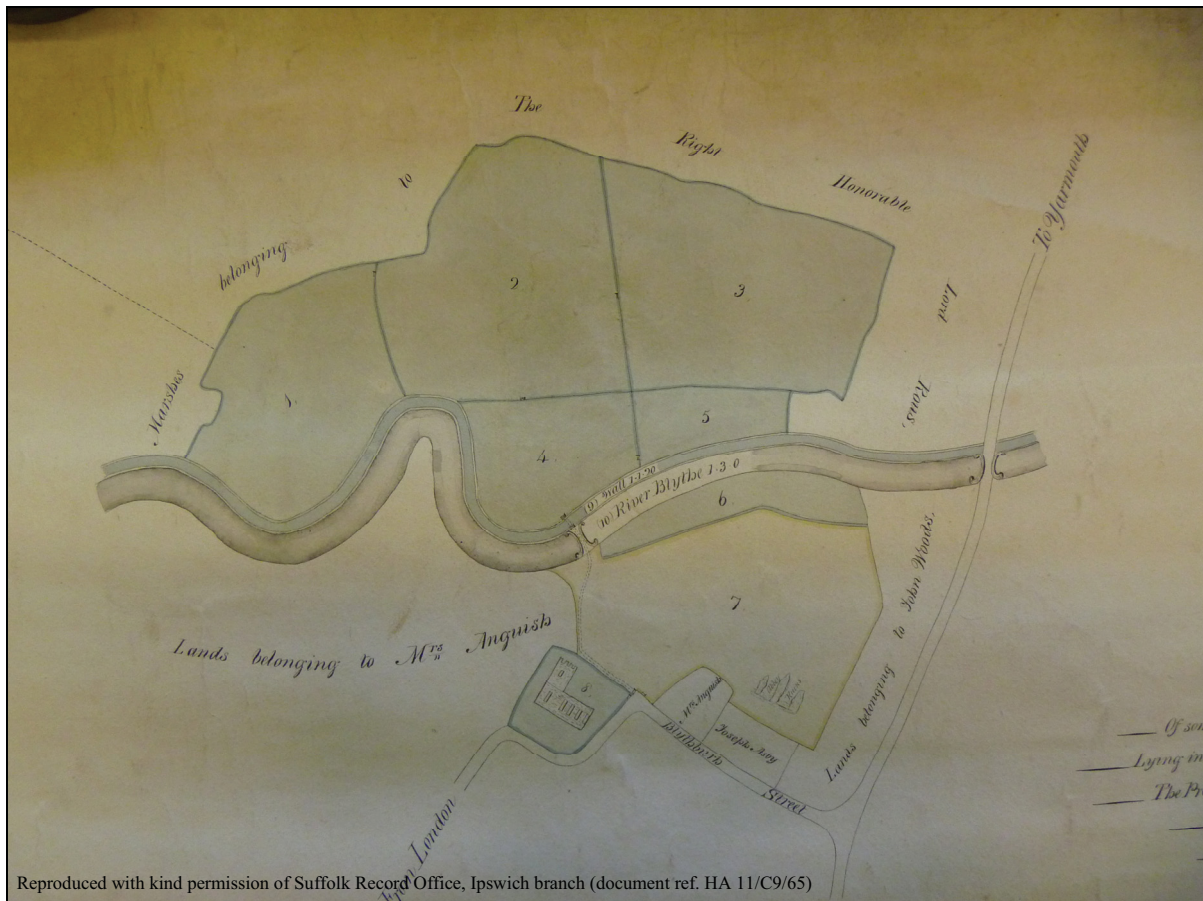


Figure 6. extract of plan dated 1812
(no scale)

The marsh lands to the south of the river were drained by irregular ditches possibly adapted from natural water courses. The date when these ditches were first cut is uncertain. In other areas where the land was drained in the eighteenth century the ditches appear to be cut in straight lines and in a regular pattern. This may suggest that the marsh at Blythburgh was enclosed and set out in the medieval period.

There is no evidence of buildings within the marsh itself. None of the ditches on either side of the river appear to relate to a watermill. There is no evidence of a quay or landing stage at Blythburgh.

On the southern side of the river the dominant manor was the manor of Blythburgh with Walberswick sometimes known as Blythburgh with Westwood. This manor controlled a large stretch of land from Wenhaston in the west to the coast. The manor held lordship over the river and its marshes and was prominent in the establishment of a harbour at Walberswick in the early medieval period. Blythburgh Priory was established as a cell of St Osyth in the twelfth century and though the lands may have been part of a former

Anglo Saxon minister site connected with East Anglian Royal household the focus of the former minister is more likely to have been at the site of the present parish church.



Figure 7. extract of the 1841 tithe map

Mapping Observations

The 1841 tithe map (Fig. 7) appears to indicate that the road line and the site of the bridge itself may have originally been further to the east. There are buildings marked to the west of the road on the 1841 map which are not dissimilar to a series of plots to the east of the present A12 trunk road. It is quite clear that the road has been turned to the west from a point roughly adjacent the White Hart, before running on a straight line to the present bridge site. The line of the trackway that provides access the east sides of the houses lying east of the A12 appears to mark the original line of the road running to the site of the bridge recorded in 1841. This realignment has already occurred by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, c. 1880 (Fig. 8). It may be related to the documented rebuilding of the bridge in 1851 which may have entailed the construction of the a new bridge on a site adjacent the existing bridge to allow it to continue in use during the construction phase, or it is possibly associated with the creation of the bridge over the Southwold Railway.

