

Land Adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield, Suffolk

Planning application: 3881/08

HER Ref: BED 025

Archaeological Excavation Report

(© John Newman BA MIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(May 2012)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield, Suffolk IP13 7JF

Client: Springfield Residential

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 3881/08

Development: Erection of 8 dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 12 January, 2012

HER Ref: BED 025

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-126345 (evaluation- johnnewm1-114665)

Grid ref: TM 2180 6668



Frontispiece- extract from Bedfield tithe map of 1842- The Old Rectory as plot 107
(Suffolk RO ref. P461/2)

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Summary: Bedfield, land adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green (BED 025, TM 2180 6668) Following an evaluation which recorded two shallow pits of probable medieval date on a c0.25 hectare area adjacent to a now largely filled-in moated site an area 4.5m x 12m was stripped of top and subsoil centred on these features. This small scale area excavation revealed a further 5 similar small, shallow, pits; 4 of which contained small quantities of medieval pottery sherds. Palaeoenvironmental sampling indicates that these pits contained low density concentrations of general domestic waste (John Newman Archaeological Services for Springfield Residential).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Following the evaluation trenching of a c0.25h plot of land adjacent to The Old Rectory on the Monk Soham road at Bedfield (see Fig. 1) prior to a residential development under application 3881/08 the landowner and developer, Springfield Residential, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services to complete the archaeological programme of works. The evaluation results are detailed in the relevant report (Newman, 2011) for a small field that has probably been an area of rough grazing for much of the medieval and Post medieval periods as no clear evidence was recorded for past arable land use. However in trench 1 only 7m north of the Monk Soham road and c20m south-west of the now largely filled-in moat at The Old Rectory two shallow pits of probable medieval date were revealed and sampled. In addition the only significant quantity of medieval pottery recovered from the site during the evaluation was from the upcast spoil of trench 1 and consisted of 8 sherds of 13th-14th century date and a single sherd from the spoil of trench 4. Therefore as further evidence for medieval period activity was likely to be present close to the area in trench 1 where the two pits noted above had been recorded a further Brief for an archaeological excavation was set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to finally complete the programme of works and thereby gain discharge of the relevant planning condition. The excavation being specified as a 4.5m x 12m area centred on the area containing the features recorded in the evaluation which, by chance, lie under the strip which will see extensive ground disturbance for the access road and services to the planned development (see Fig. 2), no further archaeological works were required across the remainder of the site. In response to this Brief a Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) was produced by John Newman Archaeological Services to confirm that the relevant requirements would be met and sufficient resources were available to fully investigate record and analyse the archaeological deposits that might be revealed.

1.2 The evaluation report (Newman *ibid.*) outlines in more detail the background to the site; its topography and what can be deduced about its archaeological and historical potential from existing records and historic maps. In brief, and as noted above, this site is adjacent to the western side of The Old Rectory which the Bedfield tithe map of 1842 clearly shows as having been surrounded by a moat (HER BED 007) at that date in an area to the west of Long Green on the northern side of the Monk Soham road in an area of generally flat topography at c60m OD.

2. Excavation methodology

2.1 The specified excavation area of 4.5m x 12m (see Fig. 2) centred on the shallow pits (0002 & 0004) found during the evaluation was mechanically stripped of top and subsoil by a wheeled 180 machine equipped with a 1.5m wide ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision with the weather conditions being cold, dry and sunny. As found in the evaluation top and subsoil depths were uniform across the stripped area being 300mm and 200mm thick respectively above the underlying glaciofluvial Till deposits which are a stiff pale yellowish grey clay with small flints, small chalk fragments and occasional pockets of yellow silty sand. The upcast spoil was stockpiled around the edges of the excavation area and this was also examined visually and scanned with a metal detector as the stripping progressed.

2.2 The exposed pale yellowish grey clay Till deposit exposed over the excavation area was closely examined for archaeological features and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the excavation. A further six small features (0007, 0009, 0011, 0013, 0015 & 0017- see Figs. 3 & 4) were identified, sectioned, sampled and then fully excavated, save one pit (0007) which was only half sectioned as it continued outside the excavation area, and recorded. In addition the two pits identified in the evaluation (0002 & 0004) were fully excavated as they had only been half sectioned in the initial phase of works at the site. Finally the corners of the excavation area were recorded in relation to existing mapped details and a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the exposed area and features revealed.

3. Results

3.1 A full context list with feature descriptions for the site is attached below as Appendix V while the site plan (including pits 0002 & 0004 from the evaluation) are included as Fig. 3 and the associated sections as Fig. 4; for images of the excavation see Appendix I.

3.2 The majority of the archaeological features that were revealed lay in the southern part of the stripped area between the line of trench 1 of the evaluation phase of works 8m from the adjacent road and a point some 3.5m from the hedge along this road line. The only feature revealed to the north of the line of the evaluation trench was a post hole (0009) which still contained degraded fragments of the wooden post it had contained and which therefore can be interpreted as being a feature of recent date.

3.3 The remaining five features (0007, 0011, 0013, 0015 & 0017) form a remarkably uniform group with the two (0002 & 0004) identified in the evaluation with regard to their size, depth and respective fills. Three of the pits (0011, 0013 & 0015) are sub-oval and range in size from 500mm x 1000mm (0011) to 840mm x 1200mm (0017) while the remaining four pits are circular and range in diameter from 600mm (0002) to 900mm (0007). With regard to depth the pits are shallow and vary between 120mm (0002 & 0013) and 300mm (0007) and all had gently rounded bases. These features also all contained similar mid brown to mid grey/brown clay fills with charcoal flecks. One pit (0017) had a small area of disturbance (0018) in the upper part of its fill (0019) caused by recent tree root disturbance.

