

**Walsham-le-Willows CEVCP Primary
School, Walsham-le-Willows
WLW 103**

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/048

Client: SCC Corporate Property Division

Author: Simon Cass

May 2013

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Walsham-le-Willows CEVCP Primary School, Walsham-le-Willows WLW 103

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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HER Information

Site Code: WLW 103

Site Name: Walsham-le-Willows CEVCP Primary School

Report Number 2013/048

Planning Application No: 3463/12

Date of Fieldwork: 08-10/04/2013

Grid Reference: TM 0049 7141

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-147837

Curatorial Officer: Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Simon Cass

Client/Funding Body: SCC Corporate Property Division

Client Reference: -

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.

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Date: 13/05/2013

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Date:

Signed:

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

Summary

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new block of classrooms at Walsham Le Willows Primary School, as a part of Suffolk County Council's Schools Organisation Review. This development had a requirement for archaeological monitoring of any intrusive ground works that would be necessary and this report documents the results of that monitoring.




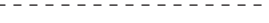







A single ditch was identified, orientated approximately east-west along the southern edge of the proposed raft foundation for the new building, with a row of small postholes just to the north of it. No dateable evidence was found within any of the features and the ditch and posthole alignment does not appear on any Ordnance Survey map of the area. It appears likely that the features were either contemporary with each other or one was a replacement of the other but that they both marked the same boundary line.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

1. Introduction

Planning permission was granted by SCC for the construction of a new classroom block at Walsham-le-Willows Primary School in order to accommodate more pupils following the county-wide Schools Organisation Review. This permission contained a condition relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of appropriate archaeological works to be undertaken prior to the development occurring. A brief and specification issued by Jess Tipper of SCCAS Conservation Team (dated 11/01/2013) required that this be in the form of continual archaeological monitoring of all intrusive ground works.

2. Geology and topography

The site lies at a height of approximately 47.7m AOD on the edge of the shallow river valley that contains Walsham-le-Willows. The superficial geology of the site is recorded as Head deposits (Ordnance Survey 1983), characterised by clay, silt, sand and gravel formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period. This was the natural geology observed in the base of the foundation although just to the north of the site a more typical chalky till is recorded as the land comes out of the river valley deposits to flat uplands.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for the medieval settlement of Walsham-le-Willows in the County Historic Environment Record. The medieval site of a 'Guildhall' is recorded 130m to the south-east (WLW 086) and medieval occupation evidence including structural remains have been excavated at WLW 093/095), 200m to the south-east. Medieval finds are also recorded in the field to the west (WLW 003, WLW 074). Due to these records it was felt that the site development had high potential for occupation deposits to be present which would be disturbed by ground works.