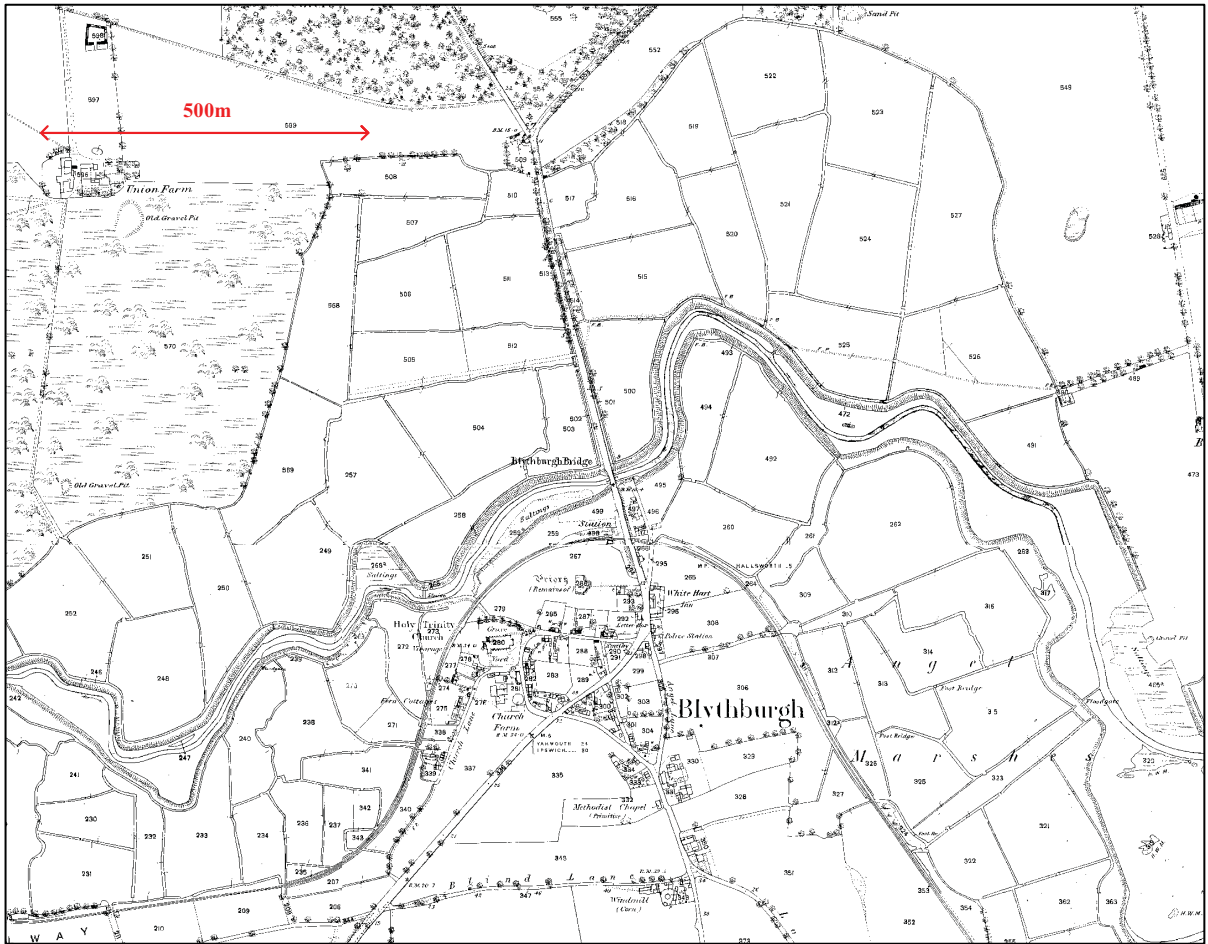


Figure 8. 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 scale sheet (rescaled extract)

3. Assessment of impacts and effects

The archaeological potential of the PDA

An examination of the Suffolk HER for the immediate area around the PDA has identified the findspot of a Neolithic polished axe although this on its own is not suggestive of significant settlement activity within the PDA during the prehistoric period. This would suggest a **low** potential for prehistoric activity.

A small amount of Roman material has been recovered within 500m of the PDA from sites in and around the present village of Blythburgh but this has been in the form of stray or residual finds with no actual features having been recorded. Despite the lack of features there is obviously Roman activity in the locality although there is no evidence for it having extended into the low-lying riverside areas suggesting a **low to medium** potential for encountering Roman remains within the PDA.

Blythburgh is the site of a significant and high status Anglo-Saxon settlement, as demonstrated by the presence of the tablet and stylii. It possessed an early Christian church, the tomb of a revered king, and was a possible Episcopal seat. It was also a possible port and it overlooked an important river crossing. The archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity has primarily come from the large body of finds recovered on the southern bank of the river, in the area of present village, but there is also a record of significant quantities Anglo-Saxon material having been recovered from the north bank (BLB 004). This may be a result of later dredging and redeposition of material but could be related to actual activity on the opposite bank to the main settlement. Additionally, the site of the battle of Bulcamp is unknown and could potentially be within PDA and the areas of the marsh and former marsh that lie either side of the PDA on the north bank of the river. Therefore, there is a **high** potential for encountering Anglo-Saxon remains within the PDA.

Settlement activity continues in and around Blythburgh throughout the medieval period and the post-medieval period. Again, much of this activity is on the raised area of land on which modern Blythburgh sits and the river crossing. Consequently, there is a **medium to high** potential for encountering Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains within the PDA.

Regional research framework

The potential archaeological information resulting from this project may offer the potential to address research priorities (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) such as the exploitation of waterside resources from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards.

Potential of preserved archaeological remains within the PDA

As discussed above there is a medium to high potential for archaeological material from the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods to be present within the PDA. Although it is extremely unlikely that actual settlement activity will be present there is the potential for evidence associated with the construction and maintenance of the causeway and possibly earlier bridge structures, particularly in the post-medieval period, as well as evidence for the exploitation of the marshes and riverside.

Assessment of the impact of the development on the archaeological resource

The potential for encountering earlier remains depends on the extent of actual groundwork that is proposed and the methods that may be employed in by the scheme to alleviate flooding on the A12.

If the proposed works involves simply raising the levels of the roadway and the embankment the potential will be relatively low but if works are proposed that are liable to affect buried deposits then consequently the potential impact on preserved remains will be correspondingly higher and mitigation strategies will need to be employed.

4. Mitigation measures

Any mitigation strategies that may be required will be entirely dependant on the nature of the proposed works. It is unlikely that any open area excavations will be required although continuous archaeological monitoring of any significant groundwork should be undertaken.

Consultation with the Suffolk County Council Planning Archaeologists should be at the earliest possible opportunity in order to ascertain what mitigation may be required. Archaeological investigations can have considerable time and cost implications.

5. Conclusions / Recommendations

Through an examination of the Suffolk HER and a map and documentary search, this DBA has set the PDA within its immediate archaeological landscape.

There is a medium to high potential for encountering archaeological remains within the PDA dating from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards as it is part of a historic route running north-south through the region making use of the lowest crossing point of the River Blyth and is situated immediately adjacent a known Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement.

As previously stated, it is not possible to make recommendations as regards the need for any further work without knowing precisely what works are being proposed. That said, based on the potential of the PDA, it is highly likely that some form of further archaeological work will be required. It is unlikely to involve any large scale investigations prior to the start of site works but would probably take the form of continuous archaeological monitoring of significant groundwork.

6. List of contributors and Acknowledgements

This project was funded and commissioned by ESE Highway Safety and Improvement. The desk based assessment was carried out by Mark Sommers, of SCCAS/FT, the documentary study by Anthony M. Breen, a freelance historical documentary researcher. The project was managed by Rhodri Gardner, Senior Project Officer, of SCCAS/FT.

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Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Appendix 1.

Documentary Study by A.M Breen (May 2011)

Introduction

The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Offices in Ipswich and Lowestoft. The main purpose of this research has been the 'collation and assessment of all cartographic sources relevant to the site to identify the siting of old boundaries, coastal/estuarine changes and earlier buildings'.

The area covered by this assessment spans both the northern and southern banks of the river Blyth. The land is mainly within the civil parish of Blythburgh, a parish that contains the hamlet of Bulcamp to the north of the river and the hamlet of Hinton to the southwest of the small town of Blythburgh. In terms of its ecclesiastic parish, Walberswick was formerly a chapelry of Blythburgh and it was only in 1412 that Roger Swelyngton, the then lord of the manor of Blythburgh obtained licence from the crown to grant to the priory of Blythburgh an 'acre of land lying within the hamlet of Walberswick ... for making a cemetery and a parish church on it for the use of the parishioners and inhabitants in the hamlet'. The assessment area also includes a small part of the civil parish of Wangford with Henham. Henham was a hamlet or township of Wangford and had no separate chapel of ease.

The drainage of marshland and enclosure of estuarine mudflats has a long history. In Suffolk substantial areas of marshland were drained by the priories at Butley, Snape and Woodbridge during the medieval period. Henry I (1100-1135) granted the church of Blythburgh to the Augustinian canons of St Osyth in Essex whose priory was established in 1121 and the dependent cell of the priory was established at Blythburgh by 1147. The parish church, even at the time of the Domesday survey of c. 1086, was an 'exceptionally well-endowed church, which held two carucates and had two dependent churches or chapels' and therefore it has been suggested that 'Blythburgh had been a minster church' in the Saxon period (Harper-Bill 1980). To the north of the river the priory of Wangford was a cell of the Cluniac priory of Thetford founded before the year 1160 and was endowed with gifts of land in Wangford, Reydon and 'Rissemere'. With priories dominating the lands on both sides of the river it is to be

expected that they had sufficient funds and resources to embark on an organised scheme of land-drainage and reclamation that would have been well advanced before the dissolution of these institutions at the end of the medieval period. This is not the case.

This report will consider the work of individual estates and corporate bodies who have been involved in land-drainage and reclamation as an appreciation of their part in the process informs the archaeological assessment of this area and extends the history of the area beyond cartographic sources in the form of maps and earlier surveys and extends back to some of the earliest written records that can be related to fixed points within any area.