4. The finds

4.1 In total 17 sherds of pottery weighing 156g, one small fragment of fired clay, one small and two oyster shells were recovered during the evaluation and excavation phases at this site. The full finds report by Sue Anderson can be found below as Appendix III and the following summary outlines the salient points of this report.

4.2 The seventeen pottery sherds from the site include the nine sherds recovered as unstratified finds from the upcast spoil during the evaluation phase as outlined in section 1.1 above and eight sherds from the excavation phase which all came from secure contexts within the fill of four of the small pits that were identified. Two of these pits (0011/0012 & 0013/0014) contained a single sherd while another (0007/0008) had two sherds and the final feature with any direct dating evidence

(0017/0019) yielded three sherds. The pottery sherds from this site all fall within the 12th-14th century, high medieval period and are described as being 'in fabrics typical of the north-eastern quarter of Suffolk' in the report below and include one rim sherd and three glazed sherds. The assemblage represent sixteen vessels with cooking pots mainly represented with the unabraded condition of the sherds pointing to a conclusion that they represent medieval activity nearby though no further analysis is recommended for this small group of sherds.

4.3 Very few other finds were recovered from the site with one small fragment of fired clay (wt 10g) from one of the medieval pits (0017/0019) in addition to an oyster shell from the same feature and another from one of the other medieval pits (0007/0008).

5. The environmental evidence

5.1 Samples were taken during the evaluation phase from the two small pits recorded in trench 1 (0002/0003 & 0004/0005) and in the excavation phase from the additional five pits (0007/0008, 0011/0012, 0013/0014, 0015/0016 & 0017/0019) so an assessment could be made of any charred macrofossil and other remains. The full report by Val Fryer is included below as Appendix IV and the following summary outlines the main findings.

5.2 In summary the results from the assessment of the charred plant macrofossil and other remains from the five pits sampled in the excavation phase of works at this site were very similar to the conclusions drawn from the two pits sampled during the evaluation. All seven assemblages are described as being 'small and relatively sparse' and though composed largely of domestic waste the quantities represented do not suggest 'long term or systematic disposal.' Containing small quantities of cereal grains and waste which are heavily heat distorted, a few seeds, possible food waste such as bone fragments, eggshell and fish bone and fragments of black, tarry material in addition to occasional pottery sherds and oyster shells it can be concluded that the pits were used for the disposal of hearth rakings, general kitchen waste and floor sweepings. The fish bones perhaps deriving from fish stocked in the nearby moat during the medieval period as a source of fresh food and to comply with the various church requirements to abstain from meat at certain times of the year and on Fridays during the pre-Reformation period. The report on the assemblages collected from the samples also suggesting possible use of these features as cess pits.

5.3 With such small assemblages of mixed domestic waste it is not thought worthwhile to carry out any further analysis as none contain a sufficient density of material for quantification.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The conclusions that can be drawn regarding past use of this area immediately to the west of The Old Rectory following this small scale excavation are very similar to those made after the evaluation trenching. A high medieval date has been confirmed for the great majority of the features investigated with just one, a post hole (0009), being of more recent date as four of the seven pits contained small quantities of pottery sherds of 12th-14th century date. Use of the pits for the disposal of general

domestic waste coupled possibly with a function as cess pits is also suggested by the ceramic and palaeoenvironmental assemblages that were collected from these features with the most likely origin for this material being the inhabitants of the adjacent moated site in the medieval period. The overall artefact assemblage does not point to any great social status for the nearby moat though it should be emphasised that this is also a small group of artefacts and ecofacts.

6.2 While the medieval features recorded at this site have been interpreted as shallow pits some consideration should also be given to the possibility that they could be post holes as ancillary structures of this period were constructed utilising the simple earth-fast post method. Four of these features (0002, 0004, 0011 & 0015) do form a c5m long line though in form all of the recorded features were shallow with their depth varying between 120mm and 300mm below the level of the subsoil and therefore would have afforded little structural stability. In addition no evidence was noted for any post-pipes within any of the features excavated which were relatively broad, with widths varying between 500mm and 1200mm, in relation to their shallow depth. Similarly no evidence was recorded for any evidence of packing material that might have reinforced any possible posts. With overall uniform fills and no evidence for any consolidation, which would be expected if the features were post-pads rather than post holes, an interpretation of the recorded features as shallow pits therefore appears to be valid. The ecofactual evidence recovered from the fill in the recorded features further supporting the interpretation above that they were created to facilitate the disposal of domestic waste.

6.3 Overall the archaeological programme of works at this site has recorded interesting evidence for medieval period activity on the edge of the village of Bedfield and, in all likelihood, to be associated with a moated site which at least by the 18th /19th century was the site of the parish rectory. Research in the County Record Office would probably throw more light on the history of this moated site and adjacent areas but any such work is beyond the scope of the programme of works required for this development. A recent overview of the state of archaeological understanding within the eastern counties notes the need for a synthetic work on medieval moated sites in the region to bring together information from various strands and sources (Medlycott ed. 2011, 70). The results from this programme of works could form a small part of such a study.

6.4 It is finally concluded that the results from the archaeological investigations at this site can be disseminated effectively by the publication of a short summary in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology and History coupled with deposit of the report and archive in the County HER and via the uploading of a digital version of the report to the OASIS online report depository (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). A digital version of the report will also be made available to Bedfield Parish Council.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. BED 025.

Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological work in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.

John Newman Archaeological Services

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Terry the machine operator, James Armes for the metal detector search, Esther Newman for her finds processing work and to Sue Anderson, Val & Robert Fryer and Sue Holden for their specialist input to the reporting).

