The Star Inn
Wenhaston, Suffolk

Archaeological Monitoring Report

June 2015

Client: Carl Ernsting

OA East Report No: 1786
OASIS No: oxfordar3-211283
NGR: TM 4275 7500
The Star Inn, Wenhamston, Suffolk

Archaeological Monitoring

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Report Date: June 2015
Report Number: 1786

Site Name: The Star Inn, Wenhamast, Suffolk

HER Event No: ESF23059

Date of Works: May 2015

Client Name: Carl Ernsting

Client Ref: 18217

Planning Ref: C/12/2198

Grid Ref: TM 4275 7500

Site Code: WMH041

Finance Code: XSFTSI15

Receiving Body: Suffolk Museums

Accession No: WMH041

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Date: 22/8/15

Signed:

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Summary

On the 12th May 2015, Oxford Archaeology East carried out archaeological monitoring at The Star Inn, Hall Road, Wenhamston, Suffolk (TM 4275 7500). The monitoring was carried out during the ground works associated with the construction of a new garage adjacent to the Inn.

An 11m x 5m area was excavated within the development area and revealed seven pits and four post holes. Five of these pits were excavated, three of which yielded artefacts of post-medieval/modern date including pottery sherds, tile and brick fragments.

The natural land surface to the north of The Star Inn was observed to be truncated. The site lay towards the southern end of a substantial old excavation extending into the slope of the rising ground to the north of The Star Inn. This excavation probably represents quarrying of the underlying Crag Sand which outcrops with no overlying superficial deposits in this part of the village. The truncation of the old land surface and levelling of the ground associated with the construction of The Star Inn and car park may account for the lack of remains found on site pre-dating the modern period.

The evaluation at The Star Inn, Wenhamston, Suffolk has demonstrated that no archaeological deposits or artefacts of significance are present on this site despite the proximity of significant artefact scatters of Roman and Saxon finds to the east of Hall Road.
1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work
1.1.1 Archaeological monitoring was conducted at The Star Inn, Hall Road, Wenhauston, Suffolk, IP19 9HF (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS; Planning Application: Suffolk Coastal District Council C/12/2198), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA East (Macaulay 2013).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by Suffolk County Council, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography
1.2.1 The site lies immediately to the north of The Star Inn in the parish of Wenhauston, Suffolk (Fig. 2, Plate 1). It comprises an area of land 11m x 5m within the car parking area approximately 15m above ordnance datum.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the proposed development site comprises Crag Group - Sand bedrock with no superficial deposits recorded (http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background
1.3.1 Wenhauston is a village within the parish of Wenhauston with Mells Hamlet. It is situated to the south of the River Blyth in Suffolk Coastal District c.20km south west of Lowestoft. It is described as 'Wenadestuna', meaning Wynhaeth's town, in the Domesday survey of 1086, which also describes the two manors of Wenhauston Manor & Wenhauston Grange. The parish has also been known historically as 'Wenlacston, Wenhaustone and Wannacher'. The Church of St Peter's (SHER WMH010) dates back to at least the early Medieval period where it is also mentioned in the Domesday survey. The current church building dates back to the 12th century. The remains of the Chapel of St Margaret (SHER WMH003) are located within Mells Hamlet with further deserted medieval village remains in the vicinity. This chapel was built c.1100-1120 and abandoned c.1465. The Chapel of St Bartholomew is also recorded near the old site of Wenhauston Hall on Bartholomew's Lane.

1.3.2 A search of the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record (SHER) of a 1km radius of the site via the Heritage Gateway website (http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk) was carried out and the results presented below.