At various points in the text of this report, the distinctive shape of marsh or meadow land drains and channels will be mentioned to emphasise the point that those to the west of the town of Blythburgh and formerly to the east in what is now Angel Marshes together with the areas of meadow and marsh to the north of the bridge in Bulcamp have irregular boundaries suggesting an early origin for their drainage.

The Manors

The manor of Blythburgh was granted by Henry I to the bishop of Norwich who exchanged it for Thorpe by Norwich with William de Cheney. Even before the end of the twelfth century records relating to the manor record its importance. The lands of the manor included not only all of Blythburgh and Walberswick but also substantial areas of land in Huntingfield and Cratfield. Amongst the manors privileges were the right of wreck at sea 'from Eycliffe juxta Southwolde' to the port of Dunwich and rights over the harbour at Walberswick. Instead of maintaining a bridge between Walberswick and Southwold, they established the ferry between the two. This manor was not granted to the priory. In 1367 Sir Robert de Swillington became the lord of the manor it was his son Sir Roger who obtained the licence to establish a cemetery and parish church at Walberswick. From Sir Roger's family the manor passed to Sir John Hopton whose family held the manor until 1585 when it was sold to Sir Robert Brooke. The widow of a later John Brooke married William Blois before 1660 and the manor remained with the Blois family, who lived at Yoxford, through to the twentieth century. The manor is named in some records as Blythburgh with Westwood. Westwood is only occasionally

mentioned and 'there seems to be some doubt as to whether this was ever held as a separate manor' (Copingier 1908).

Bulcamp or Bulchamp though a hamlet of Blythburgh was a separate manor held by Geoffrey (Galfridus) Capra during the reign of Richard I (1189-1199). For most of the medieval period it was in the hands of the Kerdeston family who also held the manor of Henham. In the Calendar of Patent rolls for 1378 there are references to a grant of free warren to William de Kerdeston for his lands in Bulcamp in a charter dated 25 April 1228 for the same right over his lands in Henham is a second charter dated 27 March 1267. The right of free warren allowed the lord of the manor to hunt over his lands and to take game. These charters may well represent the early originals of Henham Park. Before his death in 1652 this manor had passed to Sir John Rous of Henham. The Rous family, later earls of Stradbroke, who lived at Henham Hall first acquired the manor in 1538 and continue to own the park and estate whose boundaries are within this assessment area. The Rous family also obtained the lordship of Wangford in 1612. The manor of Wangford unlike the manor of Blythburgh had been granted to the priory in 1160 as part of its endowment. Though the Rous family owned the title to the lordships they did not hold all the lands in these hamlets but extended their land holdings in the late eighteenth century through the purchase of lands in Bulcamp and elsewhere. The acquisition of the title to these manors combined with subsequent purchases of other properties gave the family the power to enclose areas of common and waste without resort to parliament to obtain an act of enclosure.

Some extracts from manorial records are included in this report to emphasize their relevance to the study of the areas of land reclamation along the river Blyth. There are large collections of archival material for both the Henham estate and Blois family and only a small number of documents are quoted in this report.

Commissioners of Sewers

Before examining the cartographic sources it is necessary to consider the work of various statutory bodies whose work had or may have had an influence on land drainage and reclamation. Foremost amongst the statutory bodies were the commissioners of sewers. The work of the commissioners is described in the introduction to the catalogue of Commission of Sewers for the Hundreds of Blything, Mutford, Lothingland and Wangford held at the record office in Lowestoft:

'The earliest commissioners of Sewers were appointed by grant of the crown. Not until the reigns of Henry IV, Edward IV and Henry VII were commissions founded by Statute enacted by parliament. The duties of the Commissioners of Sewers were to prevent inundation by the sea, streams or rivers. Surveys were conducted of: sea banks, walls, streams, ditches, banks, gutters, sewers, bridges, causeways, mills, mill dams, flood gates, ponds, lock and weirs. The Commissioners could then order them to be repaired, reformed, erected or removed. They were empowered to make laws and ordinances for carrying out such repairs etc, and could assess and levy such rates as they needed for these purposes. They had powers to distrain and punish those who failed to carry out their decrees and could sell the lands of those failing to pay their rates. They appointed their own officers such as surveyors, rate collectors, bailiffs and lock/bridge keepers etc.

A Statute under the Great Seal of 23 January 1786 decreed the formation of a Commission of Sewers for the Hundreds of Blything, Mutford, Lothingland and Wangford. The first session of sewers was held at Benacre on 17 March 1786'.

The earliest record of this commission is their minute book covering the years 1786-1792 (ref. SROL 687/1). This book was originally deposited at the Norfolk Record Office as part of the East Anglia Water archive. The work of the commission in relation to Lothingland was superseded by that of Oulton, Carlton Colville and Barnby Drainage Board established in 1907 and the later records of the earlier commission covering in the years 1786-1887 are in that collection (ref. SROL 336/1). There are no items specifically indexed as relating to the River Blyth in this second collection. A separate River Blyth Internal Land drainage Board was established only in 1930 (ref. SROL 686).

At their meeting held on 28 June 1786, the commissioners appointed the land surveyor Isaac Lenny of Toft Monks, Norfolk 'to make a survey of the level of Marshes lying in the several parishes of Benacre, Kessingland, Gisleham, Rushmere and Henstead ... liable to be assessed towards defraying the charge of such works of sewers as are necessary to be done in the said Level of Marshes for draining the same and to make a Plan thereof'. The commissioners also set out various bye-laws relating to these marshes and appointed dike reeves to supervise their enforcement. The work of the commission was extended to Barsham marshes 'lying between the mills called Wangford Mills in the parish of Mettingham ... and a certain staithe called the Common Staithe situated in the parish of Beccles' in March 1789. The staithe was a small quay used to land goods.

Then in March 1808 they received a petition from the 'proprietors of marshes in the several Parishes of Easton, South Cove, Reydon and Frostenden ... requesting that the commissioners would execute the Commission of Sewers upon a level of marshes in those parishes' and again dike reeves were appointed for each parish. The work of the commission does not appear to have extended into the river Blyth, as there are no references to the appointment of dike reeves for the parishes adjoining the river and the principal landowners the Rous family, late earls of Stradbroke at Henham and the members Blois family at Blythburgh were not commissioners for this body and took no active part in its work.

The marshlands under the control of the commissioners take a distinct form. Those along the Hundred River are drained with a series of mainly straight ditches and drains. This is also evident at the Easton, Pottersbridge and Smear marshes from Frostenden to Easton Broad again areas drained by the commission.

The Borough of Southwold

The Borough of Southwold a separate authority first incorporated under a royal charter in 1489. The borough owned the corporation marshes controlled by the borough's fen reeves. The records of their work covering the years 1661-1839 are in the Southwold Borough Archives at Lowestoft (ref. 491/14A). These have not been examined for this report however the marshes are mentioned in documents in the Blyth Navigation archives also at Lowestoft.

River Blyth Navigation Commissioners

The extensive collection of the Navigation Commissioners records is held at the Suffolk Record Office in Lowestoft. The act for making the River Blyth navigable from Halesworth Bridge into the Haven of Southwold received Royal assent on 1 April 1757 and the first vessels went up to Halesworth in July 1761. Though a surveyor, Edward Langley, was appointed to supervise all the works, his original plans and drawings are not in the present archive collection (ref. SROL 683). The commissioners' minute books have survived from the very first meeting held in June 1757. Amongst the navigation records there is a report on the River Blyth and flooding dated 28 March 1927. An account of the navigation has been published in Rachel Lawrence's 'Southwold River – Georgian Life in the Blyth Valley'.

There is no index to the minute book and it lacks any marginal glosses that might direct the reader to specific points of interest. The books pages are number 1-513 (ref. SROL 683/1).