Refs:

- Medlycott, M 2011 *'Research & Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework For The East Of England.'* *East Anglian Archaeology Occ. Paper 24*
- Newman J A 2011 *'Land Adjacent to The Old Rectory, Bedfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report.'* (John Newman Archaeological Services)

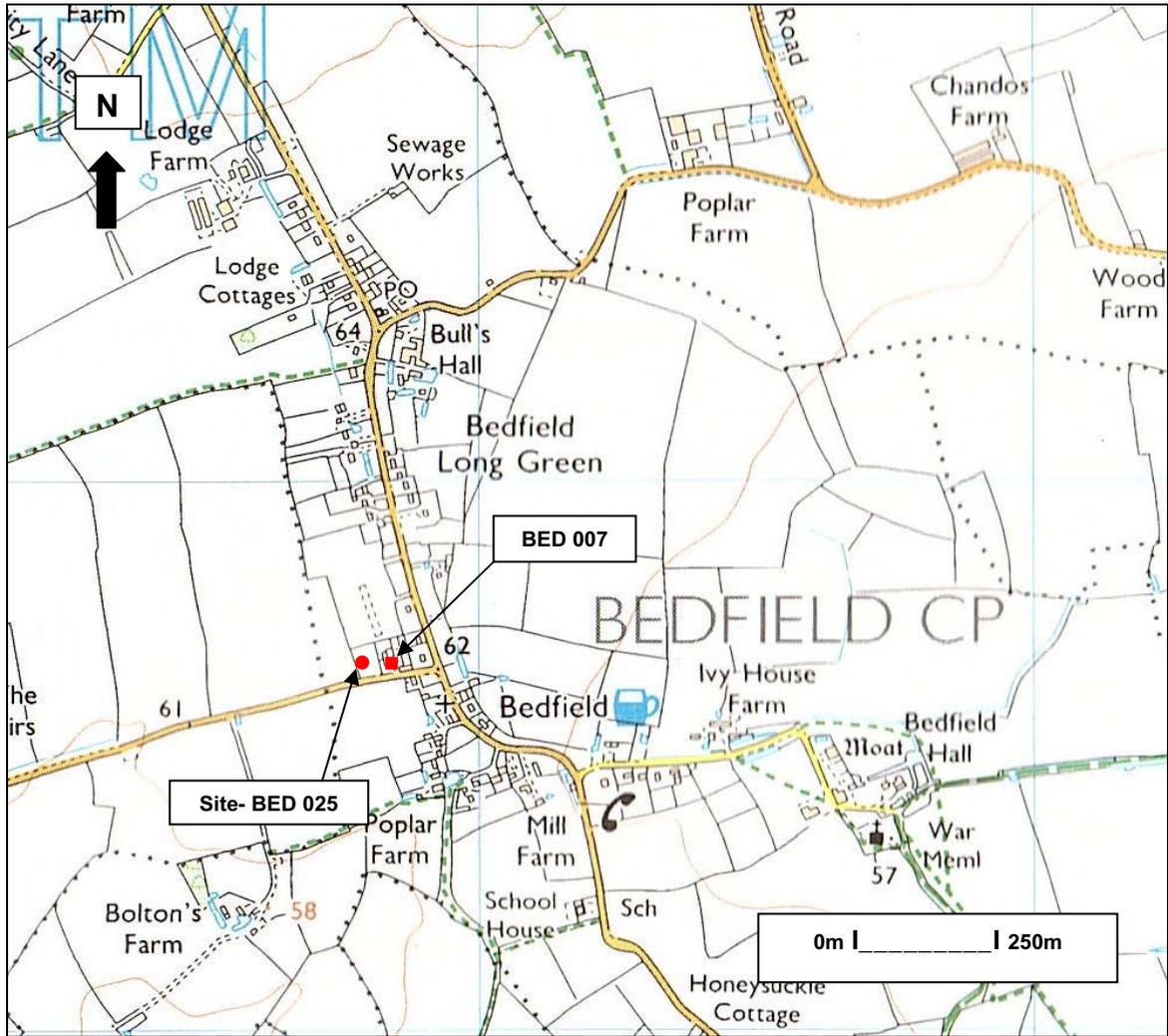


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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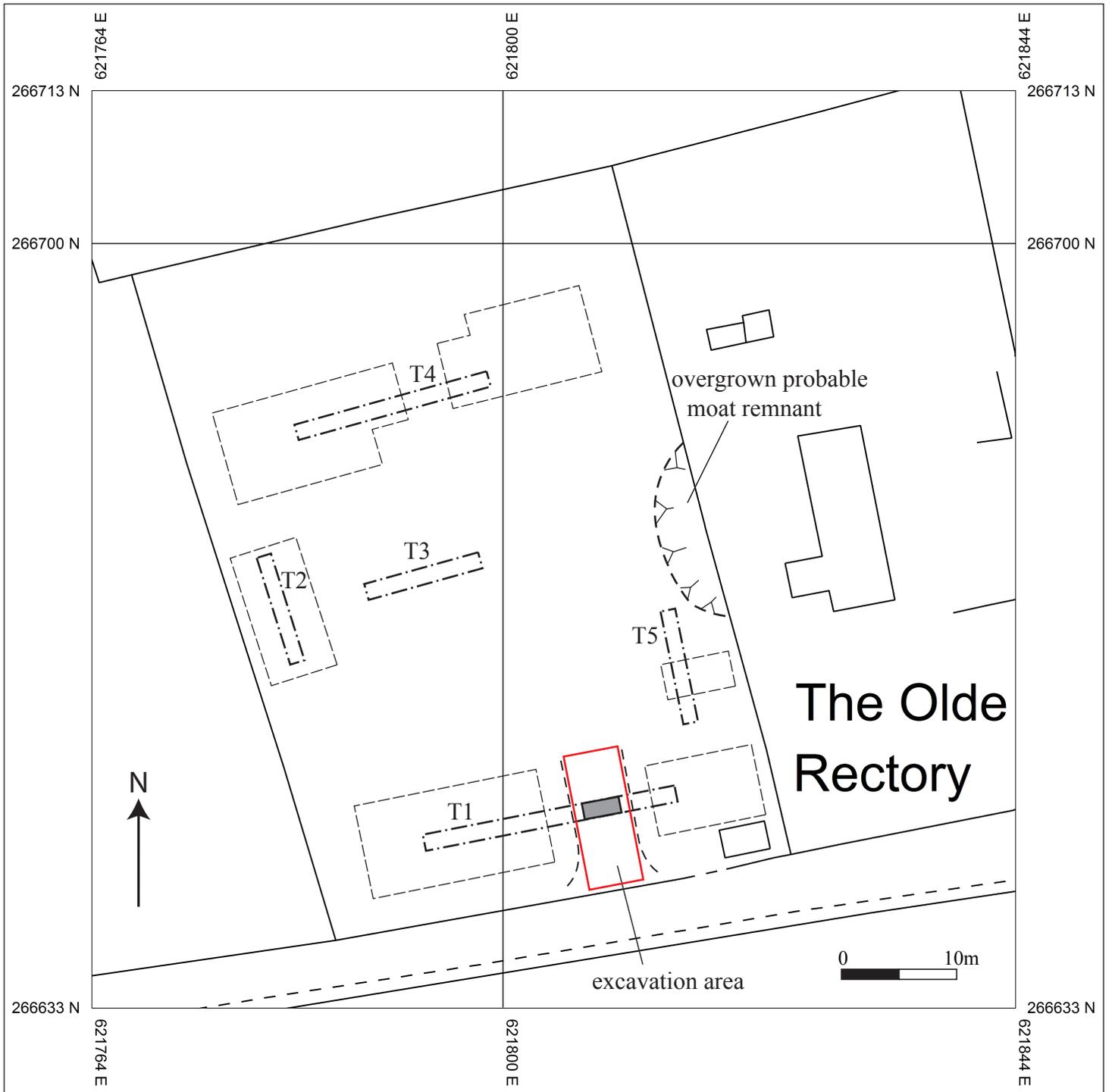


