

Old Newton Primary School, New Playground and Classroom, ONW 027

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2014/018

Client: Suffolk County Council

Author: Rob Brooks/John Craven

February/2014

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Author: Rob Brooks/John Craven

Illustrator: Ellie Hillen

Report Date: February/2014

HER Information

Site Code: ONW 027

Site Name: Old Newton Primary School New Playground and Classroom

Report Number 2014/018

Planning Application No: PL/0278/13

Date of Fieldwork: 4th February – 18th February

Grid Reference: TM 0611 6242

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-169411

Curatorial Officer: Dr Richard Hoggett

Project Officer: Rob Brooks

Client/Funding Body: Suffolk County Council

Client Reference: N/A

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: Rob Brooks

Date: 20/02/2014

Approved By: John Craven

Position: Project Officer

Date: 20/02/2014

Signed:

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring of the reduction of ground levels for a classroom extension and playground at Old Newton Primary School, Suffolk (Fig. 1) did not identify any archaeological deposits. An intact subsoil seen across much of the site indicates a reasonable level of preservation and suggests that this absence of archaeological deposits is a genuine indicator of a lack of past activity, and that the site lies outside the area of any medieval or post-medieval settlement.

1. Introduction

The reduction of ground levels for a classroom extension and playground were excavated to the east of/adjoining the Old Newton Primary School, in Old Newton with Dagworth, Suffolk (Fig. 1). An archaeological monitoring was required for the project in order to record any archaeological features and recover any finds that could otherwise be uncovered or destroyed by the groundworks. The work was carried out to a Brief by Dr Richard Hoggett, (of the SCCAS Conservation Team) and a Written Scheme of Investigation by John Craven (SCCAS Field Team, Appendix 1). The work, which was carried out between the 4th Feb and 18th February 2014, was commissioned by Concertus Design and Property Consultants and funded by Suffolk County Council.

2. Geology and topography

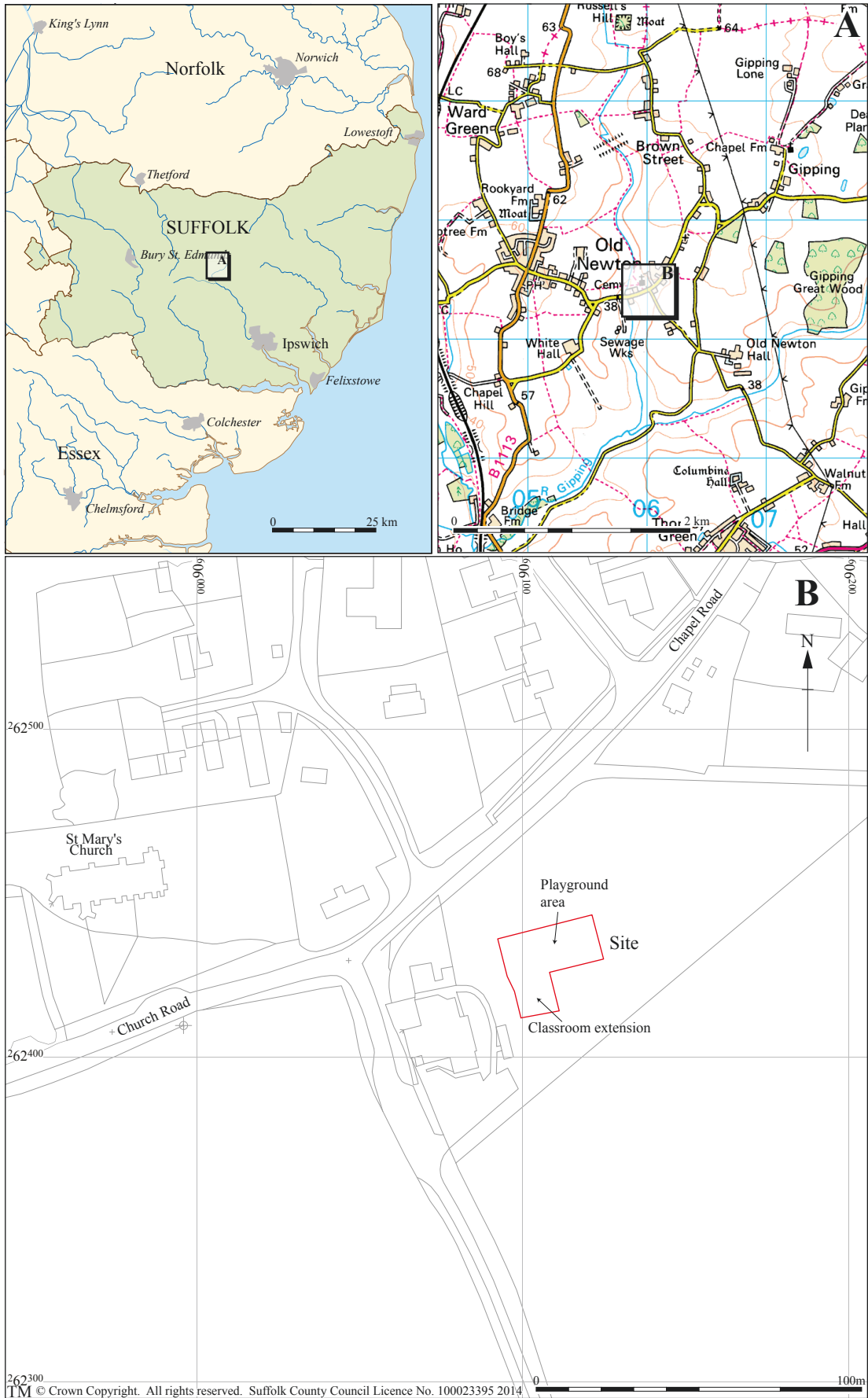
The geology of the area consists of superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation diamicton, overlying bedrock formations of Crag Group sand. On site the geology presented itself as pale orange and pale greyish-yellow clay.