Langley prepared estimations of the costs the navigation for the commissioners and these are recorded in their minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 1759 (pages 30-33). At various points there are references 'To scour and widen the old River' in places such as 'from Blythborough bridge to the bottom of Dr Raymond's high Land beyond his salt marshes and make it 30 foot top 20 bottom and 6 deep from Level Soil'. In other places there was a need to make a 'new cut ... to join the strait river' and 'make it 26 foot top 20 bottom and 6 foot deep'. There were also works to build new bridges such as 'To build a Bridge into Sir Charles Blois's Marsh £85' and specific plans had been prepared for these works. The total cost of the work was £3000. There is no reference to rebuilding of Blythburgh Bridge in these estimates.

The reference to Sir Charles Blois's bridge was to a smaller bridge that crossed into his marsh. At a meeting held on 2 April 1760 it was recorded that the Revd Mr Ralph Blois, Sir Charles' heir had proposed 'that in order to avoid the expence of building the bridge ... over the river at Blythburgh, into a marsh of him the said Mr Blois, and lately of Sir Charles Blois Baronet deceased, on the North side of the said river, and to accommodate this navigation, he was ready and willing to dispose of the said Marsh, if the said commissioners could not provide him a way to come at the same without making the said Bridge'. It was proposed that the commissioners should 'buy a marsh, or part thereof belonging to Bicket widow, and lying between the said Mr Blois's marsh and Blythburgh Dam in order to make a way thro' the same for the conveniency of the said Mr Blois' (pages 73-74). The widow was not entitled to sell the marsh and the decision on further work was postponed to a later meeting. At the further meeting held on 30 April 1760 it was reported the tenant of the marsh had informed the commissioners 'that if the said marsh was sold, it would render the other part of his farm of very little value, and that they were convinced of the truth thereof, and therefore thought it very unreasonable to desire the said Mr Blois to part from the same, and that they agreed a Bridge ought to be put up for the said Mr Blois with all convenient speed' (page 77).

At a further meeting held on 2 January 1760 an 'estimate of the charges of repairing Blythborow Bridge' were received stipulating works costing a total of £61 16s and an application was made to the county Quarter Sessions for money for this work (pages 58-59). Most of the estimated costs were for timber for cross beams 'croas beams', joists 'joasts' and braces 'brases' with smaller sums spent on iron straps 'storops' and for gravel.

In September 1760 further estimates for 'works necessary from Blythburgh Bridge down to Reed Island' are described including 'To make a new cut from the 2nd turn across Sir John Rous's marsh to a creek above Pewit Island'. At the same meeting a 'design for altering Blythburgh Bridge so as to admit the craft to pass under it' was submitted and this was accepted by the commissioners (page 97).

At a further meeting held on 12 January 1761 the minutes note that the treasurer for the division of the county's quarter sessions had order the payment of the £61 16s as the bridge was now 'sufficiently repaired and amended and they the said commissioners engaging to keep the same in such good repair at all times hereafter without the aid and assistance of this court' (page 111). The corresponding records of the Quarter Sessions are held at Ipswich. The Quarter Sessions were responsible for the administration of the county until the establishment of the county councils in 1888.

Though the minutes contain references to river walls being cut and tenants being compensated for the damage, there is no indication of a general policy of building of river walls or the repairing existing walls. There was no continuous tow path for this navigation as the goods conveyed between Halesworth and Southwold were transported by wherry boats driven by sail.

The collection contains records relating to the effect of the navigation on the channel of the river and on its depth at Southwold. In a petition presented to parliament in 1844 Patrick Stead of Halesworth noted that as a result of the 'Act for making the river Blyth navigable ... the river was greatly enlarged, deepened, and improved, adding much back-water and the first two locks, rising 10 feet, were erected, ... in the bed of the old river, through which the tide now naturally ebbs and flows, but in a field of rising ground which was purchased and excavated for the purpose by the Commissioners of the river Blyth in 1760'.

He further stated that Harbour of Southwold was 'getting more shallow, owing to the embankment of Salt marshes, over which the tide used to flow' and that 'By these changes the influx of the tide water has been diminished, and consequently the efflux, thereby diminishing the velocity of the current'. He estimated that about 1100 acres of ground over which the tide used to flow had been 'embanked; of these about 550 acres are ancient embankments, 200 were embanked about 50 years since, 100 in 1780, 100 in 1804, 100 in 1807, and 43 acres in 1818' (ref. 683/36). This probably refers to the marshes at Southwold.

In their analysis of Patrick Stead's evidence the commissioners stated that Patrick Stead was a 'merchant and malster at Halesworth' who had 'traded to Southwold since 1817' and he had 'made serious complaints for many years against the state of Southwold Harbour'. They also commented on other witnesses to the Tidal Harbour Commissioners such as Blandon William a wherryman then 76 years old who had traded '64 years on the river' complained that the 'embanking of Bulcamp and Blythbro' saltings 500 acres in extent formerly covered by water and which he has often crossed in his boat current now much less rapid' (ref. 683/39). There are further details of the height of tides at the bridge in this report.

There is a Photostat copy of the 'Report on River Blyth and Flooding of London-Yarmouth Road' dated 28 March 1927 in this collection. The report was the work of the civil engineer a Havelock Case and was commissioned following local flooding to the Blythburgh Bridge in January 1927. He mentions in his report earlier high tides such as that of December 1921 when the 'highest tide known to local inhabitants ... reached a level of 9 feet above O.D'. He considered three alternative measures beginning with raising the road levels to deal with the flooding at Blythburgh Bridge, raising the embankments along the river or establishing a tidal dam and sluice at Southwold. He had examined the walls and noted that walls below the bridge were 'not in a very good condition, in places I found longitudinal and other cracks due no doubt partly to poor character of material (largely peat and silt I am informed) of which they are composed and partly to shrinkage during dry weather'. He further commented that 'Judging from the debris from the breach near Blythburgh Bridge, the material of which the walls have been formed is not of the best description of clay, but largely consisting of peat'. Though plans are mentioned in the report these are not copied in this Photostat version (ref. 683/40).

In relation to the wider landscape as shown on modern Ordnance Survey maps parts of the river labelled 'new cut' are a result of the work of the navigation. At Wenhaston to the west of Blythburgh the parish boundary to the north follows former course of the river. Again the drains are mainly set at a right angle to the river suggesting that they were cut after the Navigation had been completed.

Estate Management

In her book Rachel Lawrence noted that work on embanking the river and land drainage at Henham had started as early as 1747 when Sir John Rous had a sluice made at Wolsey Bridge in order to control the River Wang and reclaim the land on either side. His son, also Sir John Rous followed his example. After his return to Henham in 1773 'Following purchase of land which increased his holdings at Bulcamp, Rous carried through the embankment of the Bulcamp marshes flanking both sides of the road from Blythburgh Bridge to Henham. The undertaking was expensive. To buy the land he borrowed £500 ... but then had to find £500 for marsh walling which did not include sluices and gates. Anxiously working it all out he reckoned that his rents would be improved by £67 a year'. 'The work of building marsh walls and making sluices and dikes continued unremittingly each year but the battle against the tidal river was not easy one. Year after year there were breaches in the walls which had to be repaired walls had to be raised higher, topped and sided; dikes had to be 'bottomfied'. 'Thomas Woods was in charge of this heavy work on the estate – work that seems to have reached a peak about 1806-1808'. Sir John Rous made major investments to form the Blyth Navigation and both Sir Johns served as commissioners of the navigation. Much of the marsh at Bulcamp is drained with straight lines that run directly to the river.

