

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## New Performing Arts Centre, Woodbridge School

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: C/01/0932

National Grid Reference: TM 2682 4946

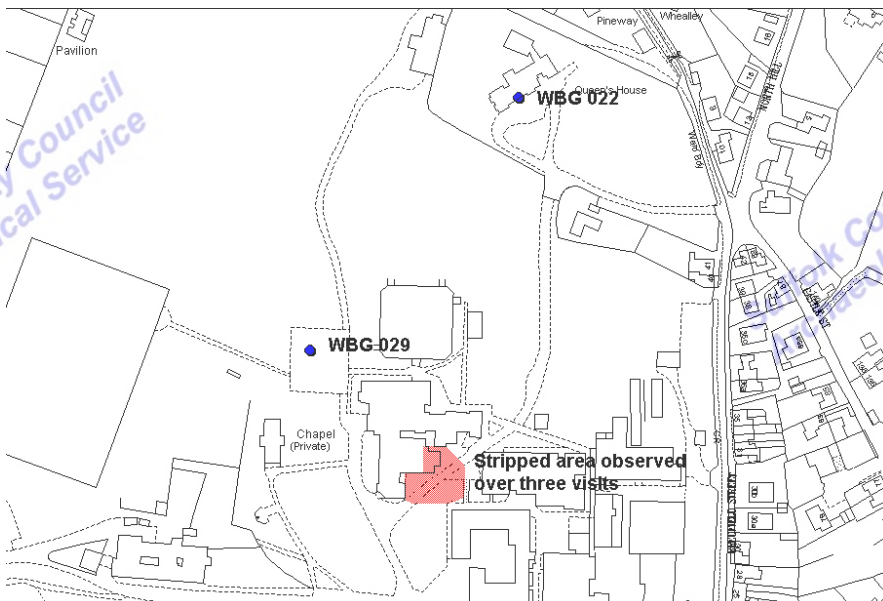
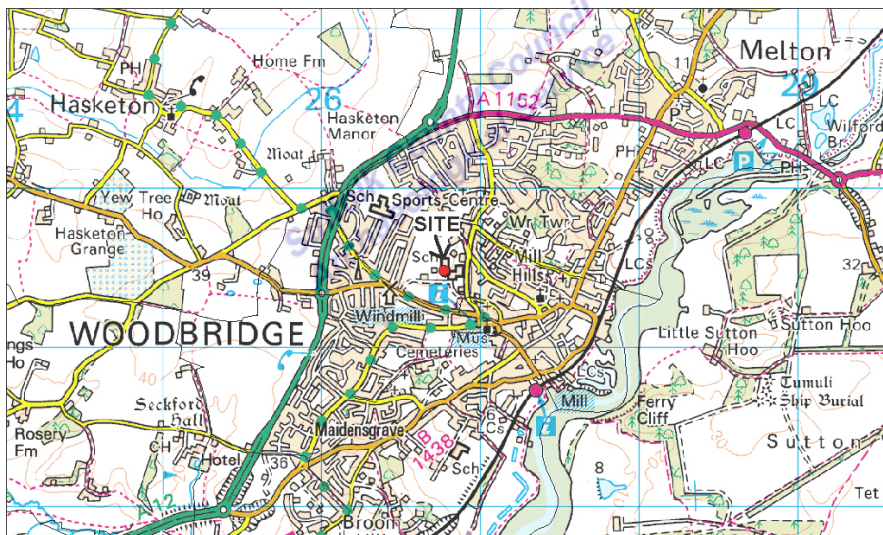
Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: **WBG 053**

Clare McLannahan, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, January 2005

SCCAS Report Number: **2005/2**

Oasis ID. No. - suffolkc1-6096

Planning consent for the construction of a new performing arts centre at Woodbridge School, required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site lies 70m south east of significant Roman occupation deposits, including a clay floor, which suggests a small settlement of unknown extent is in the vicinity. Also, an early record of an Anglo Saxon burial exists, thought to come from around 150m to the north of the present development. The project was commissioned by R G Carter on behalf of Woodbridge School.



A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Jude Plouviez of the Conservation Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), who requested a series of monitoring visits during the excavation of the footing trenches. This was to observe the trenches and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.

The land had also been extensively terraced in the past to accommodate the present building on a sloping site. It is likely that this terracing has already destroyed a part of any archaeological evidence that was remaining but demolition of the existing building and the subsequent removal of footings will probably cause more damage. As such, it was concluded that test depths of the natural subsoil be obtained by augering before work commenced in an attempt to determine how much, if at all, this terracing had affected the natural lie of the land and possibly any archaeology. It was also hoped that this augering would locate the boundary ditch of the manor if this ran through the site at this point.

## Results

An area immediately adjacent to the existing building was seen on the first visit. It had been stripped and levelled and demolition of part of the existing building had already taken place so observation of the full depth of deposits to the previous ground level could not be made. However, a very substantial made ground deposit (0002) was recorded for a depth of c. 1.5m to the point where excavation ceased prior to the digging of pad foundations for the underpinning of the retained kitchen wall. The deposit comprised very soft light yellowish brown coarse sands with rare medium to large modern brick fragments. It was very clean (if it wasn't for the bricks it could have been mistaken for natural) and probably represents recent deposits used in the landscaping that is apparent throughout the school grounds (Rod Gardner, pers.comm.).

Two holes for pad foundations were observed immediately adjacent to the existing building on the second visit and again, 0002 was observed throughout with no obvious interventions. These holes were dug to a depth of c. 1.5m. below the stripped level. The upcast soil was also inspected for finds but none were recovered.

A much larger area of stripped land was observed on the third visit but again, no features or finds were recovered. The spoil had been off-sited on this visit and so was not inspected for finds (Jezz Meredith, pers.comm.)

The overall visibility of the ground deposits was good on all three visits suggesting that if archaeology had been present, it would have been seen by the observing archaeologists.

## Conclusion

No archaeological features or finds were seen during these monitoring visits. The whole area appears to have been subjected to extensive landscaping as part of previous school developments so if any evidence of a Roman site had been present, it is likely that this has since been destroyed. However, this landscaping may not have

occurred all over the school grounds so further work may reveal more evidence of the Roman occupation site.

Clare McLamahan

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 18th January 2005

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service