(<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

The site sits on a north-west facing slope between the 45m and 50m Ordnance contours, overlooking a north to south aligned tributary of the River Gipping, which is located to the south. Immediately to the north of the new playground the site slopes more steeply, falling away into the sunken lane that runs south-west to north-east past the school.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The site lies within the core of the medieval settlement, close to the Grade I listed parish Church of St Mary which is recorded on the Historic Environment Record as ONW 009. Within a 220m radius of the development area there are also four Grade II listed buildings, comprising the 16th century Church Farmhouse and Bassetts to the south-west, The Cottage immediately to the north-west, and the 17th century Nether Hall further to the north-west, which is also recorded as having a square moated enclosure (ONW 006). The early Ordnance Survey maps of the site show it as being within a field to the rear of the school with no other details present.



4. Methodology

The project was carried out following a Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1) prepared by SCCAS/FT and approved by SCCAS/CT.

The site strip for the new classroom and playground, which consisted of the removal of topsoil, subsoil and the natural clay geology until the development's formation level was reached, was monitored by an experienced archaeologist. As the groundworks progressed soil profiles were cleaned and recorded at 1:20. Digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital archive.

An OASIS form (Appendix 2) has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-169411) and a digital copy of the report has been submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code ONW 027.

5. Results

The site strip for the new playground revealed a 0.2m thick topsoil overlying 0.1m – 0.3m of a mid orange/brown clay/silt subsoil, which in turn overlaid the natural geology of pale orange to pale grey/yellow clays with scattered flints. The natural geology was exposed across the entire footprint of the playground and, as the natural slope rose to the south, was increasingly truncated by the site strip. No archaeological deposits were observed.

The area of the classroom extension sloped down dramatically to the west from a high point in the south-east corner as a result of previous landscaping/terracing during the construction of the school. Only 0.1m of turf/topsoil lay above the natural clay geology, which was reduced by up to 1m to reach the development's formation level. No archaeological deposits were observed.

6. Discussion

Although an intact subsoil was seen across the playground area, indicating a reasonable level of preservation of the underlying geology, there was no sign of any archaeological deposits. This suggests that, despite the site's location adjacent to the road junction and its close proximity to the Church, Nether Hall and other historic buildings, it lies outside the area of any medieval or post-medieval settlement and was probably in agricultural use throughout these periods.