Fig. 2: Excavation area on line of access road and in relation to evaluation trenches (proposed building footprint - dashed outlines)
 (Ordnance Survey©Crown copyright 2011 All rights reserved LN 100049722)

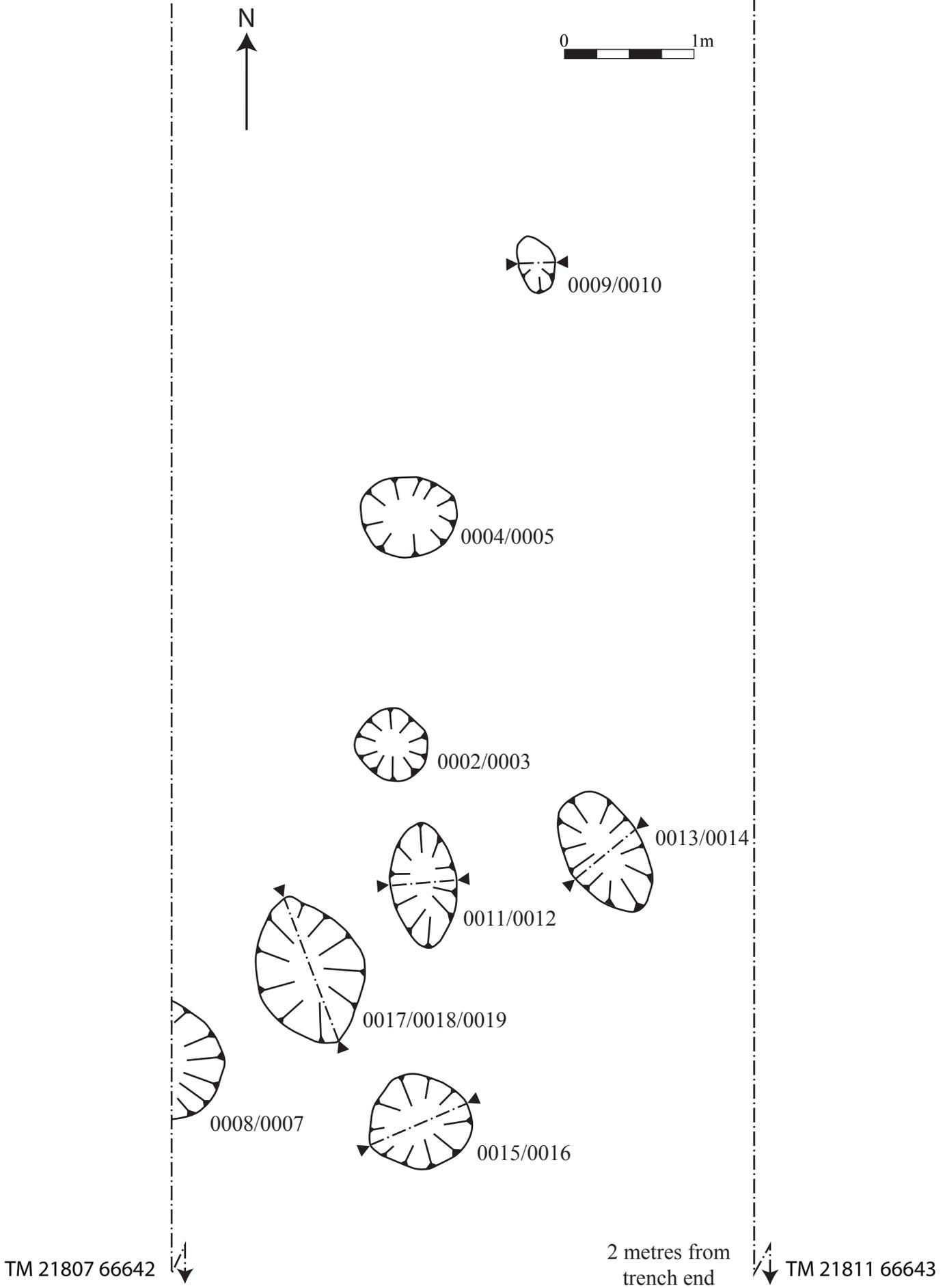


Fig. 3: Excavation area plan.

