

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/080**

# **Pennoyer's School, Pulham St Mary, Norfolk**

# **10778**

**J. A. Craven**  
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**Lucy Robinson, County Director of Economy, Skills and Environment**  
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.



## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** 07/1741

**Date of Fieldwork:** February 2009 - April 2010

**Grid Reference:** TM 2100 8535

**Funding Body:** Pennoyer's Village Centre Project

**Curatorial Officer:** Edwin J Rose, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology

**Project Officer:** J. A. Craven

**Oasis Reference:** Suffolkc1-56069

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



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## Summary

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An archaeological monitoring of groundworks was carried out during the restoration and redevelopment of Pennoyers School, Pulham St Mary, Norfolk.

No evidence was seen of any activity pre-dating or contemporary with the 15th century Guild Chapel that forms the core of the former school buildings which may be because later works and alterations to the school in the 19th and 20th centuries appear to have truncated much of the site and archaeological deposits may have been lost. Within the chapel itself the floor foundations proved to be a mix of post-medieval/modern material, presumably deriving from previous works and alterations to the school, lying upon a truncated subsoil surface.

In one area to the north of the chapel an intact soil horizon was seen and this was cut by a linear spread of mortar thought to be the base of a possible wall foundation for a former undated extension to the chapel.





## **1. Introduction**

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A programme of archaeological monitoring of building works during the restoration and extension of Pennoyer's School, Pulham St Mary, Norfolk, was carried out from February 2009 to April 2010. The work was carried out in accordance with a Brief issued by Edwin J Rose (Planning advisory archaeologist, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) to fulfil a condition on planning application 07/1741. The work was funded by the developer, Pennoyer's Village Centre Project.

The planning condition had been placed as the site had high potential for important archaeological deposits to be disturbed or destroyed by the development and so continuous archaeological monitoring was required to record any affected deposits.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site lies at a height of c.36m in the centre of the village, which overlooks a tributary of the River Waveney (Fig. 1). The site geology is of clayey soils over chalky till (Ordnance Survey 1983).

## **3. Archaeological and historical background**

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The site is of particular interest as it consists of the buildings and grounds of the former village school which are centered around the largely intact surviving structure of a flint-built 15th century guild chapel, originally dedicated to St James. In the late 17th century, following an endowment in the will of William Pennoyer, a free school was established in the former chapel and it continued in this use, expanded by a range of Victorian buildings, until its closure in 1988, since when it has been standing unused.

The site's location in the medieval village core, 200m west of the parish church and 130m west of the possible site of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery (HER No. 13143) meant that construction works associated with the redevelopment and restoration of the site as a new Village Centre had high potential to disturb medieval occupation deposits.

