

**St. Mary's Water Treatment Works,  
Canning Road,  
Lowestoft,  
Suffolk.  
LWT 190**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2012/200**

**Client: Essex & Suffolk Water**

Author: Linzi Everett

January 2013

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## HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2012/114

**Site Name:** St Mary's Water Treatment Works,  
Canning Road

**Planning Application No:** n/a (pre-determination)

**Date of Fieldwork:** 17th-18th December 2012

**Grid Reference:** TM 538 925

**Commissioned by:** Essex & Suffolk Water

**Curatorial Officer:** Jess Tipper

**Project Officer:** Linzi Everett

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1- 141101

**Site Code:** LWT 190

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

### 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.

Prepared By: Linzi Everett  
Date: January 2013

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner  
Position: Contracts Manager  
Date:  
Signed:



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## **Summary**

Eleven trenches were excavated on land at Canning Road, Lowestoft, prior to submitting a planning application to redevelop the site. Modern disturbance was evident throughout in varying degrees, including service trenches and large modern pits, some of which measured at least 2m in depth. No archaeological features were observed within the trenches, nor were any pre-modern finds recovered from the upcast spoil.





## **1. Introduction**

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A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land at Canning Road, Lowestoft (LWT 190; TM 5386 9247). The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') consisted of an area of c.1.15 hectares.

The evaluation was carried out prior to submission of a planning application for development, according to a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper (Appendix I), which outlined the manner of the fieldwork, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the archaeological methodology and risk assessment (Gardner, 2012).

The trial trenching was conducted by the Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) on the 17th-18th December 2012.

The site has been recorded with the County Historic Environment Record (HER) code LWT 190.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site is located on sandy drift deposits at a height of 3m-4m, on former floodplain immediately south of Lake Lothing and west of Kirkley Ham. The site now lies within a modern industrial estate.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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The sites potential was based on its location within the medieval and early post-medieval town core, an area of archaeological interest recorded in the Suffolk HER (LWT 040). Lake Lothing is recorded as the remnants of a possible medieval turbarry (LWT 154) and as such, there was believed to be the potential for the survival for palaeo-environmental deposits associated with the floodplain as well as evidence of medieval occupation and activity.