The Blois family living at Yoxford his not share Sir John Rous interests in land drainage. Sir Charles Blois, the second baronet, who had begun the drainage of the Westwood Marsh in 1742, died in 1760 and two others baronets succeeded him in rapid succession before the title and estates passed to Sir John Blois in 1762. Sir John supported some land drainage at Mickfield marshes and an area 22 acres above Blythburgh bridge. His main efforts were at 'the salt marshes opposite Reydon quay, now all called Tinker's Marshes. Here marsh walls were erected to check the flooding river in similar fashion to the embankments built on the Rous marshes; and the concession made to Thomas Taylor in 1809 permitting him to plough Tinker's marshes

despite the danger of inundation by the river reflects again the greed for corn land at that date'. Tinker's Marshes are drained by straight ditches.

Bulcamp

The lands in Bulcamp were acquired by the Henham estate at various dates. The records of these acquisitions are in a solicitor's collection. The catalogue describes the documents in their various bundles of deeds listing them under separate headings gathered from the original labels used by the solicitors. The catalogue describes the documents in each bundle in some detail and none of the original records have been examined for this report, however the records are not grouped together and arranged by place-name so records relating to Bulcamp are scattered through the collection.

The deeds for the freehold estate of George Bitton in Bulcamp begin with the will of John Handy of Bulcamp dated 31 March 1671. The Henham estate purchased the land on 17 November 1779 described as 'two messuages, a malthouse, barn, two stables, two gardens, orchard, 30 acres of land, 6 acres of pasture and 6 acres of meadow in Bulcamp, Holton and Halesworth' (ref. HB26/412/22-39). The description of the property is not precise and there is little value in examining the original documents. Further lands described in a second bundle were purchased on the same day. The bundle includes documents from 1691 for a property in Bulcamp 'adjoining the King's Highway from Henham Hall to Blythburgh and four closes belonging thereto, and a messuage' (ref. HB26/412/40-52).

The next piece purchased on 24 January 1786 is described as three roods and a cottage 'abutting the King's highway from Blythburgh to Southwold'. The deeds cover the period 1736-1786 (ref. HB26/412/60-62).

Further lands were acquired on 5 April 1790 described in a lease of 1606 as 'tenement with barn, hempland, orchard, hard lands adjoining, two small meadows late Amysses 7 acres in Bulcamp, adjoining the way from Blythburgh to Halesworth a piece of pasture adjoining 4 acres ... next to ploughed lands called Bulcamp Park, a close called Pynnes Close, 16 acres adjoining the way from Southwold to Halesworth and the former Bulcamp Common'. The final document in this bundle is dated 1729 (ref. HB26/412/127-148). Again on the same day further land was acquired described in 1778 as closes of arable, meadow and pasture with barn. Meadow and marsh grounds

248 acres 3 roods 17 perches ... all in Bulcamp' (ref. HB 26/412/161-190). The date of the earliest document in the second bundle is dated 1702.

There are just two documents dated 1762-1805 in the bundle relating to a piece of meadow described as 'freehold meadow or marsh, called Long Spong 1 acres 1 rood 13 perches'... 'adjoining the highway from Halesworth to Southwold' (ref. HB 26/412/239-240).

The next bundle covers the dates 1670 to 1764. It relates various to freehold lands described in 1670 as 'two closes of land and pasture called Pynnes ... 16 acres'. Further lands were added to this holding including copyhold land held of the manors of Blythburgh late Priory and Blythburgh with Walberswick. The priory's lands were described in 1751 as 'one rood of marsh in Bulcamp containing 4 acres and parcel of pasture one acre'. Those lands belonging to the manor of Blythburgh with Walberswick are described in 1751 as 'two marshes called Feather Check 20 ½ acres in Bulcamp'. Other lands in Blythburgh were described in the sale agreement of 1762 as 'marsh lands with a wall ... adjoining the highway there called Blythburgh Dam'. Sir John Rous was admitted to these lands as a copyholder in 1764 (HB 26/412/363-402). Sir John had acquired land called Kozens Park in 1760 (ref. HB 26/412/659-662) and a piece 'between Bulcamp Walk and the highway from Beccles to Blythburgh' in 1761 (ref. HB 26/412/679-686). The final pre 1800 bundle of deeds relate to a cottage purchased in 1784 (ref. HB 26/412/771-775).

The Henham estate acquired further land in Bulcamp in 1829. In a deed of 1725 the property was described as the messuage called Brooks and the lands included 'a wood called Syers', Hulver Pightle, 20 acres of fen or marsh ground adjoin Abbots Meadow and 'a way from the 20 acres to Wrens Parke' together with other pieces adjoining 'Bulcamp Common'. Again the property included elements of copyhold land held of the manor of Blythburgh Priory (ref. HB 26/412/754-770).

Manorial Documents

Copinger in his description of the manor of Blythburgh Priory states that when the manor was acquired by Sir Arthur Hopton in 1538 'the main manor in the parish was incorporated with it - extended of Thorington, Bramfield, Westhall, Halesworth, Chedeston, Bulcamp, Blythford, Wenhaston, Hinton, Walberswick, Linstead, Sotherton,

Holton and Mells in Wenhaston'. This is an unusual arrangement for a manor to own lands in several parishes. The same distribution of lands over several parishes is evident in a rental of the manor of Blythburgh Priory dated 1412 (ref. HA 30/314/5). For convenience the clerk who prepared the rentals list all the properties under their respective parishes or townships arranged in alphabetical order. The marginal glosses name 58 separate parishes or townships stretching from Rushmere near Ipswich to Haddiscoe and Great Yarmouth in Norfolk. The entries for Blythburgh are further subdivided under the separate streets beginning with 'Briggestreete' and a piece of meadow next to the bridge. Various pieces of pasture and alder grove are mentioned with individual properties in 'Pekolysfen' and another piece called 'Preowrs Gnolle'. Pekolys had owned a tenement in the 'street from church porch towards Walberswick'. Outside the town various plots of land are described 'Resshmere' or 'Bromesmere', but the overall impression is that Priory and its tenants did not hold significant areas of the marshland surrounding the town. The next list in the rental is for Bulcamp divided between the properties on the west part of the bridge beginning with a parcel of land at the head of the causeway. Various pieces of meadow are described 'on the part of the north' in 'Shermer', 'Stoneysaker' and 'Pochefen' but the area appears to be relatively small. Under the marginal gloss 'Bregge' a marsh called 'Nelisfen' is mentioned but that is the only specific reference to a marsh. There are no references to salt pans, quays, or marsh walls amongst the entries.

The cartulary containing the original charters granting lands to the priory has been published (Harper-Bill 1980). The charters are arranged in chronological order under their respective parishes or township. In a charter relating to lands in Bulcamp dated to 1209-1243 the former tenant is named as Aubrey Hulverheved and her lands abutted on the common heath of William de Kerdistone towards the east. Kerdistone was the then lord of the manors of Bulcamp and of Henham and his heath was Bulcamp Common. This charter links the property to that acquired by the Henham estate in 1829 that included 'Hulver Pightle'. In 1829 it was then still part of the possessions of the manor of Blythburgh Priory.

According to the antiquarian Alfred Suckling the tenants of the manor of Blythburgh before 1201 had been 'enjoined to keep – Walberswick bridge – which had long been demolished – in good repair; as well as the common high-way for foot and horse at Blythburgh'. The earliest charters, recorded in the cartulary, for Bulcamp relates to a

messuage, which is a house, at the head of the causeway of the bridge of Blythburgh 'ad capud calcite pontis Blybur'. The charter is undated but the grantor was the same Geoffrey Capra who was granted the lordship of the manor in the reign of Richard I and his charter is therefore dated as 'Late twelfth-early thirteenth century'. The charters mention 'Pokesfen' 'Schiremor' or Siremor' that match the same place names given in the rental of 1412. The grants by Geoffrey Capra were before 1199 as the antiquarian Alfred Suckling quotes in full a charter of Richard I confirming all the earlier grants to the abbey. These included Geoffrey Capra's grants of lands at Bulcamp. In another charter confirmed by Geoffrey it states that one head of 'Syremor' abutted on the wood of Bulcamp and the other head on the great marsh and one acre of the same marsh that lies next to the turbary (peat cutting) that was Gwarinus the son of Alured held towards the west under the wood of Bulcamp'.

