

**Land Adjacent to Windy Acres, Newbourne  
Road, Waldringfield, Suffolk**

**Planning application:**

**HER Ref: WLD 064**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Land adjacent to Windy Acres, Newbourne Road, Waldringfield

Client: Wincer Kievenaar for Michael Howard Homes

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/09/1789

Development: Residential dwelling

Date of fieldwork: 12 April 2010

HER Ref: WLD 064

OASIS ref: johnnewm1\_75874

Grid ref: TM 0950 5666

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*Summary: Waldringfield, land adjacent to Windy Acres, Newbourne Road (WLD 064, TM 2665 4493) evaluation trenching did not reveal any features or significant finds close to various known burial mound sites. A metal detector search did recover a moderate quantity of lead waste which is probably to be associated with construction of the adjacent early 19<sup>th</sup> century Baptist Chapel (John Newman Archaeological Services for Michael Howard Homes).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Wincer Kievenaar Architects on behalf of Michael Howard Homes commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works on that part of the garden on the southern side of Windy Acres that is to be developed as required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application C/09/1789. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Ms S Poppy of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition. This development concerns the erection of a single residential dwelling on the area of garden at Windy Acres which is to be detached.

1.2 Waldringfield parish lies to the east of Ipswich and on the western side of the River Deben in its lower, tidal, reaches. The local drift geology is made up largely of well drained sands and gravels giving rise to what in historic times has been extensive areas of heath used as sheep walk. More recently this historic land use has changed to extensive areas of arable producing crops suited to light, sandy and very well drained soils and other uses such as golf courses. Settlement in general in all past periods has been focused close to the River Deben where water is more readily available with largely intermittent and low level activity, such as sheep rearing, on the heath land areas set back from the river. The Windy Acres site is located some 1.5km north east of the core of Waldringfield village and 2km away from the River Deben in the north western corner of the parish (see Fig. 1), just below the 25m OD contour and in an area known as Waldringfield Heath. At present the site is in use as part of the garden of Windy Acres with the proposed development area grassed lawn at the time of the evaluation.

1.3 The proposed development area is in an area recorded on the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (HER) as it lies close to a group of known prehistoric burial mound sites, or barrows, of probable earlier Bronze Age date (c2000 BC) with one, located 100m to the south of Windy Acres (WLD 004), being a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Other burial mound sites are located in closer proximity under the nearby golf club with the nearest (WLD 056) being some 40m to the north east. Clusters of prehistoric burial mound sites are of this date are known across the heath lands in south east Suffolk and therefore it is possible that other, as yet unknown, burial mound sites exist close to the known concentrations. In addition archaeological deposits relating to other phases of prehistoric activity may be concentrated close to these burial mound groups and some in the area, where examined, have produced evidence of Early Anglo-Saxon burials in a later phase of re-use. As indicated in section 1.2 above the historic heath lands of this part of south east Suffolk saw only low level pastoral type agricultural activity until very recently when advances in fertilisers and irrigation have allowed their exploitation for roots crops and turf growing in particular. This low level of activity in the last few thousand years following the phase of earlier Bronze Age burials under mounds is reflected in historic maps for the area. The earliest large scale map for the Waldringfield area is the parish tithe map of 1839 (Suffolk RO ref: P461/268). This map depicts an open landscape of heath type land with just one, rather lonely, structure in the north western part of the parish north of the nearby crossroads. The structure shown is the chapel which now exists as the largely rebuilt chapel immediately to the south of the