1.3.3 The fields immediately to the east of Hall Road and The Star Inn have been extensively field walked and metal detected indicating activity from the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods (SHER WMH005). Study of aerial photographs of these fields show crop marks of boundaries on a different alignment to existing field boundaries.
The crop mark of a ring ditch, possibly representing a prehistoric round barrow, of 12m diameter is also shown. Further to these monuments crop marks show a further ring ditch of c.20m diameter (SHER WMH001) and a rectilinear enclosure (SHER WMH002). The substantial artefact scatter recovered from these fields to date includes:

**Neolithic (4000 – 2351BC)** flaked flint axe;

**Late Iron Age (100BC – AD42)** silver Iceni coin (Boar-Horse type) & enamelled terret ring fragment of harness;

**Roman (AD43 – 409)** pottery including Samian ware, Nene Valley ware and amphora sherds & metalwork including coins, rings, key, harness fittings, brooches, buckle, bead, knife, cosmetic grinders and a goat figurine;

**Late Saxon (AD850 – 1100)** Thetford ware pottery & metalwork including brooches, clasp and a pin;

**Medieval (AD1101 – 1539)** pottery & metalwork including a bronze seal, coin, buckle and harness fitting; and

**Post-medieval (AD1540 – 1900)** metalwork including bell, buckle, coin, spoon and strap fitting.

1.3.4 This activity extends to the north beyond Narrow Way to the fields in the vicinity of Vale Farm, approximately 500m to the north of The Star Inn (SHER WMH004). Aerial photographs of these fields show a rectilinear crop mark system and part of a rectangular enclosure. Metal detecting of these fields has yielded much metal work finds including:

**Late Bronze Age (1000 – 701BC)** fragment of bronze socketed axe and a complete socketed hammer;

**Late Iron Age (100BC – AD42)** Bow brooch (La Tene I style) and three coins;

**Roman (AD43 – 409)** coins, brooches, stylus, cosmetic grinders;

**Early Saxon (AD410 – 649)** Bow brooch, cruciform brooch and strap end; and

**Medieval (AD1101 – 1539)** penny and halfpenny coins from reigns of Henry II to Edward III and harness pendant.

1.3.5 The SHER entry for the artefacts retrieved in the fields immediately to the east of The Star Inn are considered to be indicative of a large Roman settlement. The Saxon pottery and metalwork are described as probably associated with a Saxon cemetery.

1.3.6 Archaeological excavations on Narrow way, approximately 350m north of the site, and between these large artefact scatters, has revealed archaeological features dating from the Saxon and Roman periods. SHER WMH019 describes a single trench containing a pit and a ditch, both of which yielded abraded Roman pottery including colour coated and Samian wares (Boulter 1998). SHER WMH033 describes an evaluation and excavation at 7-14 Narrow Way, Wen haston that revealed Roman and Saxon features including pits, post-holes, ditches, a post-hole building and a possible palisade ditch. Artefacts recovered consisted of Roman pottery and metalwork including a coin and a brooch and middle Saxon Ipswich ware pottery. Some medieval features and artefacts were also recorded (Stirk 2009a).

1.3.7 Roman pottery has also been recovered from monitoring of ground works that identified various features including a hearth, pit, post-hole and ditch at the Old Vicarage on Church Lane, 400m to the north of the site (SHER WMH034)(Stirk 2009b).

1.3.8 A Roman Bronze statuette of a nude Venus, 6 inches high, was found in a field near Blyford Bridge on the northern edge of the parish, 1.5km to the north of the site (Monument number 392081).
1.3.9 By the Late Saxon period a settlement had been established, considered to be part of the settlements of Wenhauston and Mells recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. The presence of two commons in this period is also evidenced.

1.3.10 SHER WMH024 describes Saxon and medieval metalwork artefacts recovered from metal detecting of the playing fields immediately to the west of Wenhauston Primary School 200m to the north of the site.

1.3.11 Settlement of Wenhauston continued throughout the medieval period, centred on St Peter’s church, the two manors and commons. A rectilinear crop mark enclosure is also observed from aerial photographs adjacent to Church Lane, 400m to the north of the site (SHER WMH015). This is interpreted as a possible medieval toft/croft property fronting onto Church Lane.

1.3.12 Post medieval monuments in the parish include earthwork ridges adjacent to the River Blyth, possibly related to a water meadow or other water management, 1km to the north-east of the site (Monument number 1031379).