The classroom area has clearly seen previous truncation and if any archaeological deposits did once exist they have been wholly removed.

7. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Old Newton with Dagworth\ONW 027 Primary School monitoring

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HWA-HWZ\HWP 66-74

8. Acknowledgements

Project management was undertaken by John Craven. The fieldwork was carried out by Rob Brooks and John Craven. The report illustrations were created by Ellie Hillen.

Appendix 1. Written scheme of investigation



OLD NEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL ONW 027

Archaeological Monitoring

Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment

**Prepared by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
January 2014**

1. Background

- The Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS/FT), has been asked to monitor groundworks for development at Old Newton Primary School, Suffolk. A costing for the project has been prepared by John Craven.
- The monitoring is required to fulfill a condition on the planning application PL\0278\13, and is subject to a Brief and Specification, produced by Dr Richard Hoggett, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, dated 13/01/2014.
- The condition has been placed as the school lies *'within the core of the medieval settlement and is close to the parish church. As such, there is high potential for encountering further archaeological deposits at this location, which may be damaged by any groundworks associated with the present application'*.
- The aim of the monitoring is to record all archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by groundworks for the new classroom extension and hard surface playground area.

2. Archaeological method statement

- The Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service will be given 2 days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork to enable the works to be monitored effectively.

2.1. Fieldwork

- The Brief requires observation of the ground works for any soil stripping and foundations on site. These ground works will be monitored as they progress or soon afterwards (as appropriate to the scale of development) by an SCCAS Project Officer or Supervisor, in close liaison with the developer/contractor. Adequate allowance has been made within the quote cost to cover the recording of exposed archaeological deposits.
- Fieldwork standards will be guided by *'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England'* EAA Occasional Papers 14, 2003 and *'Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief'* Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001.
- The exposed surface from the soil strip/trenching will be examined for archaeological features and finds and limited hand cleaning will be undertaken to clarify small areas as necessary and as health and safety considerations allow. Exposed archaeological features will be sectioned by hand with sampling at a normal standard for medieval and earlier deposits (i.e. 100% of structural features or graves/cremations, 50% of contained features e.g. pits, and 10-20% of linear features). Cremations will be 100% bagged and taken as samples. If thought appropriate and of archaeological benefit a metal detector search of exposed surfaces and spoil will be undertaken.
- Normal Field Team conventions, compatible with the County HER, will be used during the site recording. Site records will be made using a continuous numbering system under HER code ONW 027.
- Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate, either by hand or using a RTK GPS. Plans and sections of individual features, soil layers etc will be recorded at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. A digital photographic record will be made throughout the monitoring works. An OASIS form has been initiated for the project (No.169411).
- All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. All finds will be brought back to the SCCAS Bury St Edmunds office at the end of each day for processing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done at the Bury St Edmunds office, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in archaeology and university departments in other parts of the country.
- Bulk environmental (40 litre) soil samples will be taken from selected archaeological features where possible and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science, on the need for specialist environmental sampling.
- In the event of human remains being encountered on the site a Ministry of Justice licence for removal of human remains will be obtained. Any such find would require work in that part of the site to stop until the human remains have been removed. However this is unlikely to happen on most sites.