proposed development area and which is recorded as being originally constructed for the strict Baptists of the general area in 1823. That this Baptist chapel was built in a very isolated area of heath land indicates the remove of such a sect from the established church of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The proposed development area at the Windy Acres site was trenched to a previously agreed plan with an L shaped trench sampling all parts of the proposed house footprint (see Fig. 2). In all 22.5m of trench at a width of 1.8m were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision to the top of the underlying natural sand and gravel surface using a wide, toothless, ditching bucket giving a sample of 40.5 sq m, or some 25%, of the footprint. The exposed sand and gravel surface was closely examined for archaeological features and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned. The upcast spoil from the trench was examined visually and by an experienced metal detector user for any finds. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation. The trench was recorded in relation to existing mapped details. A full photographic record in digital format was taken of the trenching works (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 The 22.5m of trench revealed a uniform depth of 300mm of mid brown sandy topsoil across the site. Below the topsoil a thin, iron rich, dark brown stain could be seen in the trench sections above a further 200-300mm of typical pale yellow/brown sandy posilised type heath subsoil. No archaeological features were visible in the trench bottom which was predominantly a clean, though iron salt stained, natural sand or in the trench sections. Close examination of the upcast spoil did not reveal any finds save two modern tile fragments. However the non-ferrous detector search of the topsoil component of the trench spoil did recover over 30 small to medium (weight range c2/3g to c30-50g) fragments of lead waste. 'Electronic noise' from the area surrounding the trench indicated that this scatter of lead waste was extensive over the development area with the material recovered appearing to be waste from melting down the metal as some bits were in the form of small globules.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 The lack of any archaeological features or significant finds from what represents a substantial sample of the proposed development area indicates that this site, though close to known Bronze Age burial mounds, does not directly impinge on deposits of archaeological importance. The lead waste that was found is of moderate interest though as an archaeological find is not directly dateable. Therefore its interpretation must rest on the context which in this case must be relatively recent as it was recovered in the topsoil and its origin is most likely related to 19<sup>th</sup> century building work on the adjacent chapel as this would have required lead flashings for the roofing works. Given this recent origin the lead waste recovered was not retained.

4.3 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations be carried out on the proposed site adjacent to Windy Acres.

**Archive-** to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref.WLD 064 .

**Disclaimer-** any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological 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.

**(Acknowledgements:** JNAS is grateful to Sarah Poppy of SCCAS for providing local HER information, Paul Hammond of Wincer Kievenaar Architects for providing development and site details, James Armes for the metal detector search and Tim for his expert machine operation).