1.3.13 Two post-medieval windmills are described in the village, Blackheath Mill (SHER WMH008) located 350m south west of the site on Blackheath Road, and Kitty Mill (SHER WMH009) located 900m north west of the site. These mills were demolished c.1890 and 1964 respectively. Both are described as post mills with roundhouses.

1.3.14 Further post-medieval structures in the vicinity of the site include: a 16th century timber framed building known as Church Cottages located at 1-3 Church Lane, 400m to the north of the site, and probably originally functioning as a guildhall (Monument number 1354386); and St Vulcans on Back Road, 600m to the north of the site, comprising a timber framed building with its origins in the early 18th century (Monument number 1047410).

1.3.15 Archaeological monitoring of ground works at Wenhauston Primary School (SHER WMH035), 200m to the north of the site, revealed a post-medieval ditch as well as three soakaways probably dating from Victorian times (Sommers 2011).

1.3.16 The Star Inn itself was built in 1839.

1.3.17 A search of past Ordnance Survey maps of the site at http://maps.nls.uk was carried out to determine the more recent use of the site in the modern period. It was determined that the sites layout has remained essentially the same to at least 1882. A small outbuilding associated with the Inn was noted in the development area on the map of 1882. This outbuilding is no longer present on the map of 1903. The area to the north of The Star Inn is noted to lie within a large truncation in the natural land surface, possibly representing an old sand quarry, which extends and deepens into the rising ground to the north of The Star Inn. Further inspection of Ordnance Survey maps of the local area noted other disused pits and sand pits in the parish.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Carl Ernsting who commissioned the work. Lindsey Kemp undertook the excavation of the site. Stephen Macaulay managed the project for OA East. Thanks should also be extended to Jude Plouviez of Suffolk County Council who monitored the works. Thanks is also extended to Carole Fletcher who assessed the pottery sherds, Charlotte Davies who produced the illustrations and Dave Brown for the site survey.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims
2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological monitoring 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.

2.2 Methodology
2.2.1 The Brief required the monitoring of below-ground works associated with the construction of the garage, that have the potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.

2.2.2 The excavation of an area 11m x 5m encompassing the footprint of the new garage was carried out under constant archaeological supervision (Plate 2).

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS GS08/CS10 fitted with “smartnet”.

2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East’s pro-forma sheets. Plans and sections of the excavation were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.6 No features or layers were encountered that had potential for environmental sampling.

2.2.7 The site conditions were good with fair weather. The excavation was located on the grassy margins of The Star Inn car park.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction
3.1.1 Descriptions of the ground conditions encountered, features identified and artefacts recovered are given in this section, full descriptions with dimensions are given in appendix A. The site layout is given in Figure 3. Selected sections are presented as Figure 4.

3.2 Trench Descriptions
3.2.1 The site was overlain by a dark grey silty sand topsoil with occasional gravel inclusions up to 0.3m thick.
3.2.2 The natural geology (25) was encountered at a depth of 0.3m below ground level. This comprised loose orange sand. This was considered to represent the Crag Group – Sand bedrock described in section 1.2.2.
3.2.3 The natural deposits were cut by seven pits and four post holes. The pits 1, 3, 7 & 9 and post hole 5 were excavated.

3.2.4 Pits
3.2.5 Pit 1 had a complex shape in plan with a U shape profile and extended beyond the southern and western baulk of the excavation. It contained a single fill (2) consisting of loose light brownish grey sand that yielded mid 16th-18th and 19th century pottery sherds.
3.2.6 Pit 3 had a rectangular shape in plan with undercutting sides and a flat base that extended beyond the western baulk of the excavation. The single fill (4) consisted of loose light grey sand that yielded a mid 18th-early 19th century pottery sherd and fragments of 19th century tile and brick.
3.2.7 Pit 7 had a sub-circular shape in plan with a flat based U-shape profile and extended beyond the western baulk of the excavation. The single fill (8) consisted of loose mid-greyish brown sand (Plate 3)
3.2.8 Pit 9 had a sub-circular shape in plan with a U-shape profile and extended beyond the western and northern baulks of the excavation. It contained two fills (10 &11) consisting of loose mid-brown sand. The upper fill (11) yielded a 19th century pottery sherd and tile fragment (Plate 3).
3.2.9 The remaining un-excavated comprised pit 12 with a sub-rectangular shape in plan and pits 14 and 22 with sub-circular shapes in plan with fills consisting loose light to dark greyish brown sand.