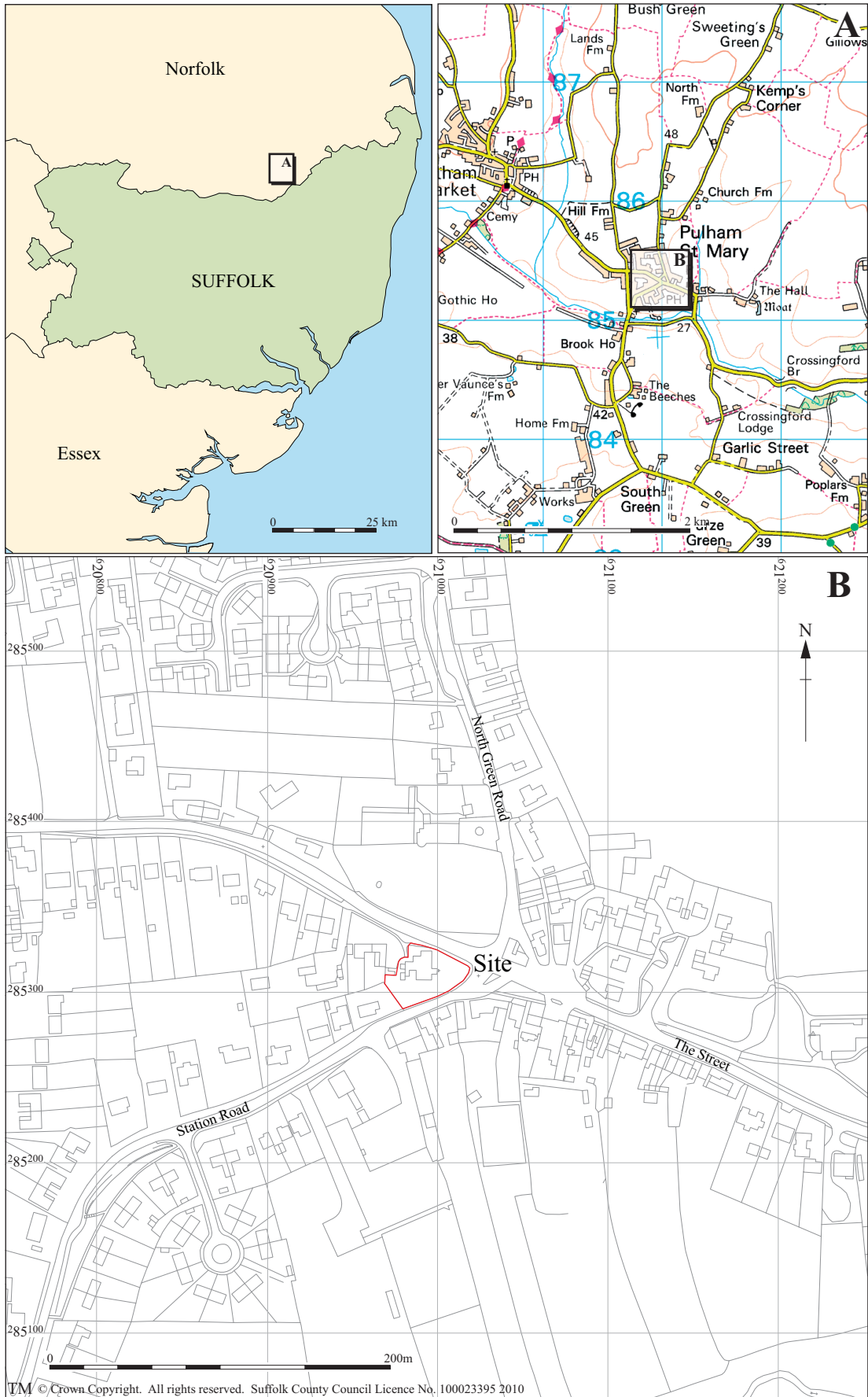


Figure 1. Site location, showing the development area (red)

## 4. Methodology

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A series of visits were made to the site to monitor various groundworks such as footings for new extensions, service trenches and the reduction of ground levels within the existing buildings. The planned installation of a ground source heat pump system, which was originally meant to involve the excavation of 2m deep trenches across the site, was modified so that pipework was installed vertically and archaeological monitoring of these works was not possible. SCCAS was not notified of when works to create the car park took place. Works to the chapel structure itself lay outside the remit of this project although attention was made to where development works exposed the structures foundations.

During the monitoring cleaning by hand of exposed surfaces or sections was carried out as required to investigate potential archaeological deposits. The site was recorded using a continuous number system, with context 0001 being reserved for unstratified finds material. The position of monitored areas and trenches was recorded by hand onto a supplied architectural plan of the development, at a scale of 1:100. Where archaeological features were identified a plan and section were recorded onto a gridded A3 permatrace sheet at a scale of 1:20.

Digital colour photographs, in .jpeg format at 314dpi, as well as monochrome black and white film photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork and are included in the site archive. Digital copies of hand drawn plans and section drawings have also been made.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-56069) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service using the Norfolk HER No. 10778.