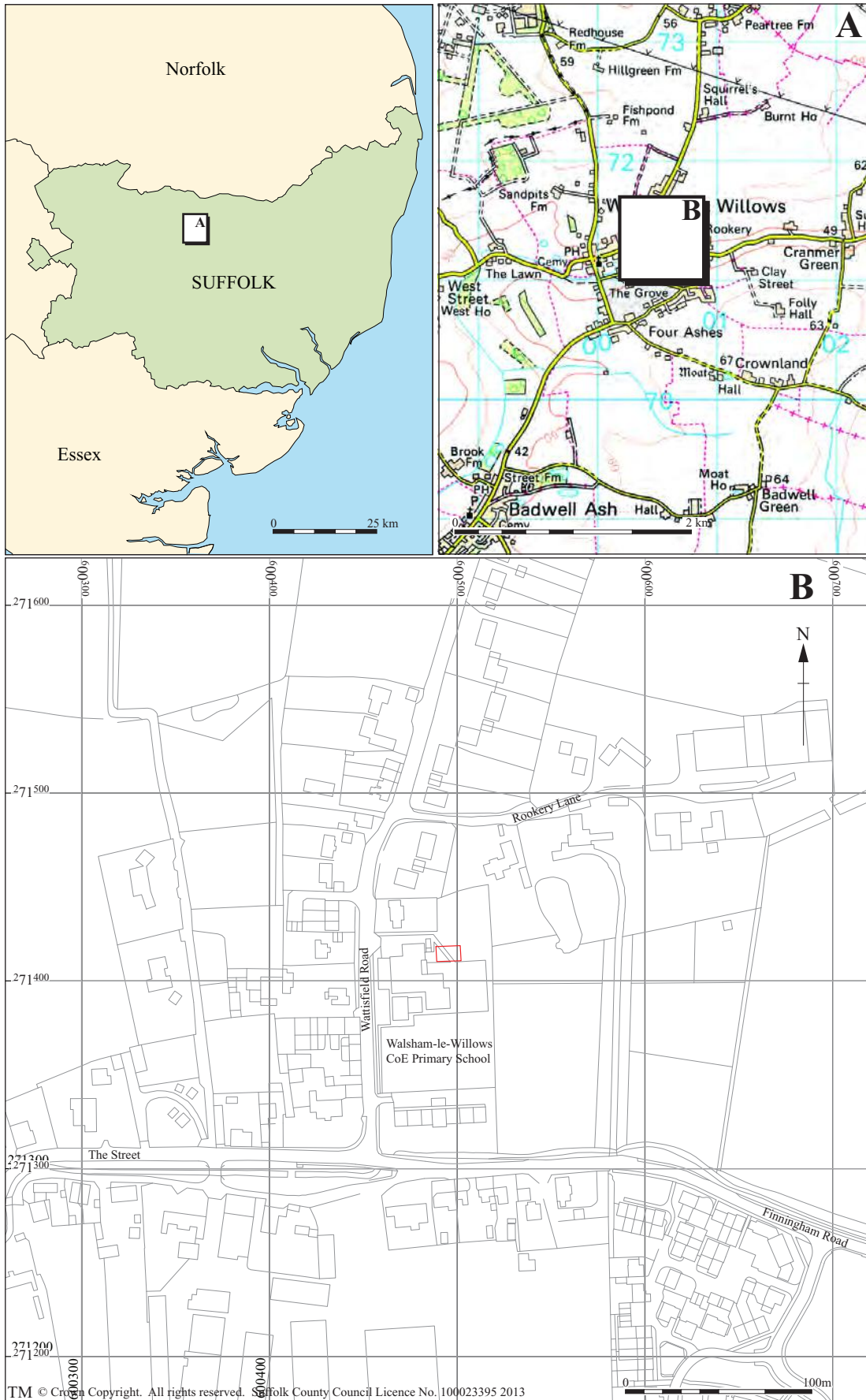


Figure 1. Location map showing site boundary (red)