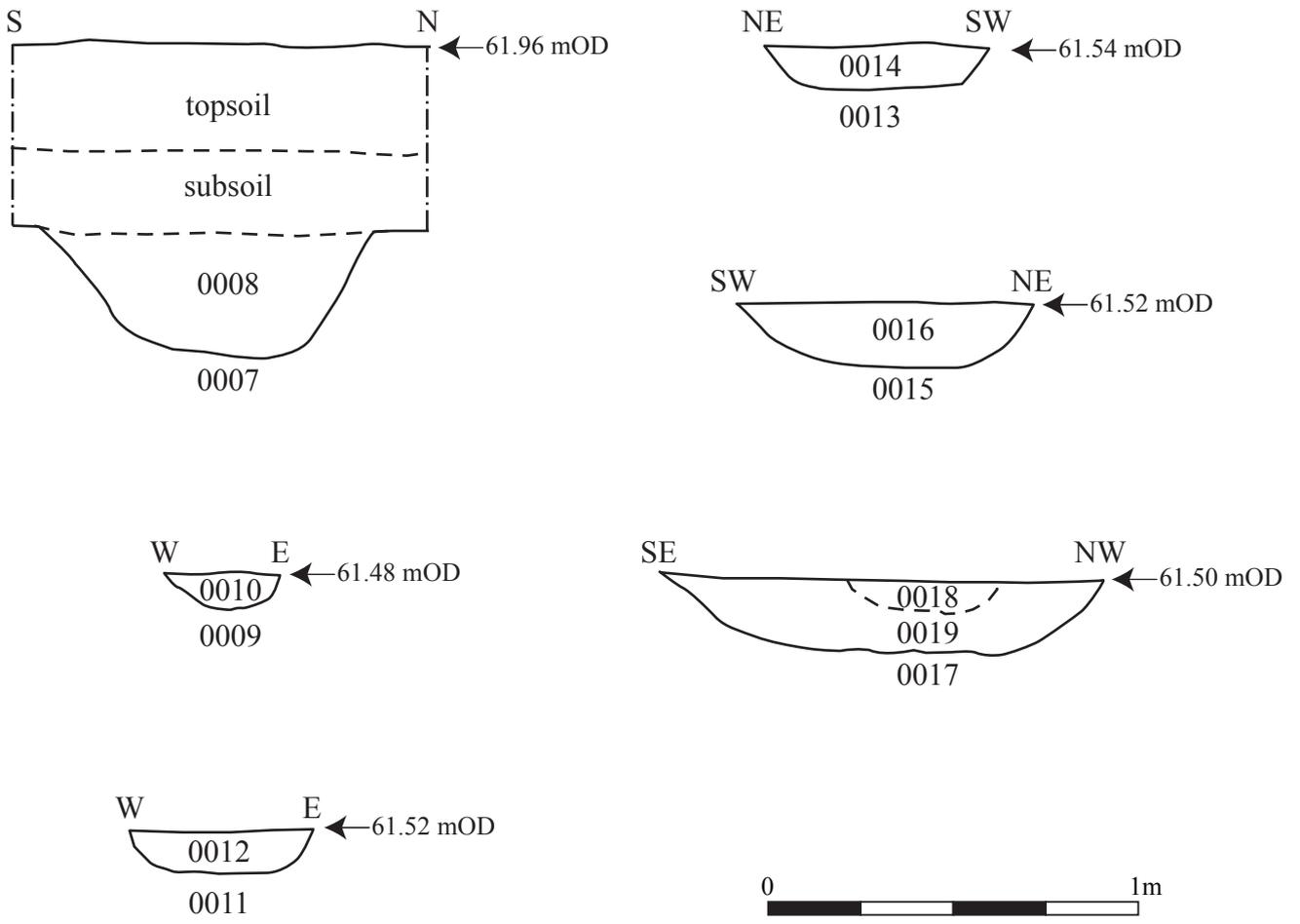


Fig. 4: Excavation area sections.

Appendix I- Images



Excavation area from north-west



Excavation area from south-east, pit 0007 against side & pits 0011, 0015 & 0017 half-sectioned



Section across pit 0011 from north



Section across pit 0013 from north-west



Section across pit 0015 from north



Section across pit 0017 from east

**Land Adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green,
Bedfield, Suffolk**

HER Ref. BED 025

Planning application: 3881/08

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Excavation**

Site details

Name: Land adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield, Suffolk IP13 7JF

Client: Springfield Residential

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 3881/08

Proposed development: Erection of 8 dwellings

Proposed date for excavation: tbc

Brief&Specification: 2011_12_04_SCCAS_ArchSpecEx_Adjacent The Old Rectory
Bedfield

Grid ref: TM 2180 6668

HER ref: BED 025

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological Background
4. Aims of the Excavation
5. Methodology
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1. Introduction

1.1 Hollins Architects and Surveyors on behalf of their client, Springfield Residential, have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological excavation works, following on the evaluation phase carried out by JNAS (Newman, J 2011) at the site of a proposed residential development. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition on application 3881/08 and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief and Specification for Archaeological Excavation set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the construction of 8 dwellings on land adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield and the excavation will complete the programme of works at the site.