2.2. Post-excavation stage

- The post-excavation work will be managed by Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff will be experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field. Members of the project team will be responsible for taking the project to archive and assessment levels.
- All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County Historic Environment Record. All site plans and sections will be inked in to form a permanent archive on archivally stable base material. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets. The photographic archive will be fully catalogued within the County HER photographic index.
- All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County HER requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number. Finds will be recorded and archived to minimum standards laid down by relevant groups (eg the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery or the Medieval Pottery Research Group). Finds quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by OP and context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- Metal finds will be x-rayed if appropriate and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to UKIC standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.
- Environmental samples will be processed and assessed to standards set by the Regional Environmental Archaeologist with a clear statement of potential for further analysis.
- A full monitoring report summarising all the findings and containing a full assessment of all finds and samples will be produced and copies submitted to the archaeological consultant/developer and the SCCAS Conservation Team for the County HER. The report will contain all appropriate scale plans and sections. The monitoring report will contain a recommendation for further analysis and publication of the results as appropriate and in accordance with regional research agendas and strategies (EAA Occ. Papers 3&8). The report will form the basis for full discharge of the relevant condition.
- The OASIS form for the project will be completed and a copy included within the report and the site archive. A digital copy of the report will be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- The site archive, in paper and electronic form, will be deposited in the SCCAS store at Bury St Edmunds and will be consistent with '*Management of Research in the Historic Environment*' (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006) It will also meet the requirements detailed in '*Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2010). Any costs levied by SCCAS/CT for the storage of paper/digital archives will be met.
- The client and/or landowner will be asked to deposit all of the finds from the project in the SCC archaeological store together with the project archive. The project costing includes the minimum fee charged by SCC for this service. A form transferring ownership of the archive to SCC will be completed and included in the project archive.
- Exceptions from the above include material covered by the Treasure Act which will be reported and submitted to the appropriate authorities, and human skeletal remains which will be stored within the archive until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.
- The client and/or landowner will be made aware that if they choose not to use the SCCAS storage facility they will be expected to make alternative arrangements for the long term storage of the archive that meet the requirements of SCCAS/CT.

Project Staff

Project Manager:	John Craven
Site monitoring:	SCCAS/FT Project Officer or Supervisor
Finds Manager/Post Roman finds:	Richenda Goffin
Roman Pottery/General finds:	Cathy Tester, Stephen Benfield
Prehistoric pottery:	Anna Doherty (Archaeology Southeast)
Prehistoric flint:	Sarah Bates (freelance)
Faunal remains:	Julie Curl (freelance)
Human remains:	Sue Anderson (freelance)
Environmental samples:	Val Fryer (freelance)

3. Health and safety/ Risk assessment

The site will be under the control of the site owner/building contractor and SCCAS staff will follow any site requirements such as inductions/PPE that are necessary. All SCCAS staff are experienced in working on a variety of archaeological sites and are aware of SCCAS H&S policies.

- Site staff will wear protective clothing at all times on site (hard hat, high visibility vest, steel-toe cap boots). The PO will report to the main contractor/developer at the beginning of each site visit. Most staff hold the Quarry H&S certificate and CSCS cards.
- Vehicles will be parked in a safe location.
- Deep holes/trenches will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the site contractor, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the close vicinity.
- A fully charged mobile phone will be on site at all times.
- Site staff will be aware of the location of the nearest A&E unit and a vehicle will be on site at all times. It is likely that the relevant PO will be a qualified First Aider.
- For single person working Suffolk County Council operates a 'reporting-in' procedure at the end of each day.
- The main contractor will check will be made for overhead and underground services and potential ground contamination.
- Suffolk County Council holds full insurance policies for field work (details on request).

John Craven
Project Officer
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team

Emergency contacts

Local Police	Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1NJ	101
Local GP	Stowhealth, Violet Hill House, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1NL	01449 776000
Location of nearest A&E	West Suffolk Hospital Hardwick Lane, Bury St. Edmunds, IP33 2QZ	01284 713000

Other Contacts

Suffolk Fleet Maintenance		01359 270777
Suffolk Press Office		01473 264395
EMS (Jezz Meredith)		01473 583288
H&S (Stuart Boulter)		01473 583290

Appendix 2. OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: suffolkc1-169411

Project details

Project name	ONW 027 Old Newton Primary School
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of the reduction of ground levels for a classroom extension and playground at Old Newton Primary School, Suffolk (Fig. 1) did not identify any archaeological deposits. An intact subsoil seen across much of the site indicates a reasonable level of preservation and suggests that this absence of archaeological deposits is a genuine indicator of a lack of past activity, and that the site lies outside the area of any medieval or post-medieval settlement.
Project dates	Start: 04-02-2014 End: 18-02-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ONW 027 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	ONW 027 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	PL/0278/13 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK OLD NEWTON WITH DAGWORTH Old Newton Primary School
Study area	550.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0611 6242 52.2208615118 1.01782424581 52 13 15 N 001 01 04 E Point

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	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Suffolk County Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Report"

Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Old Newton Primary School, New Playground and Classroom, ONW 027
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brooks, R. and Craven, J.
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Entered on	18 February 2014

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