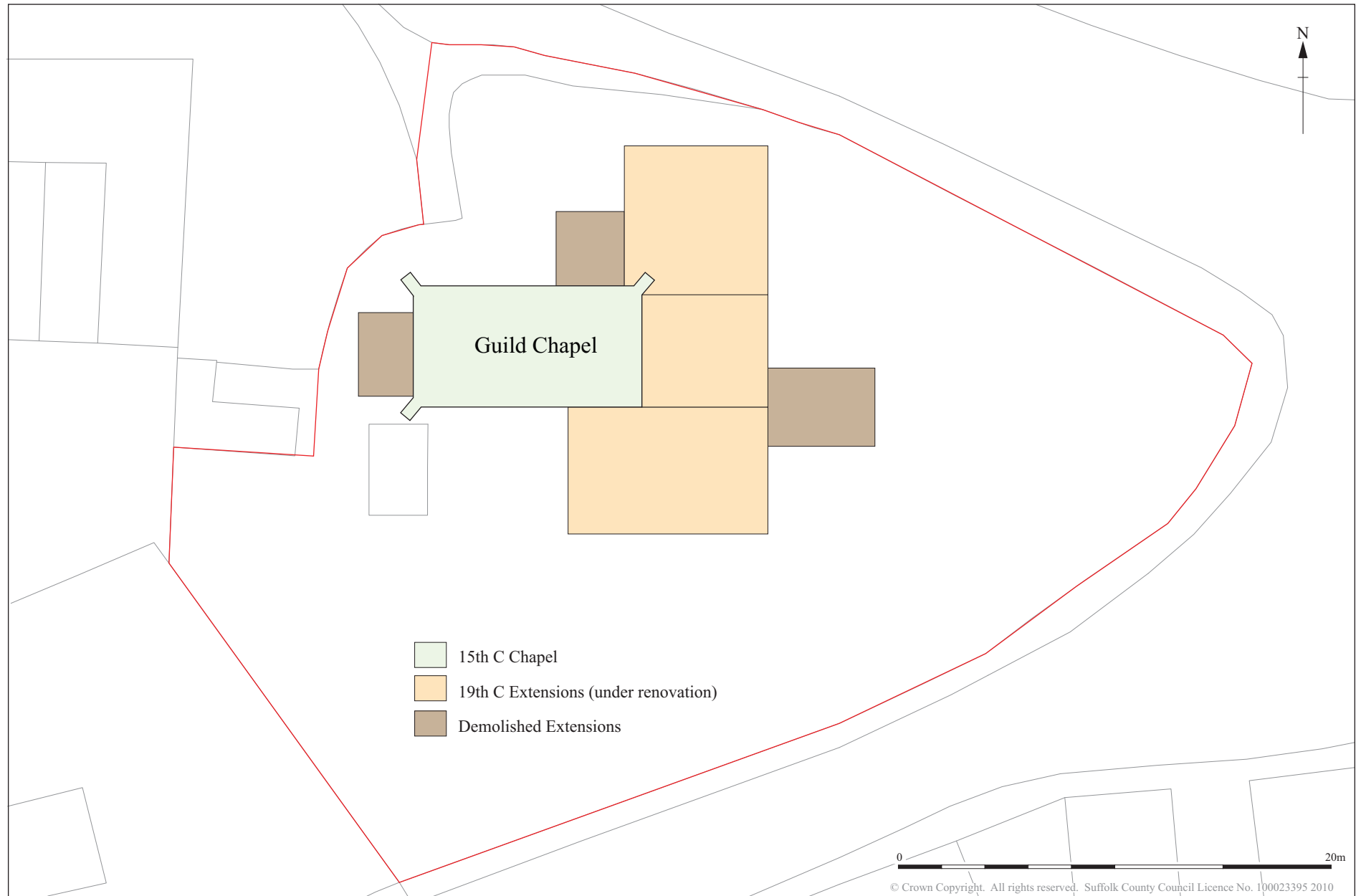


Figure 2. Pre-existing building plan

## 5. Results

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(Figs. 3 and 4)

### **Building works**

The first phase of works monitored, following demolition of three smaller extensions, was the removal of internal floor levels within the guild chapel itself and the 19th century extensions on its east side. These works were all carried out by a machine equipped with a toothed bucket under constant archaeological observation.