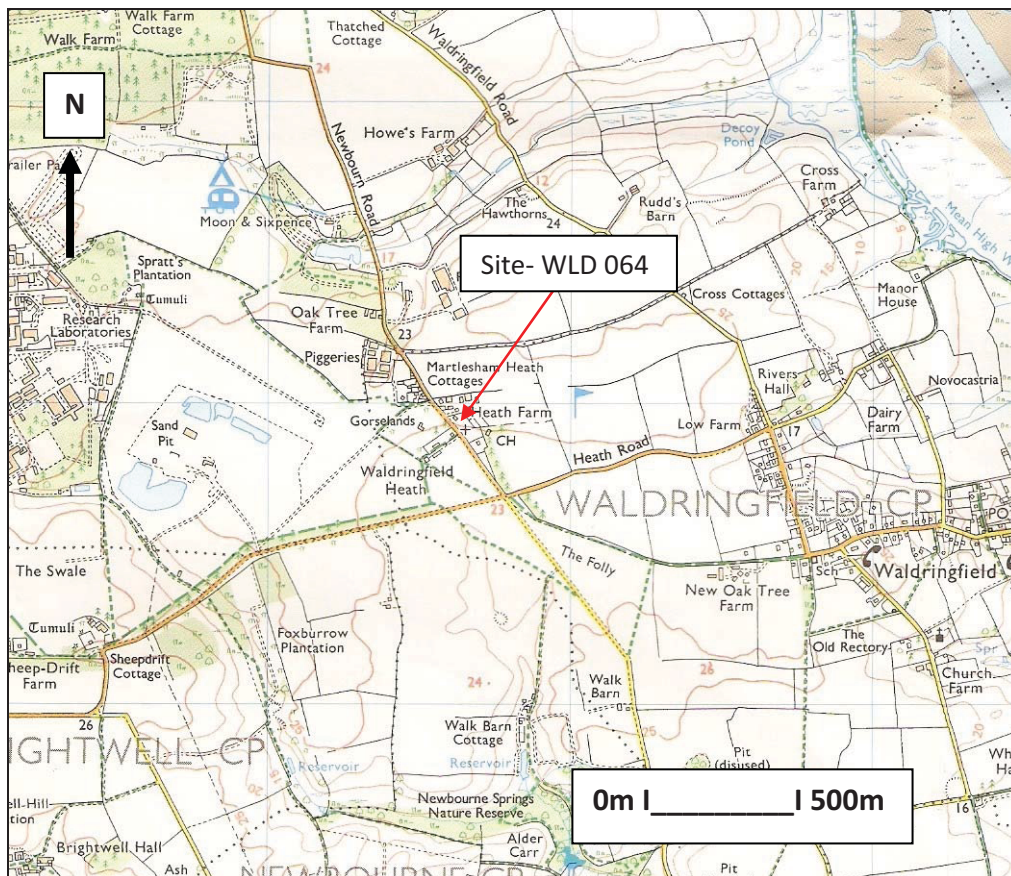


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 1999. All rights reserved

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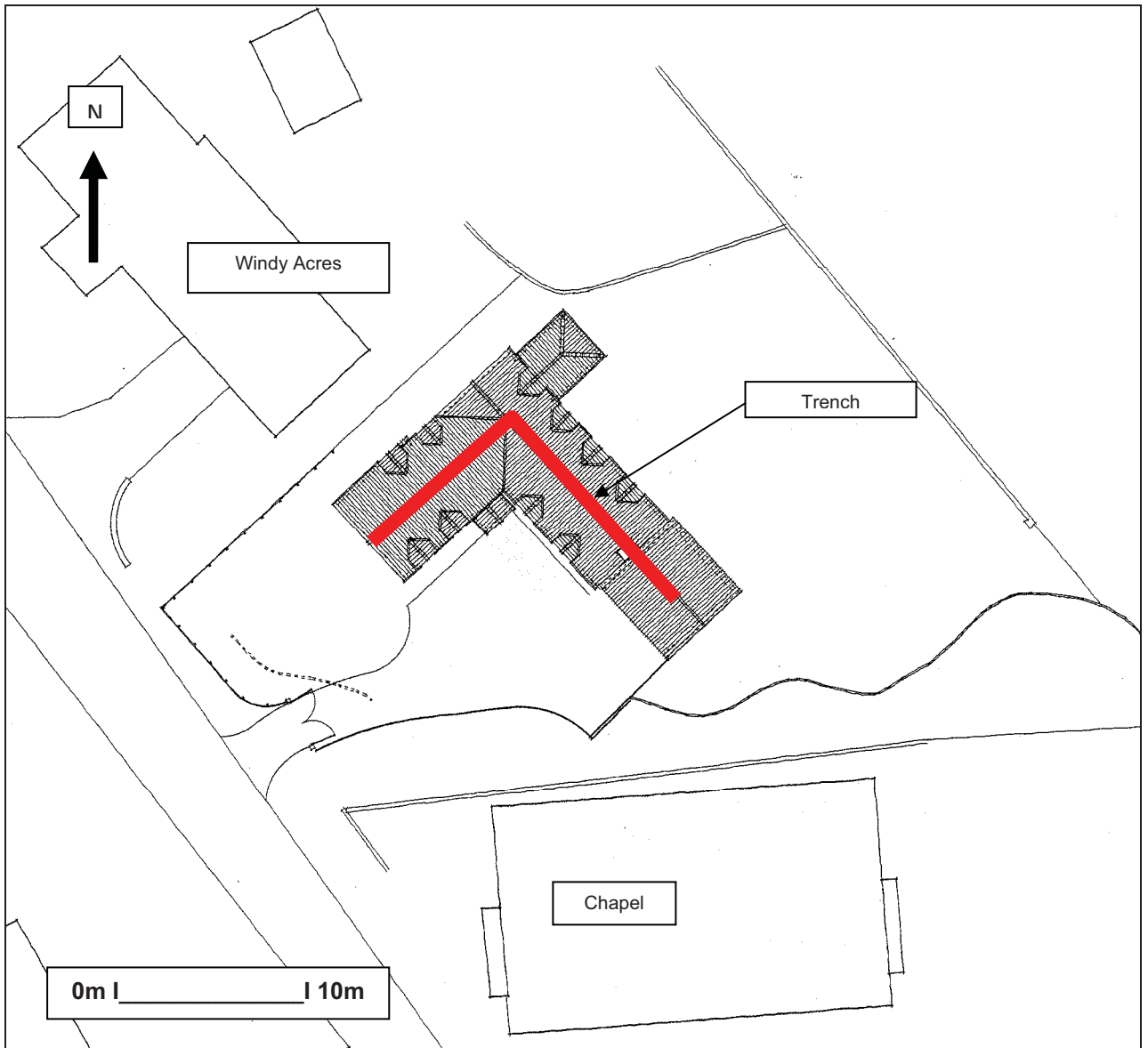


Fig. 2: Trench location within the proposed development (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2009 All rights reserved. Licence number WL1005096)

Appendix I



South west/north east trench from west



North west/south east trench from north

Appendix II



Extract from Waldringfield tithe map of 1839 showing plot 3- strict Baptist Chapel (ref: P461/268)