Post-holes
3.2.10 Post-hole 5 had a circular shape in plan with a U shape profile. It contained a single fill (6) consisting of loose dark brown silty sand.
3.2.11 The unexcavated post-holes 16, 18 and 20 had a circular to sub-circular shapes in plan and their fills consisted of loose dark brown sand.

3.3 Finds Summary
3.3.1 Full descriptions of the pottery and tile fragments recovered from the site are given in appendix B.
3.3.2 A pottery assemblage of four sherds, weighing 0.260kg, was recovered from the fills of pits 1, 3 & 9. The assemblage comprised: one post-medieval Redware sherd and one modern Late Slipped Kitchen Ware sherd from pit 1; one late post-medieval/modern Creamware sherd from pit 3; and one modern Refined White Earthenware sherd from pit 9.

3.3.3 Pits 3 and 9 each produced a single sherd from post-medieval tiles and pit 3 yielded a fragment of post-medieval brick (not retained).

3.4 Environmental Summary
3.4.1 No deposits were identified with potential for environmental sampling.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 The natural land surface to the north of The Star Inn was observed to be truncated. The site lay towards the southern end of a substantial old excavation extending into the slope of the rising ground to the north of The Star Inn. This excavation probably represents part of the sand quarrying activity shown on old maps of the parish (section 1.3.17). Furthermore it was noted from geology maps (section 1.2.2) that the underlying Crag Sand outcrops in this part of the village with no overlying superficial sand & gravel deposits.

4.1.2 Levelling of the ground associated with the construction of The Star Inn in 1839 and later associated with the car parking area would further alter the topography of the site. These factors may account for the lack of remains found on site pre-dating the modern period.

4.1.3 The pitting activity encountered is considered to probably be minor quarrying events into the underlying Crag Sand. The pottery sherds and tile fragments recovered date this activity to the 19th century.

4.1.4 The post holes are evidence for a recent pre-existing structure on the site that may be associated with the outbuilding of The Star Inn indicated from historic maps (section 1.3.17).

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 The evaluation at The Star Inn, Wenhauston, Suffolk has demonstrated that no archaeological deposits or artefacts of significance are present on this site despite the proximity of the significant artefact scatters of Roman and Saxon finds to the east of Hall Road.

4.3 Recommendations

4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.
## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

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<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
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<th>Length (m)</th>
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<td>Consisted of topsoil overlying natural sand with eight post-medieval pits and three post-medieval post-holes.</td>
<td>NW-SE</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>Fill of Pit 1</td>
<td>Pot</td>
<td>19th century</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Cut</td>
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<td>0.55</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>Fill of Pit 3</td>
<td>Pot, tile, brick</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>Fill of Post-hole 5</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Cut</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>Fill of Pit 7</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Cut</td>
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<td>0.5</td>
<td>Cut of Pit</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Fill of Pit 9</td>
<td>Pot, tile</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Fill</td>
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<td>Fill of Pit 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Topsoil</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>-</td>
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</table>
APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.1.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of four sherds, weighing 0.260kg, from three contexts. The condition of the overall assemblage is unabraded and the mean sherd weight is low to moderate at approximately 0.012 kg.

Methodology

B.1.2 Recording was carried out using OA East’s in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

B.1.3 The bulk of the material was recovered from pit 1 and included a rim from a well made 19th century slipped redware bowl, most likely a serving vessel or divided dish similar to that illustrated in McGarva (2000), photograph on p. 53, and identified as a divided press-moulded dish from the north-east of England. The other fragment is from a large Post-medieval Redware handled bowl. Pit 3 produced a single sherd of Creamware and pit 9 a Refined White Earthenware sherd.

B.1.4 The assemblage is domestic in nature and dates to the early 19th century, indicating low levels of pottery deposition across the site with some reworking of material.