1.2 The excavation will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 The village of Bedfield is some 4 miles north-west of Framlingham in central Suffolk on part of the Till plateau of central Suffolk in an area characterised by a gently rolling landscape on heavy clay with flint soils of the Hanslope series. The proposed development site (PDS) is located at c60m OD some 1000m north-west of the parish church but adjacent to The Old Rectory and c70m west of what is shown on the 1842 tithe map as the western edge of Long Green and fronting onto the road to Monks Soham. The tithe map also depicts a moated site (HER BED 007) immediately to the east of the PDS which fronts onto the green and this is likely to be the earlier parish rectory which is described as being in poor repair by c1830 (Goult, 1990) and replaced by a new rectory by 1854. This rebuilding clearly remodelled the site as the first edition large scale OS map of 1880 shows a new building, the property now known as The Old Rectory, and the moat largely infilled (examination of the site during the recent evaluation works confirmed that a small part of the western arm of the moat survives in heavily landscaped form as the boundary between The Old Rectory and the PDS). The PDS at these dates was in agricultural use and remains undeveloped to date but it is noteworthy that at the time of the tithe map the PDS falls within the same overall plot, number 107, as the moated site and therefore both

would have been under the same ownership which at 1842 was the parish church. The recent evaluation confirmed the presence of heavy clay soils at the site with virtually no evidence for arable use and it therefore seems likely that it has been in use as rough pasture in the main.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The evaluation works undertaken by JNAS at the site in November, 2011, revealed largely negative results in four of the five trenches. However two small pits were recorded in the trench running parallel and close to the road to Monk Soham at the point where the proposed access road will enter the site. While undated these two pits produced palaeoenvironmental evidence from soil samples indicative of domestic waste and possibly of medieval/earlier Post medieval date. In addition the majority of the unstratified sherds of medieval pottery recovered from upcast spoil during the trenching came from the same trench.

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined above the evaluation recorded evidence for definite and probable medieval activity in that part of the PDS forming part of the frontage onto the Monk Soham road and close to a moated site. The recorded features being in an area which will be heavily disturbed as they lie on the line of the access road and drainage trenches into the site.

4.2 The primary aim of the investigation is therefore to fully investigate, sample and record any archaeological features in the specified area prior to their likely disturbance by the proposed development works at the site with a view to throwing light on medieval settlement within Bedfield. This being an area characterised by dispersed medieval settlement respecting green edges and road frontages with a relatively high population density through the until the earlier Post medieval at least.

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for 8 dwellings on what is soft ground.

5.2 The attached plan shows the area of the specified 12.50m x 4.50m soil strip which will be undertaken using a minimum 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized 180 or 360 machine, operated by an experienced driver. The machine will be closely supervised by an experienced archaeologist as the overburden is removed in shallow spits

to the top of any archaeological deposits that are present, where hand investigation will start, or to expose the underlying drift geology which will be further hand cleaned and examined. The spoil will be stored adjacent to the excavated area with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. The area will only be backfilled after the relevant officer at SCCAS has been consulted and informed of the results of the excavation. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the excavation. The up cast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under the overall site HER number already obtained from the Suffolk CC HER with feature numbering following on from the evaluation phase. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images and monochrome film will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before appropriate hand investigation and recording. Exposed contained and structural archaeological features will be fully excavated and sampled and linear features sampled at a rate of at least 10% with 1m wide sections followed by full recording of all features in plan, section and by photography. If human burial evidence is revealed (this is assessed as being a low possibility on this site) the SCCAS Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on site recording (total 100% sampling if a cremation deposit) and removal of the remains followed by examination by the relevant specialist and possibly scientific dating. If human remains do have to be recorded, removed from site and reported on then these works will add an additional cost to the evaluation works which may involve radiocarbon dating.

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCCAS

Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCCAS Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording (which may have an additional cost implication). Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer.

5.6 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas building on the evaluation assessment already gained. The sampling, processing and assessment will follow the guidelines as detailed in *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis* (Murphy P L & Wiltshire P E J, 1994). In accordance with standard practice bulk samples of 40 litres (or 100% of the deposit where less) will be taken from a representative cross section of archaeological deposits of all periods (respecting defined fills within features), in consultation with the relevant SCCAS Officer (and RSA if the deposits merit more targeted advice) including deposits that cannot be immediately dated by their artefact content. Archaeological deposits of all types may reveal valuable data through the processing and assessment of samples with high priority features including the primary fills of pits, wells and cesspits, layers of middens, occupation surfaces and structural features as well as other discrete activity areas, contents of hearths, ovens, and other craft related or industrial structures. In addition more generalised settlement and land use features such as ditches may also yield valuable and informative data when sampling is undertaken systematically as the sum of all the assessment results can add considerably to the interpretation of a site and its landscape. Through an integrated study of all the data recovered from the excavation the results from the assessment of the samples will be reviewed in terms of:

- How do the results contribute to the current understanding of medieval/earlier Post medieval rural economy and diet as the assessment of the samples taken in the evaluation phase of works confirms the presence of charred plant remains and fish bones
- Can any patterning or similarities/differences be ascertained between deposits from different periods represented on site, similarly can any useful comparisons be made with undated and unphased deposits (to aid interpretation of the evaluation results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)

- Waterlogged deposits are very unlikely to be found on the site based on the evaluation results
- Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the evaluation the relevant SCCAS Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling and assessment by the relevant evaluation specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged). Not applicable in this case as trenching has revealed only 300/350mm of top and subsoil in the area of the specified excavation.

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2, and particularly Appendix 3). This archive will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the guidelines outlined in '*Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2008). As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.8 The excavation report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 3.1 & Appendix 4.1) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the aims of this WSI and section 4 above in particular. The report will give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. The report will include an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features in relation to both dated and undated features and in terms of patterning across the site.

5.9 Any interpretation of the excavation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the site works and its results and the conclusions will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following initial reporting during the field work. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site excavation in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). A draft copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS

following completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be for the County HER and for the client if requested. As required the excavation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the machine operator for excavation of the trenches and examination of the up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Discussion with the client and previous site works has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the discovery of underground services is unlikely, the only known one being water mains on along the southern boundary. No overhead services impinge on the excavation area. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the evaluation will be passed to finds and environmental specialists.