### **Guild Chapel**

Ground levels within the chapel were reduced by 0.5m from the 20th century floor level. The removal of c.0.3m of mixed rubble/clay deposits exposed the natural subsoil of dense/yellow brown clays, the upper surface of which contained frequent small pieces of mortar, flint and late/post-medieval building debris of which a small sample was collected, 0006. No cut archaeological features or other deposits were identified.

The base of the chapel wall foundation was observed, set upon the top of the clay subsoil, c.0.3m below the former floor level. No evidence of any construction trench on the internal side of the walls was seen and, if once present, may have been removed by the formation of the removed post-medieval floor foundation deposits.

The one substantial part of the chapel structure that does not survive, the eastern wall, was shown by the floor level reduction to have been removed in its entirety, including its foundations and south-east buttress. Only a faint, thin, spread of broken mortar survived on the subsoil surface marking its former course.

### **North C19th extension**

The floor level was reduced by c.0.45m-0.5m within this extension, which involved the partial removal of a mixed layer of building rubble, soil and clay, the lower part of which remained *in situ*, meaning that the natural clay subsoil or potential surviving archaeological levels were not exposed although the base of the Chapel's north-east buttress was seen.

### **Central C19th Extension**

This extension was wholly demolished and the ground surface reduced to a similar surface seen to north and south. Again the deposits of mixed building rubble, soil and clay were not wholly removed, meaning that the natural clay subsoil or potential surviving archaeological levels were not exposed.

### **South C19th Extension**

Ground levels were reduced by 0.5m below the former floor and showed that the brick-built walls of the extension lay upon a foundation of irregular flint and mortar, the base of which was not seen. At least 0.15m of mixed former topsoil and building debris was left *in situ* meaning that the natural clay subsoil or potential surviving archaeological levels were not exposed.

### **External works**

A series of groundworks outside of the school buildings undergoing renovation were also monitored.

### **Eastern extension**

The footprint for this new extension was stripped of tarmac, revealing a rubble hardcore foundation. The 0.5m wide and 1m deep footing trenches showed this hardcore to be 0.1m thick and directly overlying the natural clay subsoil. No archaeological deposits were identified.

### **North-west extension**

Following the demolition of the pre-existing extension ground-levels were reduced in this general area by up to c.0.2m which, in the southern part, exposed a deposit of mid brown clayey loam under the modern deposits. Set into the surface of this layer was a 0.7m wide shallow linear spread of mortar, 0004, that ran north from the chapel wall for 2.4m before turning 90 degrees and heading west for 1.5m before disappearing again under modern deposits.

This linear spread was not seen to continue in the 0.5m wide and 1m deep footing trenches for the new extension. However the mid brown clayey loam layer was seen to overlie the clay subsoil and both were cut by a large undated pit, 0002. Measuring

c.1.3m wide, it had steep sides and a flat base c.1.3m below groundlevel. Its basal fill, 0003, was a waterlogged dark grey/brown silty clay, above which lay 0005, a mix of brown/grey silt and clay. The upper fill was then sealed by modern deposits.

### **North-west service trench**

This trench was 0.8m wide and 0.6m-0.7m deep and passed through areas which had been roughly reduced from groundlevel by up to 0.25m, exposing various modern deposits. The trench showed a further c.0.1m of modern material directly overlying the natural clay subsoil. Apart from a brick lined, water-filled shaft, thought to be a soakaway contemporary with the 19th century school extensions no archaeological deposits were seen.

### **South-west service trench**

This was excavated as a large rectangular pit, measuring c.5.7m by 3.3m and 1m+ deep. This showed a profile of 0.3m of modern deposits and topsoil overlying a 0.3m thick layer of mid orange/brown clay/silt which in turn overlaid the chalky boulder clay subsoil.

### **South and west stripped area**

A c.1.8m wide strip removing tarmac and hardcore to a depth of c.0.25m along the southern and western edge of the buildings failed to expose natural subsoil.

### **Car parking areas**

SCCAS was not informed of when works to resurface the former schoolyard were carried out and so these were not monitored. However these works are unlikely to have been of significant depth and may not have affected anything other than the modern surface deposits.