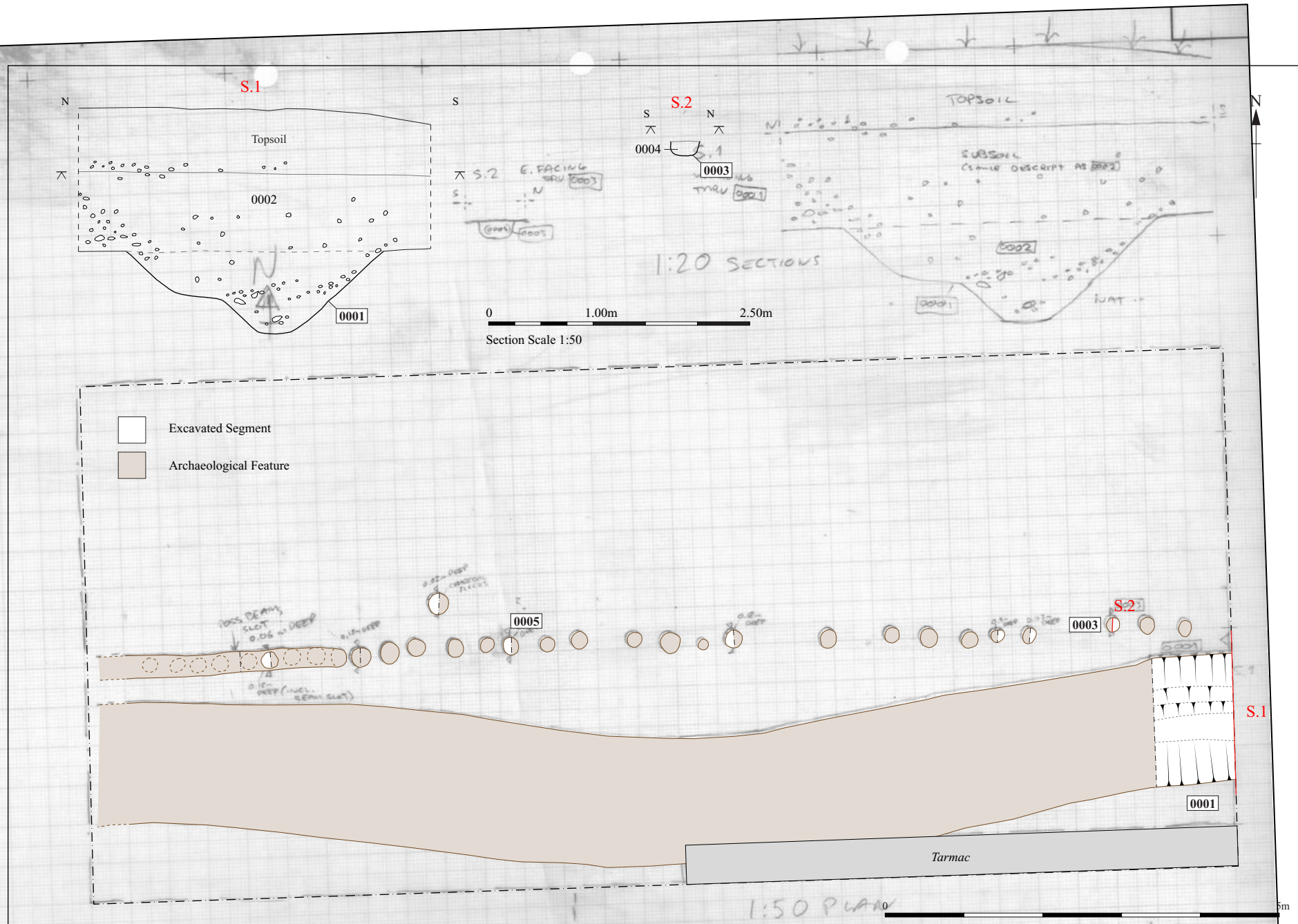


Figure 2. Detailed plan and sections

4. Methodology

The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that the development area be subject to archaeological monitoring during the excavation of the raft foundation for the new classrooms and any associated services. The site was located using the architect's plans of the site and transferred to a GIS-compatible digital plan.

The excavation was carried out by an 8-tonne 360⁰ mechanical tracked excavator using a toothless 'ditching' bucket. The machine excavation was observed by an experienced archaeologist down to the top of natural geological levels which coincided with the required formation depth for the new building.

All deposits were recorded using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at scales of 1:50 and 1:20 respectively. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital SLR camera and the photographs are included in the site archive.

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project.

5. Results

A layer of topsoil some 0.4m thick overlay a mid greyish brown soft sandy silt subsoil with frequent gravel lenses and inclusions. The natural geology encountered at the base of the footing (0.8m below ground level) was a mid orange/brown yellow soft sand with frequent small grits and pea-gravels and occasional larger gravels.

Ditch 0001 was found on the southern side of the site, cutting the natural sands. It was orientated approximately east-west and measuring 1.7m wide and 0.5m deep (below the level of the natural). It had a stepped profile on the northern side, with a moderately steep straight sloped southern side down to a shallow concave base and was filled with a mid greyish brown soft sandy silt with frequent small/medium gravel inclusions, which was similar to the overlying subsoil. Possible tip lines of gravel in the fill were noted

towards the southern side of the section, though this was not evident during excavation and may be a chance occurrence rather than actually reflecting the depositional process.



Plate 1. Ditch 0001, facing east (1m scale)

A row of postholes ran parallel to the ditch on its northern side. Posthole 0003 is a typical example of the individual features. It was 0.18m in diameter and survived to 0.08m in depth with near vertical sides to a shallow concave/flattish base and was filled with a mid greyish brown soft silty sand with occasional small gravel inclusions. The smaller postholes in this alignment were in general less than 0.1m in depth and it is likely that they were more truncated by the stripping, whereas the larger postholes were commonly between 0.25m and 0.30m in diameter and up to 0.20m deep (with near-vertical sides and shallow concave/flat bases). The easternmost postholes appeared to be linked by a shallow beam-slot at first, though that could have been an effect of their close proximity causing convergence facilitated by the soft natural geology. No finds were noted in any of the postholes investigated. It appears that the posthole alignment is probably a line of fence-posts.