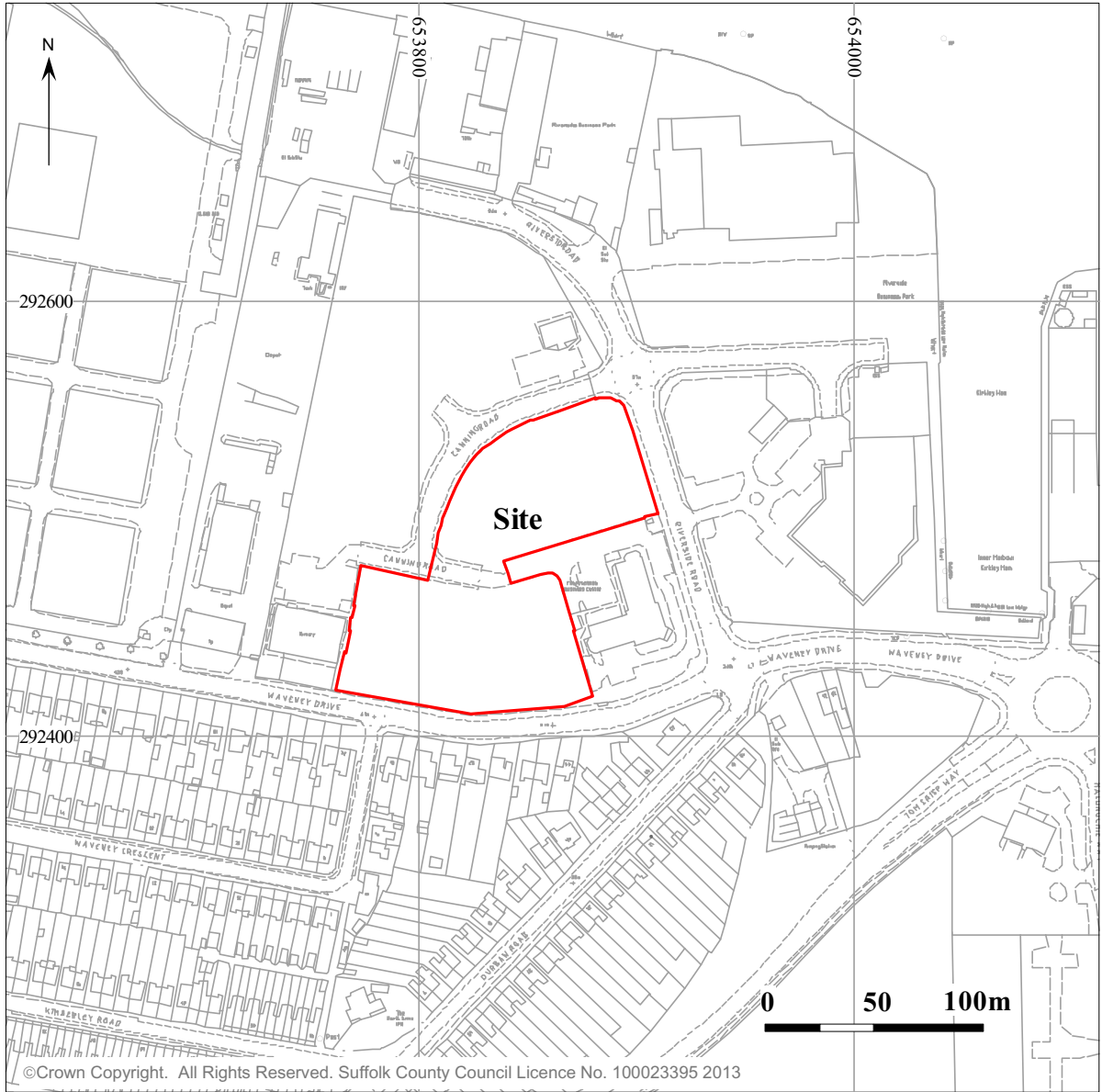
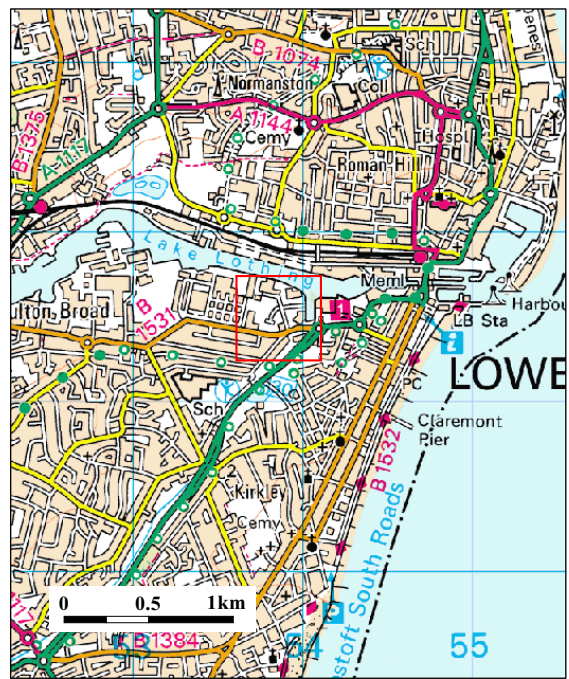


Figure 1. Site location

## **4. Methodology**

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Trenching was conducted using a mechanical digger equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to the trench. Overburden was removed by machine to reveal undisturbed natural subsoil and/or archaeological deposits.

The base of each trench was examined for features or finds of archaeological interest. The upcast soil was examined visually for any archaeological finds. Records were made of the position and length of trenches and the depths of deposit encountered.

The site has been given the Suffolk HER code LWT 190. All elements of the site archive are identified with this code. An OASIS record (for the Archaeological Data Service) has been initiated and the reference code suffolkc1- 141101 has been used for this project.