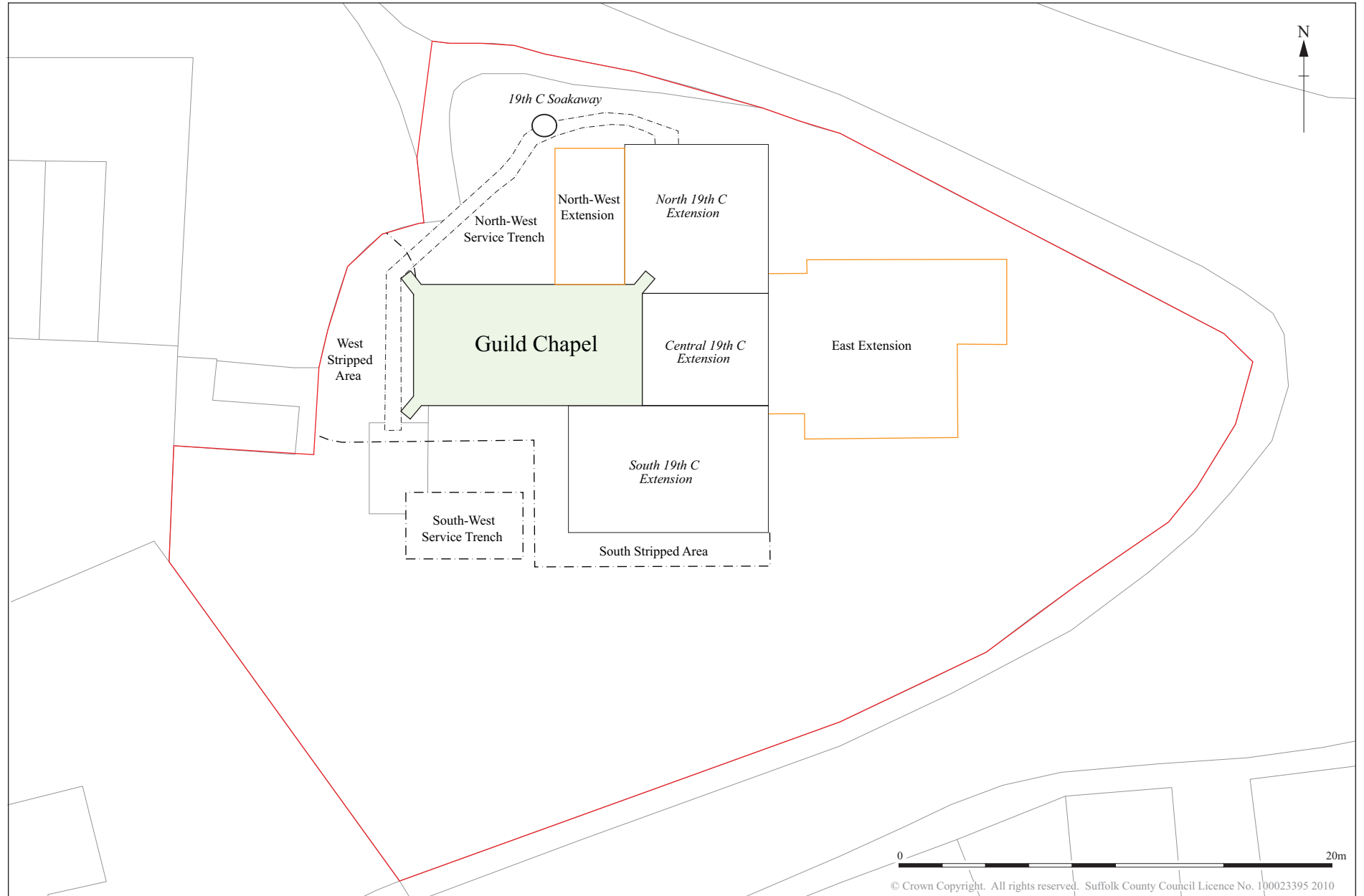


Figure 3. Site plan



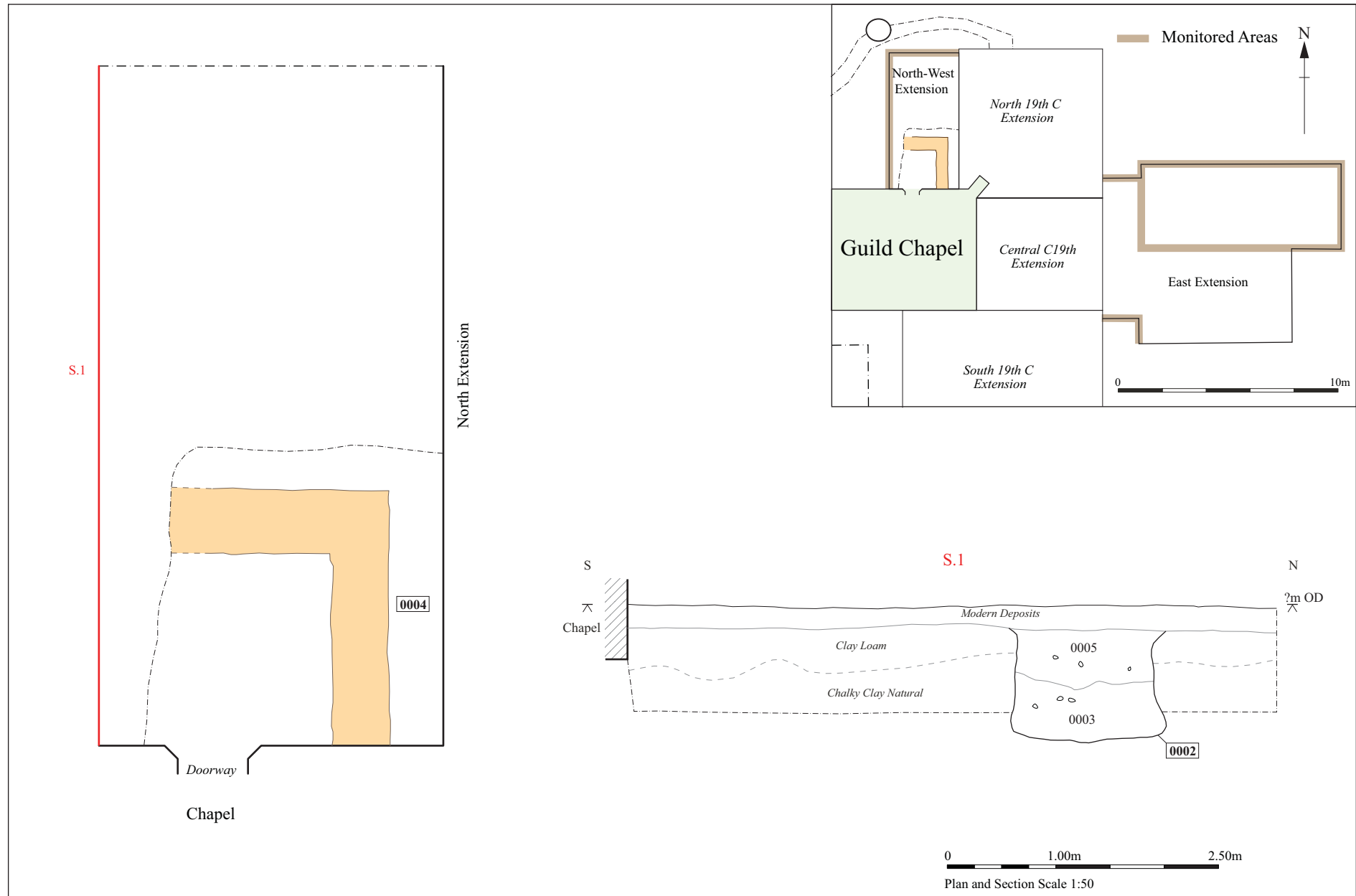


Figure 4. New extensions, plans and section

## 6. The Finds

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Richenda Goffin

A small quantity of finds was recovered from subsoil deposit 0006. Two fragments of red-fired roofing tile were recovered weighing 203g. One of these was made in a medium sandy fabric with flint (116g). The second roof tile fragment has the remains of a circular peghole, and is made in a similar fabric with more ferrous inclusions as well as flint. Both fragments date to the late/post-medieval period.