Plate 2. Posthole 0003, facing east (0.3m scale)



Plate 3. Posthole 0005, facing east (0.3m scale)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Cathy Tester

No datable finds were recovered from this monitoring. A single fragment (37g) of animal bone was collected from the fill of ditch slot 0001 (0002). The bone, which was the only find, has been identified as a cattle calcaneus (part of the hock). The head is broken off and the distal end with articular facets survives.

7. Discussion

On the 1817 Tithe Map of the Parish of Walsham the site is part of a larger field and no ditches are shown nearby; however, the field is larger than others nearby with street-frontages and it may have been formed by the combination of two or three smaller fields which could be why the ditch appears to have potentially been deliberately backfilled. No ditches appear on any more modern maps so it is likely that this ditch and posthole alignment is at least of post-medieval date, though could date to an earlier period. It appears likely that both the ditch and the posthole alignment mark/represent the same boundary, though it is not certain if one is a replacement of the other or if both features were in use at the same time. The condition of the bone suggests that it is unlikely to be prehistoric.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

No further work is recommended as being necessary in order to satisfy the planning condition placed upon this development. The exposed archaeological features appear to be landscape features, and continue in both directions outside the area affected by the development, and the excavation has stopped short of total removal of the most fragile features (the postholes) while leaving the ditch substantially intact.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\
Archive\Walsham-le-Willows\WLW 103 Monitoring

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\
Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HTA-HTZ\HTA 76-94

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass and Simon Picard with project management by Andrew Tester.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and analysis was undertaken by Cathy Tester, who also produced the specialist report.

The report illustrations were created by Crane Begg and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

Ordnance Survey, 1983, *Soils of England and Wales*: Soil survey of England and Wales, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000. Harpenden

Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording

AT

Walsham-le-Willows CEVCP School, Walsham-le-Willows

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Suffolk County Council
SHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TL 0049 7138
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of classroom extension
AREA:	Small
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741231 E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	11 January 2012

Summary

- 1.1 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, to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.
- 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 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the full discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation.

Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The application lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for the medieval settlement of Walsham-le-Willows in the County Historic Environment Record. There is high potential for occupation deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

Planning Background

- 3.1 The below-ground works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority will be advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Requirement for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks.
- 4.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 4.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.
- 4.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 4.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 5.1 All arrangements for the excavation 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.
- 5.2 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 ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 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 any documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 6.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 An digital copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.
- 6.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER.
- 6.9 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields

completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded where positive results have been obtained.

- 6.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.11 When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: grid ref., parish, address, planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development, depth of ground disturbance in each area, depth of topsoil and its profile over natural in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.
- 6.12 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

Detailed 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 an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). 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.

Appendix 2 - Context List

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0001	0001	Ditch Cut	East-west orientated linear ditch feature, with a moderately sloped stepped northern side to a shallow concave base and a moderately steep southern side (with no step), East-west aligned ditch, probable field boundary (size would suggest its not an internal field ditch). Probably also related to post-hole alignment just to the north.	No		No	
0002	0001	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown soft sandy silt with frequent small/medium gravels Possible tip/slump-lines noted in the section on the southern side but not evident in excavation. Fill of Ditch 0001.	Yes		No	
0003	0003	Posthole Cut	Sample posthole recorded from east-west alignment of postholes. Posthole, part of a line of postholes probably connected with the east-west aligned ditch to the south.	No		No	
0004	0003	Posthole Fill	Mid greyish brown soft silty sand with occasional small gravel inclusions Fill of posthole 0003.	No		No	
0005	0005	Posthole Cut	circular posthole, with steep sloped sides to a shallow concave base. Posthole - part of line of posts including 0003	No		No	
0006	0005	Posthole Fill	Mid greyish brown soft silty sand with occasional small gravel inclusions Fill of posthole 0005.	No		No	



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