6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 It is unlikely that any excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)

Appendix III- The finds

Land adj the Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield (BED 025)

Sue Anderson, CFA Archaeology, April 2012.

Pottery

Seventeen pottery sherds (156g) were recovered from six contexts, two in the evaluation (0001, 0006, both unstratified) and the remainder in the excavation (all pit fills). The pottery quantification is shown in Table 1:

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	WVCW	5	44	body and base sherds of 4 vessels, dark brown-black	13th-14th c.
	WVCW	1	12	fine version, square beaded rim, 240mm diam, 6%	13th-14th c.
	HOLL	2	33	Stowmarket type with large clay pellets	13th-14th c.
	UPG	1	6	medium sandy whiteware with orange surface and partial green glaze, poss Stowmarket type?	13th-14th c.
0006	MCW	1	11	medium sandy, buff with grey core, similar to HOLL	12th-14th c.
0008	WVCW	2	9	body and base of two vessels in fine sandy micaceous fabric	12th-14th c.
0012	WVGW	1	2	body sherd, green glazed	13th-14th c.
0014	WVGW	1	7	body sherd decorated with applied feathers, brown slip, green glazed	13th-14th c.
0019	WVCW	1	24	body sherd, sooted	12th-14th c.
	WVCW	1	4	base, fine	12th-14th c.
	MCW	1	4	medium sandy greyware, sooted	12th-14th c.
Totals		17	156		

Table 1. Pottery catalogue.

Key: MCW – medieval coarseware; HOLL – Hollesley-type glazed ware; WVCW – Waveney Valley-type medieval coarseware; WVGW – Waveney Valley type glazed wares; UPG – unidentified glazed ware.

All sherds are of medieval date and are in fabrics typical of the north-eastern quarter of Suffolk. The only known production site for this type of ware is at Hollesley (West forthcoming), but the range of fabrics suggests that other kilns are yet to be discovered. Waveney Valley-type coarsewares were first identified at a late medieval pottery production site at Rickinghall (Anderson *et al.* 1996) although there is no evidence at present that high medieval wares were being made there. However, the presence of both Roman and late medieval pottery production sites in the area suggests that medieval pottery was probably also being produced somewhere in the Waveney Valley. Recent finds at sites on both sides of the Suffolk border suggest that this ware was relatively common in the area. Stowmarket-type Hollesley ware is distinguished by common clay pellets present in the fabric (Anderson 2004).

The seventeen sherds represent sixteen vessels, the majority of which are likely to be cooking pots. Only one rim was found, a developed jar form in Waveney Valley fine fabric. Body sherds of glazed wares in similar local fabrics are also present.

The sherds are unabraded and are likely to be evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity, but the assemblage is too small for further interpretation.

Fired clay

A fragment of fired clay (10g) with coarse chalk tempering was found in pit fill 0019. It has one flat, smoothed surface which is reduced, whilst the inner surface is oxidised. It may be a fragment of daub but no wattle impressions are present.

Shell

Oyster shells (*Ostrea edulis*) were found in pit fills 0008 (1 shell, 11g) and 0019 (1 shell, 25g). Oysters were a common source of food in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

References

Anderson, S, 2004, *Cedars Field Moated Site, Stowmarket*. E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 15.

Anderson, S, Breen, A., Caruth, J. and Gill, D., 1996, 'The late medieval pottery industry on the North Suffolk border', *Medieval Ceramics* 20.

West, S.E., forthcoming, *The Excavation of a Medieval Pottery-making Site at Hollesley, Suffolk*, in 1971. E. Anglian Archaeol.

Appendix IV- The environmental evidence

THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS (FROM LAND ADJACENT TO THE OLD RECTORY, BEDFIELD, SUFFOLK (BED 025, May, 2012)

Val Fryer, B.A., MIFA, Environmental Archaeologist, May 2012

Introduction and method statement

Excavations adjacent to the moat at Bedfield recorded a small number of pits of possible medieval date, which lay within an area approximately 30 meters away from the in-filled moat. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the pit fills, two (from features [0002] and [0004]) during the evaluation phase, and five (from features [0007], [0011], [0013], [0015] and [0017]) during the subsequent excavation.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997) and identifications were made by comparison with modern reference specimens. All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots were present within all assemblages.

Sample composition

Cereal grains/chaff, seeds and tree/shrub macrofossils were present at a low to moderate density within all seven assemblages. Preservation was poor to moderate, with many of the grains being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of high temperatures during combustion.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded along with a number of cereals, which were too poorly preserved for close identification. Of the identifiable grains, wheat occurred most frequently. Bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes, with diagnostic crescentic glume inserts, were present within the assemblages from samples 0003, 0008, 0012 and 0019, but other chaff elements, with the exception of a single detached cereal sprout, were not recorded. Other possible food plant remains were noted, although most were poorly preserved. Sample 0008 included a rounded seed of possible pea (*Pisum sativum*) type and a more angular seed of possible field bean (*Vicia faba*) type, and indeterminate cotyledon fragments were also recorded.

Seeds were scarce, occurring as single specimens within only four of the assemblages studied. All were of common segetal weeds including brome (*Bromus* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). Sample 0005 also included a possible fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell and a possible sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) fruit stone. Charcoal/charred wood fragments, including some large pieces >10mm, were present throughout, but other plant macrofossils occurred less frequently.

Other remains were generally scarce, although fragments of black porous and tarry material, all of which were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures, were recorded within all of the excavation assemblages. Possible food refuse included fragments of bone, eggshell and fish bone. Small pieces of coal ('coal dust') were present throughout.

Conclusions

In summary, all seven assemblages are small and relatively sparse, and although most of the recorded remains are probably derived from domestic detritus, it would appear very unlikely that the pits were ever intended solely for the deposition of such waste; long term or systematic disposal is not indicated. It is, perhaps, far more likely that the pits were multi-functional, also being used as cess pits and for the deposition of less durable organic remains, of which there is now no visible trace. Although dating evidence within these features is sparse, the recovered assemblages are largely typical of material of medieval date, with local, contemporary parallels including samples from land adjacent to a moated site at Bottisham, Cambridgeshire (Fryer, forthcoming).

