
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Dredging, Royal Harwich Yacht Club, Woolverstone WLV 046

Planning application no. B/04/01855
Archaeological Monitoring Report no. 2006/228
OASIS ID No. 20835

Summary

Woolverstone, Royal Harwich Yacht Club (TM/195390; WLV 046) Conditional planning consent for dredging adjacent to the slipway and the shore of the marina at Woolverstone required a programme of archaeological monitoring. Previous dredging here exposed an undated human skull within the underlying gravel (SMR reference WLV 045) and there is potential for archaeological structures to survive on the foreshore. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed either on the dredged foreshore or from the screened deposits, however, it is acknowledged that the nature of the work and gauge of the screen used made the identification of archaeological material very difficult. (Linzi Everett for S.C.C.A.S. and the Royal Harwich Yacht Club; report no. 2006/228)

1. Introduction

Conditional planning consent for dredging part of Woolverstone Marina, required a programme of archaeological monitoring. The site occupies the intertidal foreshore of the south bank of the River Orwell, centred on TM 1952 3905. Deep alluvial deposits in this location have the potential to contain preserved organic archaeological evidence.

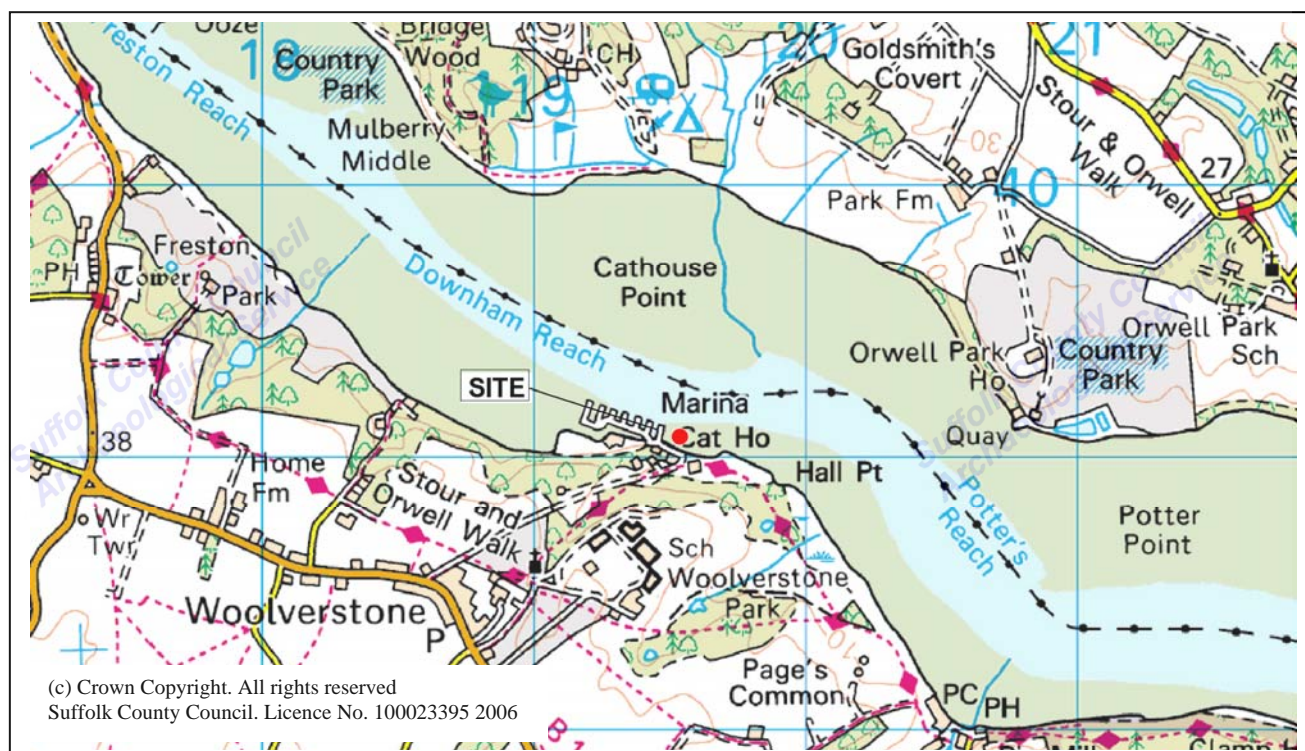


Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

Vists were made to the site by the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the works in progress. Dredging was carried out from a boat, the material removed being screened and deposited down river. The site was recorded under the SMR code WLV 046. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Jude Plouviez of the SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I). The monitoring work took place in February 2006 and was funded by the Royal Harwich Yacht Club. The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

3. Results

A significant depth of deposits were removed from the site and despite coinciding visits with low tides, inundation of water prevented the chance to study either the alluvial stratigraphy or any surfaces revealed. No artefacts too large to pass through the screen were recovered.

5. Discussion

The combination of the tidal environment and the method of dredging meant that it was virtually impossible to inspect any surfaces to identify in situ archaeological evidence. Once the deposits were excavated, only larger artefacts would have survived screening. The negative results may not, therefore, be truly representative of the archaeology on this site.

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