A fragment of mortar with plaster was also recovered from this context, weighing 109g. It is made of one hard, off-white mortar layer c48mm deep, which is covered with a layer of limewash. Some of the surface has worn away revealing other, earlier applications of limewash. It is not possible to date the fragment, but it has none of the characteristics associated with medieval plasterwork.

## 7. Discussion

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No evidence was seen of any activity pre-dating or contemporary with the chapel's construction and early use. Within the chapel itself the floor foundations proved to be a mix of post-medieval/modern material, presumably deriving from previous works and alterations to the school, lying upon a truncated subsoil surface. A similar profile was also seen throughout the interiors of the 19th century extensions, with the rubble floor foundations lying upon the subsoil surface.

The reduction of floor levels however did show that the foundations for part of the southern extension appeared to be reusing material from the lost eastern wall of the chapel, and that this part of the chapel structure had been wholly removed.

Outside of the chapel the various groundworks offered only a limited opportunity to observe potential archaeological levels as the majority of trenches either did not fully penetrate layers of modern deposits or exposed the truncated clay subsoil directly under the modern deposits. The level of truncation is unknown but may be relatively minor as subsoil surfaces were high in relation to surrounding ground levels.

Only in the area of the north-west extension was evidence of an intact soil horizon seen, with a layer of mid brown clayey loam being exposed under the modern deposits, and in this area of relatively high preservation two archaeological features, undated pit 0002 and the linear spread of mortar, 0004, were identified. The date and function of 0004 is uncertain but it is likely to be the base of a robbed out wall foundation for a former extension to the chapel, pre-dating the later 19th century buildings.

## **8. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork**

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The monitoring of the majority of the various groundworks did not identify any significant archaeological deposits. Although some of the groundworks were not deep enough to penetrate modern deposits this absence is most likely due to the apparent truncation and disturbance of the site in the post-medieval and modern periods, when the majority of the site appears to have been stripped to subsoil level prior to works such as the creation of internal floors or the school playground.

In the one area where the natural soil profile appeared to be intact, to the north of the chapel, archaeological evidence of a possible former extension, pre-dating the 19th century buildings, was identified.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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The paper, photographic, finds and digital archive will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

A further digital archive and paper copy of the report will be kept at SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

## **10. List of contributors and acknowledgements**

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The project was directed and managed by John Craven. The monitoring fieldwork was carried out by John Craven and Andrew Tester.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Jonathan Van Jennians and the specialist finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin. Digital site plans and sections were produced by Crane Begg. The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

## **11. Bibliography**

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

**BRIEF  
FOR THE MONITORING OF WORKS  
UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL**

Site or Project Name: PENNOYER'S SCHOOL  
Parish: PULHAM ST MARY  
Grid reference: TM 2100 8535  
Norfolk HER No.: 10778  
Site type(s) : Medieval guild chapel  
Planning Authority: South Norfolk DC  
Application or Reference No.: 07 1741  
Level Required /Constant Attendance  
Issued by: Edwin J Rose  
Planning Advisory Archaeologist  
Norfolk Landscape Archaeology  
Union House, Gressenhall  
Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4DR  
Tel: 01362 869279 (direct)  
Fax: 01362 860951  
Edwin.rose@norfolk.gov.uk  
Date: 28 August 2007  
Notes: The Archaeological Contractor is required to monitor all below-ground interventions.  
Works to the building itself are the responsibility of NCC Building Conservation Team



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Edwin Rose on 01362 869279 and we will do our best to help.