## **5. Results**

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Eleven trenches were excavated across the site (Fig. 2), the dimensions of which are recorded in Table 1. A total area of 556.2 square metres was excavated.

Topsoil consisted of a homogenous layer of dark brown sandy loam between 0.3m and 0.4m thick. The natural subsoil comprised a fine, pale brown mottled sand with areas of coarse orange sand.

A few metres into the excavation of Trench 1, a modern cable was observed at a depth of c.0.75m. The alignment of the trench was shifted east in order to avoid this. Modern disturbance was observed to some extent in every trench either as cut pits up to 2m deep (Trench 3, Trench 8, Trench 10) or in the case of Trench 11, where the area appeared to have been stripped of topsoil and modern building waste discarded.

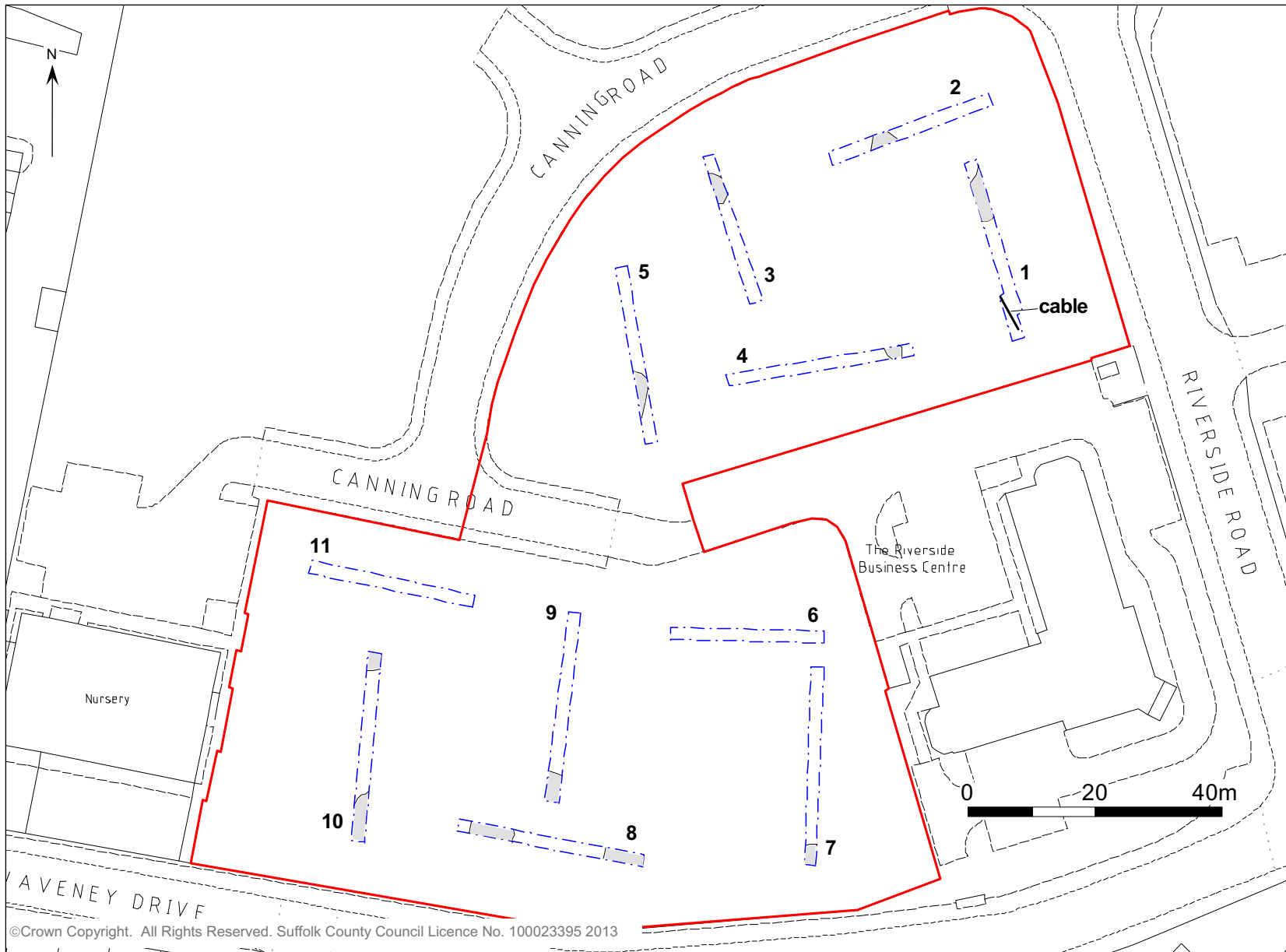


Figure 2. Location of trenches with modern disturbance shown in grey

Trench	Length	Area	Average depth	m OD
1	29m	52.2m <sup>2</sup>	0.8m	3.66
2	27m	48.6m <sup>2</sup>	0.8m	3.55
3	25m	45m <sup>2</sup>	0.8m	3.85
4	29m	52.2m <sup>2</sup>	0.6m	3.66
5	28m	50.4m <sup>2</sup>	0.4m	3.7
6	24m	43.2m <sup>2</sup>	0.4m	3.73
7	31m	55.8m <sup>2</sup>	0.5m	3.73
8	30m	54m <sup>2</sup>	1m	3.79
9	30m	54m <sup>2</sup>	0.5m	3.48
10	30m	54m <sup>2</sup>	0.75m	3.7
11	26m	46.8m <sup>2</sup>	0.3m	3.5

Table 1. Trench dimensions



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking NNW



Plate 2. Trench 8, looking ESE and showing collapsed loose modern pit



Where pits were present, their fill was humic, loose and contained a low density of 20th century glazed china and modern brick, but their function was not clear. No archaeological features were observed within the trenches, nor were any pre-modern artefacts recovered from the upcast spoil.

## 6. Discussion

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Despite the perceived potential for archaeology within the development area, no features or finds were recorded. Modern disturbance was evident across the entire trenched area, and the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1927 (Figure 3) shows industrial buildings covering the whole site. It was not clear what impact building and demolition of these works and more recently, landscaping associated with the new industrial estate, has had on the ground levels in this area. Earlier maps show that prior to the construction of the Raglan Works, which were built sometime between 1905 and 1927 for canning and preserving, the site was agricultural land (Figure 4). No foundations associated with the factory buildings, which are still standing in 1999 according to air photographs (Plate 3) were identified during the evaluation.