Though these records deserve further analysis it is reasonable to suggest that the possession of the manor of Blythburgh Priory were accumulated from several donations and not the possession of any earlier manor.

There is no published cartulary of the possessions of Wangford Priory. A manuscript book contains transcript of a number of the priory's charters together with extracts from the manorial court rolls relating to lands cover the period from 1277 to 1525 (ref. HA 11/C1/11). From 1484 onwards the names of the parishes are entered a marginal rubric against each entry. The only references to marsh land appear in relation to marsh along the river Wang.

Though Walberswick was part of the manor of Blythburgh there is a separate extent describing the lands in hamlet dated 1583 (ref. HA 30/50/22/10.16). The surveyor was anxious to emphasize the manors rights over the harbour and haven. In an entry written in Latin he states that the little boats 'navicule' 'of the town of Dunwiche had licence of the lord of the manor of Blithbrugh of introit and exit from time out of memory of man'. He then described the river in English as 'There dothe runne from Blithburghe bridge into the mayne sea through the sayde haven one channel or ryver of water which is the lords severall ryver of his mannor called Blithburghe ryver within which river all the shippes and boates of Walberswick & Southwolde doe rest in harbour during the time of there abode there which river doth lye wholly between the londes of the fee of the lorde of Blithburghe and Westwood on the southe and the lands of the fee of the saide

lorde of Blithburghe and Westwood for the most parte on the north'. The description continues with 'And one other crick or channel of water extendeth from the saide haven through the growndes of the saide mannor of Westwood and of the saide mannor of Blithburghe for the most parte to the towne of Dunwiche for passage of the shippes'. The manor's rights over the channel, harbour and river were reiterated in numerous charters and letters patent such as that record in 1409 in the Calendar of Patent rolls.

The lord of Blithburgh also maintained the ferry boats from 'time out of minde of man' over the river Blyth and the 'channell that runneth from the haven to Dunwich'. The description finishes with the new quay 'buylded upon the lords soil of the sayd mannors' but the 'aforesayd is made repayred & amended from tyme to tyme only at the chardge of the inhabitants'. The lands are described under the then tenants. There is a separate headings for the 'marsh on the north part of the town of Walberswick and with its territory' and for the 'southern Marsh of Walberswick'. These descriptions begin with the 'Common Marsh lying between the several Lord's rivers running from the bridge of Blitheburgh towards the town'. This was held by the lord of the manor and his tenants only held marsh variously described as Copdale, Haggesen, Ottersfen Cromersfen and Kettells fen 'not as copyhold but as tenants of the demesne'.

The description of the marsh to the north of Walberswick suggests that it was in the area of the present Robinson's Marsh and this area is drained by irregular lines of ditches.

There is a separate survey or extent, written in Latin, for both the manors of Blythburgh and Walberswick together with the manor of Blythburgh Priory (ref. HA 30/50/22/10.9). In this survey dated 1629-1673 the lands is described under the then tenants beginning with the tenants of Blythburgh. Amongst these Thomas Lawson held two acres of marsh 'one piece of land called Upland with a certain way called a Causey' and Henry Barrow held 'one piece of marsh containing nine acres lying in Blythburgh and one salt marsh containing two acres in Blythburgh'. William and Richard Whincop held 'one alder grove as it lies between the close or pightles called the Town Close and the marsh late William Blett on the east and abuts on the pightle formerly John Haven towards the south and on the meadow called Hall meadow towards the north'. They also held 'one marsh or Le Fenn enclosed containing five acres' surrounded by further pieces of marsh to the south and west and a salt marsh in Blythbrugh not further described. In this

survey Charles Humfrevile gentleman held 'one close called the Angell Close' described as being in the fields of Blythburgh together with marshland that is not further described. Thomas Tyers held other pieces of marsh called Fetherclose, Fennyard and Fether Check. Feather Check became part of the Henham estate in 1827.

The entries for Blythburgh Priory in the same survey are of interest. John Lilly held meadows marsh and rush in Blythburgh and Bulcamp together with 'two pieces of meadow and one piece of marsh with a small piece of reed bed lying together in Blythburgh' and 'one other piece of marsh reed and rush bed as it is now divided and separated in three pieces with ditches and trenches there'. He also held a piece next to the prior's mill. The mill was not a watermill but a windmill then in the possession of Robert Baldwin who held 'five roods of land with a wind mill built on it with a meadow in Blythburgh'.

The manorial court rolls for the manor of Blythburgh Priory begin in 1511 and the rolls of the manor of Blythburgh with Walberswick begin with a single roll of 1304 and then there are rolls for 1463, 1474 and 1487 until a more or less continuous series of rolls and later court books through to the twentieth century. Though the manorial records can be used to identify earlier owners and occupiers of the marsh, they are unlikely to offer many additional details as to the date of the enclosing of marshland. As earlier as 1299 the Patent Rolls record William de Ormesby and William Haward were sent to enquire 'who dug up and carried away the land and pasture of Robert son of Roger at Bliburgh and Waleberwyk ... while he was in Scotland on the king's service ... so that he entirely lost its use fruit and profit by the inundation of water of the sea there'

Blythburgh Bridge

According to an account of the county bridges made at the Michaelmas quarter sessions held at Ipswich in 1651, the jury stated under oath that 'the Priors of Blythburgh made and sustain the cost of the bridge of Blythburgh for carriages, horse and pedestrians for the reason that they held the land on both sides of the same bridge and that the predecessor of the said priors from time out of memory had done the same' (ref. HA1/BB/3). With the dissolution of the priory the responsibility for bridge repair passed to the new owners of the land.

Despite the opinion expressed in 1651 at the quarter sessions held at Beccles on 28 April 1679 it was stated that 'Whereas the bridge commonly called Blyburgh Bridge is in great decay and of necessity must be repaired which said bridge is liable to be repaired at the charge of the whole county now and upon the account which hath been given unto us by the several all present entrusted for that purpose to view and survey the said bridge it is found that it will amount unto one hundred and forty pounds at least for the repair thereof'. The sessions ordered the chief constables of the hundreds to issue an order to their petty constables to collect a rate for the repairs (ref. B105/2/10). The bridge was then periodically repaired at the expense of the county until the responsibility passed to the Blyth Navigation Commission.

By the start of the middle of the nineteenth the bridge was again being repaired by the county and detailed plans were prepared in 1851 for proposed new bridge with 48 nine inch square beech piles being inserted below the cement shelf that formed the base for the retaining walls that held 36 foot the iron span (ref. B150/13/2).

Maps

The tithe map for Blythburgh has been copied for this report (ref. FDA31a/A1/1b - Fig. 1) and the lands are described in the separate apportionment. The tithe apportionment and map for Blythburgh dated 1841 are slightly unusual. In the apportionment, the agreement as to the commutation of the tithes to a fixed rent charge states that it was for 'the parish of Blythburgh ... except the hamlet of Bulchamp' (ref. FDA31a/1A/1a). There is no separate tithe map or award for Bulcamp. Nearly all of the remaining 2578 acres were subject to the payment of tithes. The areas not subject to the payment were the parish's roads. Even the churchyard and site of the former priory Abbey Field 119 and Abbey Meadow 148 were subject to tithes. The most tithe maps are numbered in a geographic sequence but on the map the numbering is arranged by ownership. This is evident in the apportionment where the numbering appears in an alphabetical sequence arranged by the names of the then owners with the cottages of Robert Ashley and Benjamin Aldis being numbered 1 and 2 followed by a list of the lands of Sir Charles Blois numbered 3-152 and then the lands of Frederick Barne 153-172 and so forth. Felix Raper's lands totalling 177 acres and numbered 221-257 included the 'Crossway' marshes 233-235, Ball's Marsh 237, the Angel Marshes 245-247, Long Marsh 248, Square Marsh 249 River Marsh 250, Narrow Marsh 251, Little, Great and End marshes numbered 255-257. He also owned Angel Field 242. He was



Figure 1. extract of the 1841 tithe map of Blythburgh

probably the successor of the title to the lands of Charles Humfrevile described in the seventeenth century survey. Joseph Wigg owned First, Second and Third Blythburgh Marsh numbered 312-314 part of his landholding of 231 acres. Other areas of marsh lacked any distinctive name such as Frederick Barne's salt marsh 167 or Nathaniel Micklethwaite's marsh 217. Some of these owners may have been copyholder and through tracing the references to them in the manorial court records it would be possible to link some of the landholding to earlier records.