References

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Fryer, V., forthcoming Plant macrofossils and other remains from Bottisham, Cambridgeshire (To be published by Northamptonshire Archaeology.)

Sample No.		0003	0005	0008	0012	0014	0016	0019
Context No.		0002	0004	0007	0011	0013	0015	0017
Cereals and other food crops	Common name							
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)	Oats		xcf	xcf	x		x	xcf
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	Barley	x	x	x	x	xcf		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	Wheat	x	x	xx	xx	x	xcf	
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis node)	Bread wheat type	x		x	x			x
Cereal indet. (grains)		xx	x	xx	xx	x	x	xx
(detached sprout frag.)								x
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	Pea			xcf				
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.	Field bean			xcf				
Large Fabaceae indet.					x		x	x
Herbs								
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	Brome				xcffg			
Fabaceae indet.	Small legumes	xcffg	x		x	x		
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Dock				x			
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	Vetch/vetchling				x			
Tree/shrub macrofossils								
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazel		xcf					
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.	Sloe		xcf					
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm		xx	xx	xxx	xxx	xx	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm		x	x	xx	x	x		x
Charcoal >5mm				xx			x	
Charcoal >10mm				x		x		x
Charred root/stem			x	x	x			
Indet.bud				x				
Indet.culm nodes		x	x					
Indet.seed/fruit stone frag.				x				
Other remains								
Black porous 'cokey' material		x		xx	xxx	x	xx	xx
Black tarry material				x	x	x		
Bone		x	x	x	x			x xb
Brick/Tile					x			
Burnt/fired clay		x		x				x
Eggshell			x	x xb		x		
Fish bone			x	x	x			x
Small coal frags		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones			x	x	x			
Sample volume (litres)		20	20	28	28	28	28	28
Volume of flot		<0.1						
% flot sorted		100%						

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xcf = compare fg = fragment b = burnt

Appendix V

Context list- BED 025

F- Finds S- sample taken

Evaluation

Context No	Trench	Type	Part of	S	Description	Spot date
0001	T1	U/S	NA	F	Unstratified sherds from upcast spoil of trench 1 (parallel to & closest to adjacent road)	
0002	T1	Small pit	0002		Small, shallow pit, 600mm E-W x 300mm N-S (to trench section) x 120mm deep	
0003	T1	Fill	0002	S	Fill of 0002, mid brown clay with small chalk fragments	?
0004	T1	Small pit	0004		Small, shallow pit, 750mm E-W x 350mm N-S (to trench section) x 150mm deep	
0005	T1	Fill	0004	S	Fill of 0004, mid brown clay with charcoal flecks & small chalk fragments	?
0006	T4	U/S	NA	F	Unstratified sherd from upcast spoil of trench 4	

Excavation

0007		Pit	0007		Shallow pit, 900mm N-S x 400mm E-W to section on edge of exc area x 300mm deep	
0008		Fill	0007	F/S	Fill of 0007, mid grey/brown clay with charcoal flecks	med
0009		Post hole	0009		Base of post hole with part of wooden post surviving, 400mm N-S x 280mm E-W x 100mm deep	
0010		Fill	0009		Mid to dark brown clay	Pmed
0011		Pit	0011		Shallow pit, 1000mm N-S x 500mm E-W x 120mm deep	
0012		Fill	0011	F/S	Fill of 0011, mid brown clay with charcoal flecks	med
0013		Pit	0013		Shallow, pit, 1000mm NW-SE x 600mm NE-SW x 120mm deep	
0014		Fill	0013	F/S	Fill of 0013, grey brown clay with charcoal	med

					flecks	
0015		Pit	0015		Shallow pit, 800mm E-W x 760mm N-S x 200mm deep	
0016		Fill	0015	S	Fill of 0015, mid brown clay with charcoal flecks	?med
0017		Pit	0017		Shallow pit, 1200mm NW-SE x 840mm NE-SW x 200mm deep	
0018		Root disturbance	0017		Root disturbance in upper part of pit 0017	
0019		Fill	0017	F/S	Fill of 0017, mid grey/brown clay with charcoal flecks	med

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-126345

Project details

Project name	Land Adjacent to The Old Rectory, Bedfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Excavation Report
Short description of the project	Bedfield, land adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green (BED 025, TM 2180 6668) Following an evaluation which recorded two shallow pits of probable medieval date on a c0.25 hectare area adjacent to a now largely filled-in moated site an area 4.5m x 12m was stripped of top and subsoil centred on these features. This small scale area excavation revealed a further 5 similar small, shallow, pits; 4 of which contained small quantities of medieval pottery sherds. Palaeoenvironmental sampling indicates that these pits contained low density concentrations of general domestic waste.
Project dates	Start: 12-01-2012 End: 12-01-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	BED 025 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	johnnewm1-114665 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	POST HOLE Modern
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ECOFACTS Medieval
Investigation type	"Full excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK BEDFIELD Land Adjacent to The Old Rectory
Postcode	IP13 7JF

Study area 2500.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TM 2180 6668 52 1 52 15 10 N 001 14 59 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 61.00m Max: 62.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation John Newman Archaeological Services
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator John Newman
 Project director/manager John Newman
 Project supervisor John Newman
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Contents "Ceramics","Environmental"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
 Paper Contents "Ceramics","Environmental"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land Adjacent to The Old Rectory, Bedfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Excavation Report
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Newman, J
 Date 2012
 Issuer or publisher John Newman Archaeological Services
 Place of issue or publication Henley, Suffolk
 Description Loose bound client report
 Entered by John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)
 Entered on 8 June 2012

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