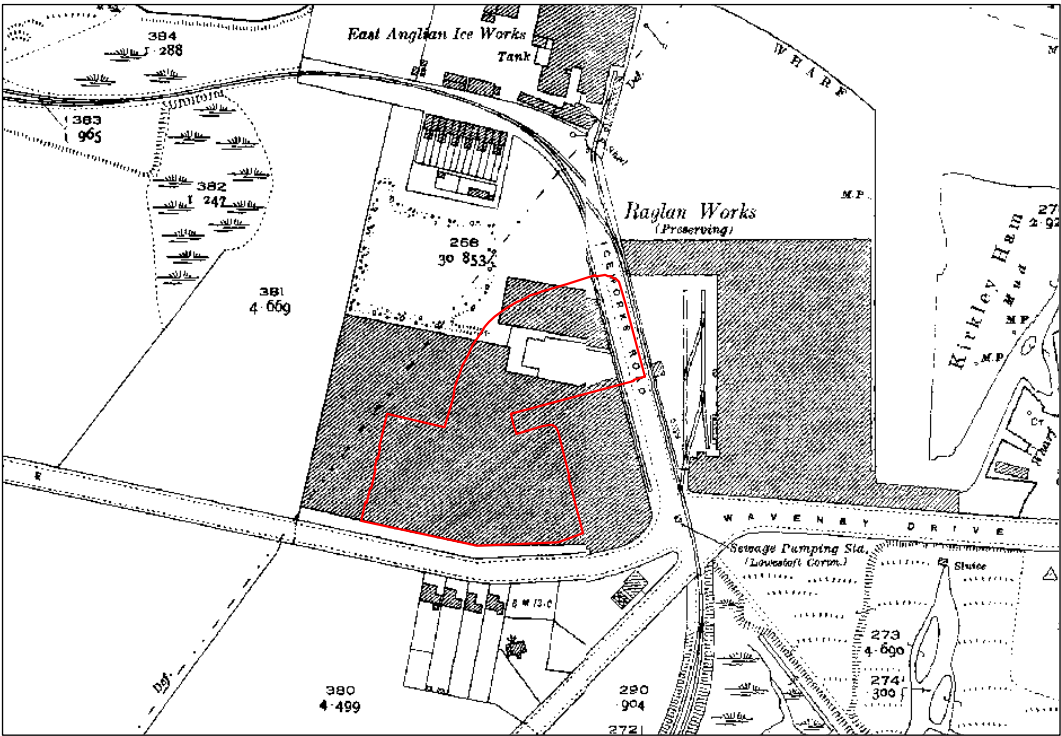


Figure 3. Extract from the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map with the site outline shown in red

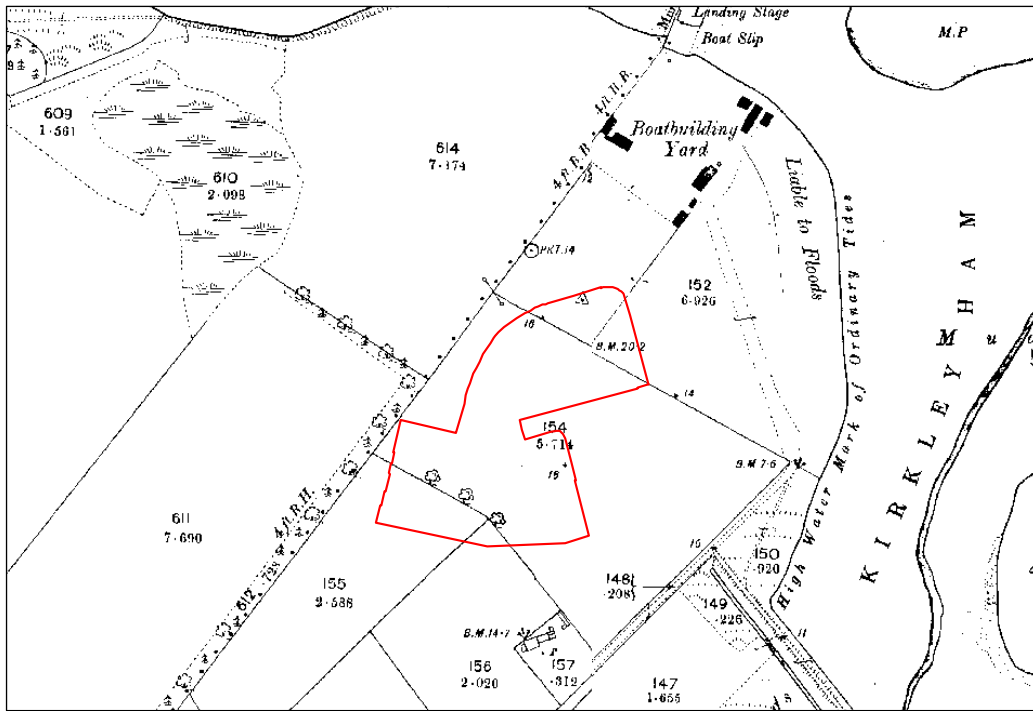


Figure 4. Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map with the site outline shown in red



Plate 3. 1999 air photo of the site

As a result of the trenching, the further archaeological potential of the site must be considered to be very low.