The boundaries and ditches of the marshland either side of the road are irregular. Earlier records suggest that the marsh was enclosed and held by different owners from at least the medieval period onwards.

Estate Maps Henham

There is no tithe map for Henham which was not a separate parish but one of two townships together of the parish of Wangford, the other township was Wangford itself. At the dissolution of the monasteries Wangdord Priory was first granted to the duke of

Norfolk and then sold by his son to Sir John Rous, 'an ancestor of the earl of Stradbroke'. At the time of the Tithe Commutation Act, the earl was the 'impropriator of the tithes, and those dues from land belonging to him were commuted in 1840'. The lands that were titheable were entirely within the township of Wangford and are shown on a separate tithe map (ref. FDA271/A1/1b).

Though there is no tithe map for Henham, all the lands forming this township are shown on a earlier estates maps that cover the entire Henham Estates. Henham was estimated to contain 1500 acres of which 850 acres were park lands attached to Henham Hall. As lords of the manor the earls would have had the right to enclose areas of waste and common land without having to seek an act of enclosure. The main areas of former common as they relate to the assessment area had been enclosed in the main in the eighteenth century and are not shown as common on Joseph Hodskinson 1783 map of the County of Suffolk (Dymond 1972).

As the earls of Stradbroke have owned the estate from the mid sixteenth century to the present day, their archive collection has been deposited at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich includes maps and plans of the estate dating from 1699 through to the 1860's.

The first important collection of plans was the work of the surveyor R. Nicholson completed 1699 – 1701 (ref. HA 11/C9/19-22). On the map of Henham Hall (19) the southern boundary of the then 'Lower Park' was entirely within Henham and follows the line of the present parish and district authority boundary. The 'Lower Park Meadows' are now a lake within Henham Park. On another map dated 1701 (20) only the boundary of the park is shown and the area to the south and west in Bulcamp is marked as 'The Walke or Heath'. The heath is divided between the area marked 1 'That part of the Walke which is in Bulcamp' and 2 'That part of the Walke which is in Henham'. The boundary between the two areas is shown clearly and is the same as the current boundary. The initial 'Dns' stand for 'dominus' the Latin for lord and is used to show those areas of land held as demesne and not tenanted. A further map (22) shows the area of the present Norman Gwatkin Nature Reserve then 'Fools Water' with the 'Decoy Marsh' next to the river Wang.

There are a few separate maps in the collection including a plan of marsh and other lands in Blythburgh dated 1812 (ref. HA 11/C9/65 - Fig. 2). This plan appears to show a



Figure 2. extract of plan dated 1812

second bridge over the river Blyth to the west of Blythburgh Bridge and as this connects to the marsh land to the north, the bridge was probably that mentioned in the minutes of the navigation commissioners in 1760. The marsh land beyond may be the area of marsh above the bridge drained in the eighteenth century. Another undated plan showing the marsh to the north east of Wolsey Bridge and beyond the area of this assessment is of interest as it shows the parish boundary between Reydon and Bulcamp crossing the line of the present river Wang. This may have followed the course of the river beyond the draining of the marsh to the north (ref. HA 11/C9/7).

There are two rough plans in the Isaac Johnson collection that show the lands in Bulcamp to the east and west of Blythburgh Bridge. Both plans undated were produced in the earlier nineteenth century. On the plan of the lands to the west of the bridge there is an area of reed is set between the 'old' wall to the north and a new wall to the south. A track way now runs along the line of the new wall. The map of the lands to the east of the bridge shows the marsh that now forms sandpit Covert Marsh. Two of the ditches are marked as new ditches (ref. HD 11: 475 Bulcamp).



Figure 3. William Ling's plan of 1862

A complete set of plans of the estate was prepared in about 1800. The plans are contained in a single volume that was later re-used by John Stagoll for a second survey in the 1860's (ref. HA 11/C9/74). The plans of the second survey were drawn on the reverse sides of the plans of the earlier survey in order that they should correspond with the earlier maps. The plans include William Ling's 1862 plan of the farm, now Whitehouse Farm, at Bulcamp with the area of Sandpit Cover Marsh (Fig. 3). The earlier plan of about 1800 shows some minor changes in the alignment of the ditches and is similar to those shown on the rough plan in Isaac Johnson Collection. The plan 1865 plan showing the land to the west of the bridge has been annotated with later notes relating to correspondence with East Suffolk County Council in 1927 and 1930 and the earlier plan of the same area of 1800 has also been annotated to show changes to the road line made in 1932. The schedules that accompany these maps are largely uninteresting as most of the marsh and meadow lands have no specific names. The maps can be used to identify areas of land purchased in the eighteenth century. The volume includes two plans of Henham Park that appears to be little changed from this date apart from the excavation of the lake within the park.

The boundaries of the park were changed in the late eighteenth century. Sir John Rous first enclosed areas of the former heath and then obtained orders from the Quarter sessions to close or divert various roads. Only one of these diversion orders is relevant to the assessment area (276/20). It shows the line of the former road to Southwold that ran through the park was diverted to the south in 1788.

In a farm account book there is an undated rough plan drawn in pencil of the area of Sandpit Marsh (ref. HA 11/C27/4). The plan is of interest as it details defects in the wall and the level of water at high tide. It may have been drawn around 1921 recording the flooding of that year.

There are not as many early maps and plans of the lands to the south of the bridge apart one in the Isaac Johnson Collection (ref. HD11:475/33) that shows the marsh on the eastern side of the road and Angel Lands. This sketch map also shows the second bridge across the river Blyth to the west of Blythburgh Bridge. This second bridge is not shown on the Tithe map or later Ordnance Survey maps.

A narrow gauge railway from Halesworth through Blythburgh was first proposed in 1866 and though now closed a footpath to the east of Blythburgh Bridge follows the former railway line.

On a plan of the river Blyth taken by Benjamin Reeve and dated 1753 (ref. HB8/4/12) a number of additional bridges are shown acrossing the river Blyth between Blythburgh Bridge and Blyford Bridge. One is likely to be in the same position as the one that still carries a foot path to Bulcamp, the positions of the other bridges is unclear. The plan is in a solicitors' collection together with early subscriptions to the Blyth Navigation.

