

**Centre for Archaeology  
SCIENTIFIC DATING SERVICE**

**SITE DETAILS**

*Please complete this form so that we can assess your dating request. Information provided here may be published verbatim.*

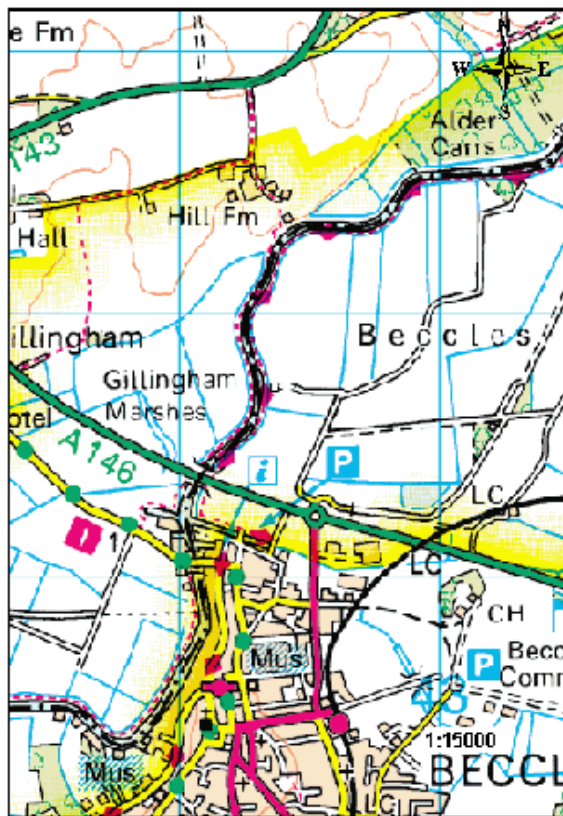
<b>Name of site</b>	Beccles Trackway	<b>Site code</b>	Beccles#2
<b>Address of site</b>	Beccles floodplain		
<b>Nearest town</b>	Beccles	<b>County</b>	Suffolk
<b>OS ngr</b>	TM642342 292039		
<b>Site archival body</b>	Finds: Iron Age buried trackway Paper: None		
<b>Date of excavation</b>	July 2006		
<b>Description of Site</b>			
<p>Analysis of aerial photographs, LiDAR and grey literature as part of the Suffolk River Valleys Project resulted in the identification of a thick peat sequence within the valley floodplain of the River Waveney, proximal to the town of Beccles.</p> <p>During flood alleviation works along the River Waveney, the excavation of a drainage ditch identified an abundance of vertical timber posts preserved within the peat archive. These were subsequently identified as the remnants of a prehistoric trackway. Coring proximal to the trackway confirmed the presence of up to 6metres of fen peat overlying basal sands and gravels. With distance north from the archaeological excavation, the sedimentary sequence changes, with blue-grey clayey silts overlying the peat. The thickness of the minerogenic unit also was shown to increase northwards.</p>			
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<b>EH contact</b> Eg inspector	Dr Ingrid Ward (Project Manager)		
<b>Tel no.</b>	01502 731660 07798 668049	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:Ingrid.Ward@english-heritage.org.uk">Ingrid.Ward@english-heritage.org.uk</a>
<b>Date of request</b>	05.10.06	<b>Results needed by</b>	ASAP

## Details of series of radiocarbon samples submitted

*Please complete the following for each series of radiocarbon samples (photocopying this sheet as appropriate). Information which you provide here may be published verbatim.*

*A series is a group of samples related to each other for archaeological or scientific reasons (eg samples from a cemetery, a building, or a peat core).*

<b>Name or code of series</b>	Beccles#2: 134cm, 155cm, 173cm, 222cm, 250cm, 254cm, 257cm, 275cm, 283cm
<b>Description of series</b> Approximately 2.84m of grey-brown and blue-grey clayey silts are present, which is underlain by a herbaceous well humified peat. Initial diatom analysis has identified the presence of estuarine species, indicative of a lowland coastal environment during deposition of the clayey silts. Subtle variations in composition are present, resulting in the development of distinguishable horizons within the minerogenic unit. The sedimentology varies from a grey-brown organic-rich silt to a blue-grey clayey silt. Four horizons of each type are present, interbedded with one another.	
<b>Objectives of dating</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To determine the timing of the onset of minerogenic sedimentation onto the underlying peat at the site.</li><li>• To identify variations in the rate of minerogenic accumulation within the coastal lowland environment during its depositional history.</li><li>• To provide a chronological understanding of the variations in sedimentology within the minerogenic unit, which are believed to be related to changes in relative sea level.</li></ul>	
<b>Relevant publications</b> Please provide references in full Alderton, A. (1983). Flandrian vegetational history and sea-level change of the Waveney Valley. Unpublished PhD Thesis, University of Cambridge Brew, D.S. (1990). Sedimentary Environments and Holocene Evolution of the Suffolk Estuaries. Unpublished PhD Thesis, University of East Anglia.	



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**Figure 1:** OS Map and Aerial photograph of area surrounding Beccles, with site location indicated by \*.