## **7. Archive deposition**

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The archive is lodged with the SCCAS at its Bury office under the HER reference LWT 190. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-141101.

Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\ St Mary's Water Treatment Works, Canning Road, Lowestoft\LWT 190



Economy, Skills and Environment  
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 1RX

## Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

AT

### ST MARY'S WATER TREATMENT WORKS, CANNING ROAD, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK

<b>PLANNING AUTHORITY:</b>	Waveney
<b>PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:</b>	To be arranged
<b>HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:</b>	To be arranged
<b>GRID REFERENCE:</b>	TM 538 925
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:</b>	New customer call centre and car parking
<b>AREA:</b>	3.00 ha.
<b>CURRENT LAND USE:</b>	Brownfield
<b>THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:</b>	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2012

### Summary

- 1.1 Essex & Suffolk Water has been advised that the site of the proposed works is located in a sensitive archaeological location. There is high potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest, including palaeoenvironmental remains, to be disturbed by development in this area, and the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.2 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) will be advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development takes place in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.
- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum

requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3 and Additional Requirements for a Palaeoenvironmental Assessment 2011 Ver 1.1), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny.

- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.4 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

### **Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 This site is considered to be an area of high archaeological potential. The Outer Harbour Area incorporates part of the medieval and early post-medieval town core, which is recorded as an area of archaeological importance in the Historic Environment Record (HER no. LWT 040). There is high potential for encountering important medieval occupation deposits within this area. Lake Lothing is recorded in the HER as the remnants of a possible Medieval turbarry (HER no: LWT 154). There are also a number of recorded archaeological sites and find spots within and surrounding the Lake Lothing Area. However, the area has been subject to only piecemeal archaeological investigation, in response to new development, and not to systematic archaeological survey.

This site has good potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown below-ground heritage assets (i.e. archaeological sites and features) in view of its topographic location overlooking Lake Lothing. This location is topographically favourable for early occupation. There is also high potential for encountering important palaeo-environmental deposits within the area of the floodplain. Any extensive development causing significant ground disturbance has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

### **Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 3.1 A linear trenched evaluation, incorporating palaeo-environmental assessment, is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 3.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
  - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
  - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
  - Establish the potential for the survival and significance of geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence.
  - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

- 3.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
- 3.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c.1500.00m<sup>2</sup>. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.833.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches, and palaeoenvironmental samples, should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

### **Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

### **Reporting and Archival Requirements**

- 5.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 5.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their

significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.

- 5.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 5.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 5.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

## **Standards and Guidance**

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3, Additional Requirements for a Palaeoenvironmental Assessment 2011 Ver 1.1 and in SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010.

Standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **Notes**

There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects. The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors ([www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net) or 0118 378 6446).

### OASIS ID: suffolkc1-141101

#### Project details

Project name	LWT 190 St Mary's Water Treatment Works, Canning Road, Lowestoft
Short description of the project	Eleven trenches were excavated on land at Canning Road, Lowestoft, prior to submitting a planning application to redevelop the site. Modern disturbance was evident throughout in varying degrees, including several service trenches and large modern pits, one of which measured over 2m in depth. No archaeological features were observed within the trenches, nor were any pre-modern finds recovered from the upcast spoil.
Project dates	Start: 17-12-2012 End: 15-01-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LWT 190 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY LOWESTOFT LWT 190 St Mary's Water Treatment Works, Canning Road
Study area	3.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 5380 9250 52 1 52 28 14 N 001 44 14 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.00m Max: 4.00m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Jess Tipper

Project director/manager	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Linzi Everett
Type of sponsor/funding body	Land owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Essex & Suffolk Water

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Physical Archive ID	LWT 190
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	AHDS
Digital Archive ID	LWT 190
Digital Contents	"none","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	LWT 190
Paper Contents	"none","other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Plan","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	LWT 190 St Mary's Water Treatment Works, Canning Road, Lowestoft
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Everett, L.
Other bibliographic details	2012/114
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	SCCAS
Place of issue or publication	SCCAS