

# St. James Green Southwold Suffolk



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



January 2010

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 1162

OASIS No: Oxfordar3-71310

NGR: TM 650955 276230

**St James Green, Southwold, Suffolk**

*Watching Brief*

*Site Code: XSFSOT10*

*Date of Works: 26 January 2010*

*Report No: 1162*

*Excavator: Louise Bush*

*Client: Anglian Water*

*Report Date: January 2010*

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### **Summary**

*On the 26th January 2010, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at St James Green, Southwold, Suffolk (TM 650955 276230). The brief required the observation of a hand-excavated trench 14m long, 0.6m wide and 0.85m deep prior to the laying of a new water pipe. No archaeological features were observed. A small number of mostly post-medieval artefacts were recovered.*

## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The underlying natural geology consists of sand and gravel. The site lies at c.12m OD which drops sharply down to the sea 70m to the east.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity in Southwold has been unearthed due to erosion, a large number of flint adzes and blades have been recovered from out of the cliff face.
- 2.1.2 The site lies within the area of medieval Southwold, defined in the County Historic Environment Record as an archaeological site of regional importance. Southwold is mentioned in the Domesday Book, in 1086. St Edmund Church (located c. 500m west of the site) was built in the late Medieval period.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 3.1.2 The Brief required that the digging of an open-cut trench and the up-cast soil be observed during and after excavation.
- 3.1.3 Site conditions did not inhibit the observation of work, the weather was cold and sunny.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Topsoil strip

- 4.1.1 The topsoil (1) was excavated to a depth of 0.7m. The soil was a dark brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones and contained a moderate amount of bone and brick fragments. A small patch of mid brown-grey sand subsoil (2) with abundant small and medium sub-rounded stones was uncovered in a small section of the trench toward its northern end.
- 4.1.2 The hand-cut trench did not go deep enough to uncover any archaeology or natural geology.

### 4.2 Finds summary

- 4.2.1 All the finds came from the topsoil. The assemblage consists of two clay pipe stems dating to post-1580, two sherds of Raeren stoneware dating the late 15th to early 16th century, three sherds of 16th to 17th century pottery and two sherds of possible Roman grey sandy ware. Several brick and tile fragments were observed but not collected.

- 4.2.2 Twenty three fragments of animal bone were recovered, of which 9 were identifiable to species (39% of the total sample). All but two of these consist of butchered adult cattle remains, including portions of metacarpal, astragalus and scapula. A portion of butchered adult pig distal humerus and scapula were also recovered. The humerus was sawn at both ends and displayed 6 severe knife cuts at varying positions.

## 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features were observed during the excavation. The finds recovered are of a quantity and type to be expected from within a town, consisting of post-medieval culinary and domestic debris.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Thanks too to Jerry Parker and Patrick Warner of Barhale. Also to Mark and John Badcock of Barhale who carried out the hand-excavation.
- 6.1.2 The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. The brief for archaeological works was written by Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Wade, K. 2010 Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring: St James Green, Southwold.



## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-71310		
Project Name	St James Park, Southwold, Suffolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	27-01-2010	Finish	27-01-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XSFSOT10	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	N/A	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
N/A	Select period...	N/A	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Waveney	St James Green Southwold Suffolk, IP18 6JL
Parish	Southwold	
HER	Suffolk HER	
Study Area	227sqm	National Grid Reference
		TM 650955 276230

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council)
Project Design Originator	N/A
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Louise Bush

### Project Archives

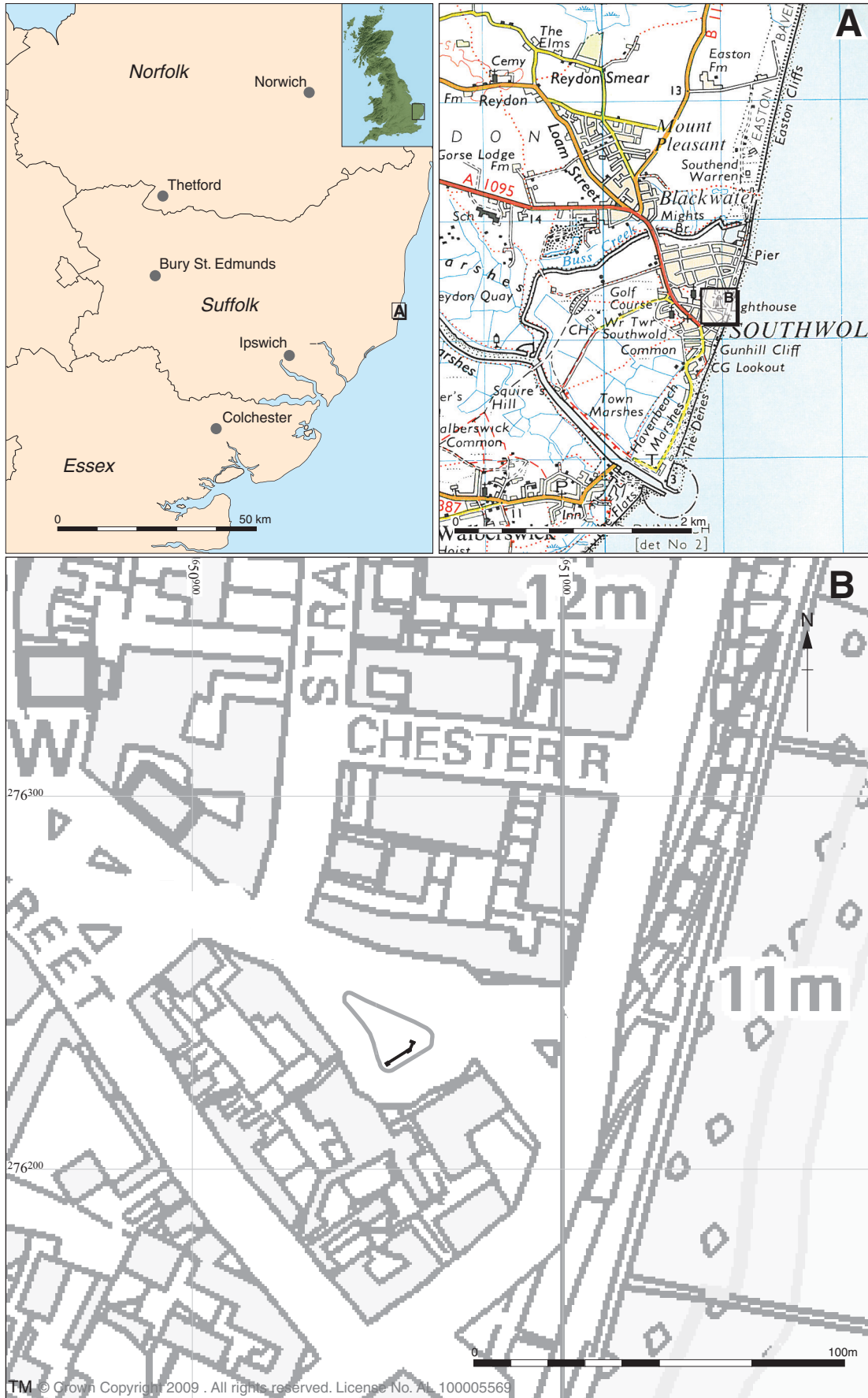
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Suffolk County Council	OA East	OA East
XSTSOT10	XSFSOT10	XSFSOT10

### Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**



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Figure 1: Location of watching brief trench (black)



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