B.1.5 Pottery Catalogue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Cut</th>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Basic Form</th>
<th>Sherd Count</th>
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<th>Pottery Date Range</th>
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<td>Post-medieval Redware</td>
<td>Rim and horizontal handle</td>
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<td>Mid 16th-18th century</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Late Slipped Kitchenware</td>
<td>Dish rim</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.048</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Creamware</td>
<td>Body sherd</td>
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<td>Mid 18th-early 19th century</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Refined White Earthenware</td>
<td>Dish or plate base sherd</td>
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<td>0.010</td>
<td>19th century</td>
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</table>

Table 1: Pottery
B.2 Ceramic Building Material

*by Carole Fletcher*

B.2.1 Pits 3 and 9 each produced a single sherd from post-medieval tiles, and given the date of the pottery recovered from these features the tiles are likely to be 19th century.

B.2.2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Cut</th>
<th>Basic Form</th>
<th>Sherd Count</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>Pottery Date Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tile, oxidised sandy fabric</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.038</td>
<td>19th century</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tile, oxidised sandy fabric</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.038</td>
<td>19th century</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Table 2: Ceramic Building Material*
APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abraham, R 2015 Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at The Star Inn, Hall Road, Wenhamaston with Melis. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, dated 21st April 2015


Electronic Sources (accessed 5th June 2015)
http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html
http://maps.nls.uk
http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk
**APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM**

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

**Project Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OASIS Number</th>
<th>oxfordar3-211283</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Archaeological Monitoring at The Star Inn, Wenhaston, Suffolk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Dates (fieldwork) Start</td>
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**Project Reference Codes**

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<td>HER No.</td>
<td>WMH041</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning App. No.</td>
<td>C/12/2198</td>
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<tr>
<td>Related HER/OASIS No.</td>
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**Type of Project/Techniques Used**

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<td>Development Type</td>
<td>Small Scale (e.g. single house)</td>
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**Please select all techniques used:**

- [ ] Aerial Photography - interpretation
- [ ] Aerial Photography - new
- [ ] Annotated Sketch
- [ ] Augering
- [ ] Dendrochronological Survey
- [ ] Documentary Search
- [ ] Environmental Sampling
- [ ] Fieldwalking
- [ ] Geophysical Survey
- [ ] Grab-Sampling
- [ ] Gravity-Core
- [ ] Laser Scanning
- [ ] Measured Survey
- [ ] Metal Detectors
- [ ] Phosphate Survey
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Rectified Photography
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [ ] Sample Trenches
- [ ] Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
- [ ] Targeted Trenches
- [ ] Test Pits
- [ ] Topographic Survey
- [ ] Vibro-core
- [x] Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)

**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".

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<th>Period</th>
<th>Object</th>
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<td>pits</td>
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<td>pottery</td>
<td>Post Medieval 1540 to 1901</td>
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**Project Location**
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<td>Parish</td>
<td>Wenhaston with Mells</td>
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<td>HER</td>
<td>Suffolk Museums</td>
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<td>National Grid Reference</td>
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**Project Originators**

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<th>OA EAST</th>
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<td>Project Brief Originator</td>
<td>Jude Plouviez (SCCAS/CT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Design Originator</td>
<td>Stephen Macaulay (OA East)</td>
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<td>Project Manager</td>
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<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Graeme Clarke (OA East)</td>
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**Project Archives**

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<th>Paper Archive</th>
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**Archive Contents/Media**

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**Digital Media**

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
- [x] Images
- Illustrations
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- [x] Survey
- [x] Text
- Virtual Reality

**Paper Media**

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheet
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfilm
- Misc.
- Research/Notes
- Photos
- Plans
- [x] Report
- Sections
- [x] Survey
Figure 1: Site location

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015. All rights reserved. Centremaps reference 10001998
Figure 2: Detailed site location plan
Figure 3: Plan of archaeological features
Figure 4: Sections
Plate 1: Working shot of the site and The Star Inn looking south

Plate 2: The excavation area looking south west
Plate 3: Section 3 of pits 7 & 9