Conclusion

The river Blyth was crossed by the bridge at Blythburgh as early as the twelfth century, if not before. The bridge and causeway leading to the bridge are mentioned in late twelfth century charters published in the cartulary and these charter were confirmed in the royal charter of Richard I published in Suckling's history. At the head of the causeway on the Bulcamp or northern side of the river there was at least one dwelling. The bridge has since been rebuilt but elements of the causeway may remain. Beyond

the bridge on the northern side of the river all the former heath was enclosed in the late eighteenth century by Sir John Rous without resort to Parliament to obtain an act of enclosure. Sir John did obtain a highway diversion order in 1788 to close a road that ran through his park and to divert the road to the south. He also began to acquire all the lands on the northern side of the river and began to improve the drainage. His tenants or estate workers cut new ditches and set up river walls. The straightening of some ditches and drainage channels possibly obscures that they were originally cut at an earlier date. A large area of marsh to the east of the bridge has now reverted to mudflat. By 1761 the Blyth Navigation Commissioners had assumed responsibilities for repairs to Blyth Bridge. They also set up or repaired a bridge to the west crossing from Blythburgh to an area of marsh in Bulcamp. This second bridge shown on a dated plan of 1812 and on a sketch map in the Isaac Johnson Collection is not shown on the 1841 tithe map. It was one of a number of small bridges that formerly crossed the river between Blythburgh and Blyford Bridges as shown on a plan of the river dated 1753. Many of these bridges may not have been capable of bearing road traffic in the form of carts or heavier wagons. The Commissioners did not establish new river walls or set out a tow path as the traffic on the navigation was carried by wherry boats driven by sail. The marsh lands to the south of the river were drained by irregular ditches possibly adapted from natural water courses. The date when these ditches were first cut is uncertain. In other areas where the land was drained in the eighteenth century the ditches appear to be cut in straight lines and in a regular pattern. This may suggest that the marsh at Blythburgh was enclosed and set out in the medieval period. There is no evidence of buildings within the marsh itself. None of the ditches on either side of the river appear to relate to a watermill. There is no evidence of a quay or landing stage at Blythburgh.

On the southern side of the river the dominant manor was the manor of Blythburgh with Walberswick sometimes known as Blythburgh with Westwood. This manor controlled a large stretch of land from Wenhaston in the west to the coast. The manor held lordship over the river and its marshes and was prominent in the establishment of a harbour at Walberswick in the early medieval period. Blythburgh Priory was established as a cell of St Osyth in the twelfth century and though the lands may have been part of a former Anglo Saxon minister site connected with East Anglian Royal household the focus of the former minister is more likely to have been at the site of the present parish church.

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HA 11/C9/19 Map of Part of the Manor of Henham made for Sir John Rous by R. Nicholson 1699

HA 11/C9/20 Map of Part of the manor of Henham made for Sir John Rous by R. Nicholson 1701

HA 11/C9/21 Map of Bulcamp, Reydon, Frostenden and Uggeshall made for Sir John Rous by R. Nicholson 1699

HA 11/C9/22 Map of Rankins Farm and other lands in Henham made for Sir John Rous by R. Nicholson 1700

HA 11/C9/7 Rough Plan of land to the North East of Wolsey Bridge

HA 11/C9/65 Plan of Marsh and other lands in Blythburgh 1812 (*Reproduced with kind permission of Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich branch*)

HA11/C9/74 Book of Plans of the Henham Estate, originally compiled about 1800, possibly by William Peak. On the reverse side of these pages are a series of maps of the estate by John Stagoll, some corresponding to the maps on the opposite pages. (*Reproduced with kind permission of Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich branch*)

HA 11/C27/4 Rough Pencil Drawn plan of Sandpit Marsh drawn c. 1921 (File marked Blythburgh)

HD 11:475 Bulcamp Isaac Johnson Collection two rough plans of lands in Bulcamp c. 1800

Blythburgh

276/20 Suffolk County Council Highway Diversion Order, Bulcamp (Blythburgh) 1788

HD11:475/33 Rough Plan of lands in Blythburgh c 1800

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683/36 Patrick Stead's petitions, opinions and evidences about the effects of embanking
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A Havelock Case 28 March 1927

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D. P. Dymond ed 'The County of Suffolk Surveyed by Joseph Hodkinson ... 1783',
Suffolk Record Society, Vol XV, 1972

Rachel Lawrence 'Southwold river Georgian Life in the Blyth Valley', Suffolk Books
1990

Rev Alfred Suckling 'The History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk' Vol. II
Barsham Rectory Beccles 1848

Appendix 2.

Brief and Specification for Desk-Based Assessment

A12 Blythburgh Flood Alleviation Scheme

1. Background

- 1.1 A preliminary consultation has been made about the potential impact of flood alleviation works on the A12 at Blythburgh.
- 1.2 At this stage the precise extent of works is not defined but will involve substantially raising the flood defence on the east side of the A12 across the marshes and a new sluice at the bridge. The immediately affected area is around TM 451757 and below the 5m contour, on marine alluvial soils. The greatest impact will probably be at the north end where the defences will be extended.
- 1.3 The proposed works are located in area of high archaeological interest. On the south side of the bridge the substantial medieval settlement of Blythburgh certainly has middle Anglo-Saxon origins, probably including a trading function and so activity along the river edge. The bridge is certainly recorded from the early 16th century (HER ref BLB 026). Angel and Sandpit Covert Marshes were formerly reclaimed but have reverted to tidal mudflats in the last 100 years. To the north maps show settlement by the 17th century at Bulcamp (BLB 069) and medieval material has been found nearby (BLB 012).
- 1.4 As well as the potential impact on recorded sites the area has high potential for unrecorded archaeology, particularly on the margins of the dry land where there would also be potential for waterlogged preservation.
- 1.5 A detailed desk-based assessment of the known and potential archaeology for the proposed development area is required as the first part of a programme of archaeological work. This brief sets out the requirement for an initial stage of work comprising an archaeological desk-based assessment and walk-over survey.
- 1.6 This initial stage of assessment may lead to a further programme of pre-determination evaluation fieldwork (eg field survey, geophysical survey and trial-trenching). A further archaeological specification will be required for any subsequent stage of work from the desk-based assessment.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 To collate and assess the existing information regarding archaeological and historical remains within and adjacent to the proposed works. It is important that a sufficiently large area around the target area is studied in order to give adequate context; in this instance an area with boundaries 500m beyond the A12 bridge and marsh crossing will be the minimum appropriate. This information will also provide a guide to the impact of any extension of the proposed works within the 500m zone.
- 2.2 To identify any known archaeological sites which are of sufficient potential importance to require an outright constraint on development (i.e. those that will need preservation *in situ*).
- 2.3 To assess the potential for unrecorded archaeological sites within the works area.
- 2.4 To assess the potential for the use of particular investigative techniques in order to aid the formulation of any mitigation strategy.
- 2.5 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below. In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers,

or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards.

3. Specification

- 3.1 The assessment shall be undertaken by a professional team of field archaeologists. The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 3.2 Collation and assessment of the County Historic Environment Record (including background files and backlog data) to identify known sites and to assess the potential of the application area.
- 3.3 Collation and assessment of all cartographic sources relevant to the site to identify the siting of old boundaries, coastal/estuarine changes and any earlier buildings. Where possible copies must be included in the report.
- 3.4 Ascertain whether there are other constraints on the site (e.g. SSSI, County Wildlife Site, AONB, etc).
- 3.5 A site visit to assess surviving structures (bridge, defence banks etc) and potential for survival of deposits, particularly on the north side.

4. Report Requirements

- 4.1 The report shall be submitted 1 month from the end of fieldwork with a copy supplied to the County Historic Environment Record. A full digital copy of the report will be supplied to Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).
- 4.2 Assemble, summarise and order the available evidence.
- 4.3 Synthesise the evidence and place it in its local and/or regional context.
- 4.4 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence within the regional context. The conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, highlighting any research priorities, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 4.5 Comment on the reliability of the evidence and give an opinion on the necessity and scope for further assessment including field evaluation.
- 4.6 A comprehensive list of all sources consulted (with specific references) should be included.
- 4.7 An unbound hardcopy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within one month of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

Following acceptance, two hard copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.

- 4.8 The IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (1999) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.
- 4.9 The involvement of SCCAS/CT shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 SCCAS/CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 5.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given to SCCAS/CT one week in advance of its commencement.
- 5.3 Any variations to the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with SCCAS/CT prior to them being carried out.

References

- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: research agenda and strategy E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8*
- Glazebrook, J. 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1: a resource assessment. E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 3*

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This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.