## THE BRIEF

The Archaeological Contractor should confirm that the Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control will be undertaken in accordance with the following:

1. Provision will be made for monitoring the development, including, where appropriate, the following:-
  - all areas of below-ground disturbance, including excavations, foundation trenches, service trenches, drains and soakaways.
  - above-ground remains when the development affects a building of historic importance
  - pipeline and cable trenches.
2. Monitoring will be undertaken at the level indicated i.e. occasional visit, regular visit or constant attendance.
3. Where appropriate, topsoil or spoil will be scanned by metal-detector before and during its removal.
4. All archaeological contexts and artefacts exposed, examined or excavated will be fully recorded on appropriate context, finds and sample sheets, on plans and sections and by photographic record.
5. Provision will be made for an appropriate level of analysis, including identification of artefacts, specialist reports if appropriate, production of archive and report, donation of finds to an appropriate museum, transfer and storage of artefacts and archive in an acceptable form to an appropriate museum, conservation and inclusion of the results of the project in the County Historic Environment Record.
6. Indicate that any areas of environmental potential will be sampled, as advised by the environmental specialist.
7. The results will be presented in a report, the nature of which should be commensurate with the findings. Negative or low-key results may simply be reported to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record on the appropriate form or by a one-page report and location/site plan.
8. The report should include appropriate scale plans showing the locations of all features and finds, and detailed plans and sections where necessary.
9. The report should include comprehensive details of all finds.
10. Three hard copies and a PDF copy on CD of the Report should be supplied to NLA for the attention of the Head of Archaeological Planning within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork on the understanding that this will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months). Two hard copies and the PDF file will be deposited with the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, and the third hard copy will be forwarded to the Local Planning Authority.
11. At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.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 for submission to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report. Hard copies of the report must still be provided as specified.
12. Hard copies of the report must also be provided, as specified below.
13. All works will be carried out in full accordance with the appropriate sections of

Gurney, D., 2003, '**Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England**', as adopted by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers for the East of England Region and published as *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*. This is available as a PDF file on the web at [www.eaareports.org.uk](http://www.eaareports.org.uk). Archaeological Contractors should note that the **Standards** document stipulates basic *methodological* standards. It is considered axiomatic that all contractors will strive to achieve the highest possible *qualitative* standards, with the application of the most advanced and appropriate techniques possible within a context of continuous improvement aimed at maximising the recovery of archaeological data and contributing to the development of a greater understanding of Norfolk's historic environment. Monitoring officers will seek and expect clear evidence of commitment to the historic resource of Norfolk, with specifications being drawn up within a context of added value.

14. The Archaeological Contractor will contact the HER Officer of NLA in advance of work starting to obtain a HER number for the site or, if a number is already given on the Brief, to ensure that it is still applicable.

### **THE MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL**

This means that you will need to commission an archaeological contractor to ensure that an archaeologist is present during certain phases of the development to record any features exposed or any archaeological finds.

This does not mean that the development programme will be stopped or delayed by the archaeologist, who will work alongside other contractors on site to ensure that any necessary archaeological records are made.

In the unlikely event of the discovery of unanticipated remains of very great importance, discussions will take place on how these might be preserved or recorded.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO**

You should forward a copy of this Brief to one or more Archaeological Contractors, and discuss with them the timing and costs. Your appointed contractor should be asked to confirm in writing to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) that this brief will be adhered to.

NLA does not see Contractors' costings, nor do we give advice on costs. You may wish to obtain a number of quotations or to employ the services of an archaeological consultant.

Details of archaeological contractors based in Norfolk and beyond may be found in the Institute of Field Archaeologists Yearbook & Directory, available from the I.F.A., University of Reading, 2 Earley Gate, PO Box 239, Reading RG6 6AU. Tel: 0118 931 6446. Fax: 0118 931 6448. Email: [admin@archaeologists.net](mailto:admin@archaeologists.net). Website: [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net).

**FOR FURTHER HELP, INFORMATION AND ADVICE CONTACT**

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Norfolk Landscape Archaeology is responsible for safeguarding the County's archaeological heritage. NLA is consulted by Planning Authorities and provides advice on archaeological work that may be required as a result of development proposals.