

Rear of 19-22, South View, Wyverstone, Suffolk

Planning application: 0393/10

HER Ref: WYV 018

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(October 2010)

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Site details for HER

Name: Rear of 19-22 South View, Wyverstone, Suffolk, IP14 4SP

Client: Mr A Mellen

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 0393/10

Development: Erection of barn & creation of two small irrigation ponds

Date of fieldwork: Wednesday, 9 August, 2010

HER Ref: WYV 018

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-84821

Grid ref: TM 0427 6773

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Monitoring methodology
3. Results
4. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Monitored barn area & evaluation trenches across pond sites

List of appendices

Appendix I – Images of ground works & trenches

Appendix II - Brief & Specification

*Summary: Wyverstone, rear of 19-22 South View (WYV 018, TM 0427 6773)
Monitoring of ground works for a barn and evaluation trenches across the sites of two proposed small ponds just to the south of the parish church did not reveal any archaeological features. The only finds were single, abraded, sherds of Roman period and medieval pottery. (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr A Mellen).*

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr A Mellen commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 0393/10. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Ms S Poppy of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). This development concerns the erection of a barn and the creation of two small irrigation ponds to the rear of 19-22 South View, Wyverstone (see Fig. 1). The foundation trenches for the barn were to be monitored and the applicant kindly agreed to the excavation of a short evaluation trench across the area of each pond though the latter development is strictly outside of the planning process.

1.2 Wyverstone parish lies to the north of Stowmarket in an area where the local soils are dominated by the heavier boulder clay or till deposits of central Suffolk. The site to the rear of South View is located some 120m south of the parish church in a landscape characterised by dispersed settlement along the roads and lanes and around the greens (formerly areas of common grazing). The site is close to the 55m OD contour and has a south facing aspect with a small stream being located 200m in this direction in a topographic location where earlier settlement activity might be anticipated.

2. Monitoring methodology

2. A single visit was made to the site to initially maintain a continuous archaeological observation of the ground works for the barn which is planned to cover an area of 15m by 6m (see Fig. 2). Over this footprint the mechanical removal of 250/300mm of topsoil revealed the underlying yellow clay with flints natural drift geology. The foundation trenches along the southern, western and northern sides were then excavated into the natural clay to a further depth of between 400mm and 700mm. At the site of the two proposed ponds a few metres to the south of the barn a 1.50m wide and 9m long trench was mechanically excavated on an east-west alignment across each location (see Fig. 2). A series of digital images was taken at both the barn site and the pond locations to record the soil stripping and excavation works in progress. The upcast spoil from all the sites was closely observed throughout the day for archaeological finds.

3. Results

3.1 The topsoil stripping at the barn site exposed a clean clay with flints surface and neither this process nor the excavation of the foundation trenches revealed any archaeological features of any date. The only pre-modern find from spoil at the barn site was a single, abraded, medieval coarseware pottery sherd.

3.2 Both pond sites proved to have a topsoil cover that was 250mm deep, removal of this layer revealed a mixed chalky and sandy orangish/yellow clay with flints natural drift geology. No archaeological features of any date were revealed and the only pre-modern find was a small, abraded, Roman greyware pottery sherd from the northern of the two ponds.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While the site is relatively close to the parish church and in a topographic location where earlier settlement might be anticipated the results of the monitoring and evaluation trenching point to little more than peripheral agricultural activities having been undertaken here.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the proposed development works will not impinge on archaeological deposits of any significance.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to the contractor Mr & Mrs A Mellen for their close cooperation and hospitality with regard to this site monitoring).

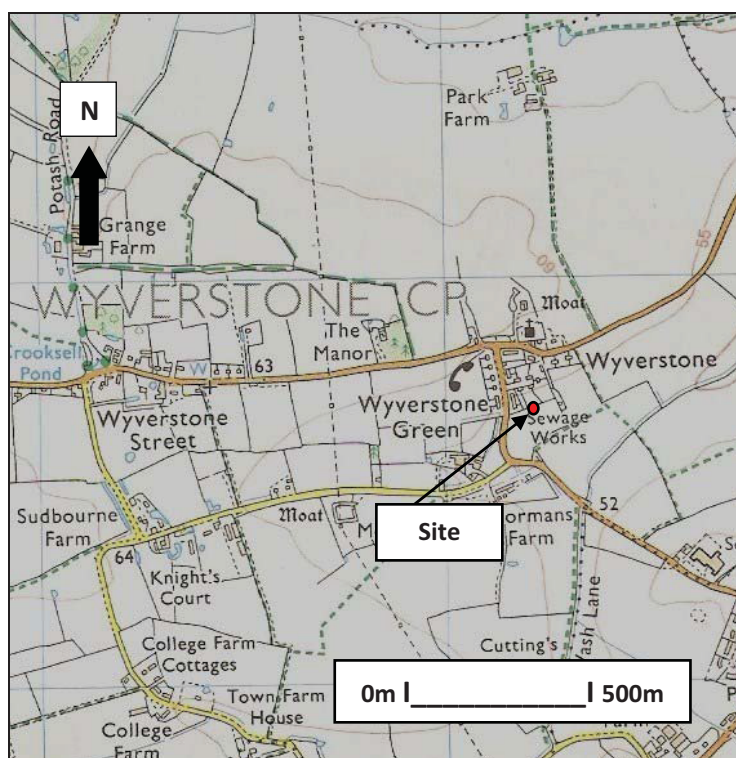


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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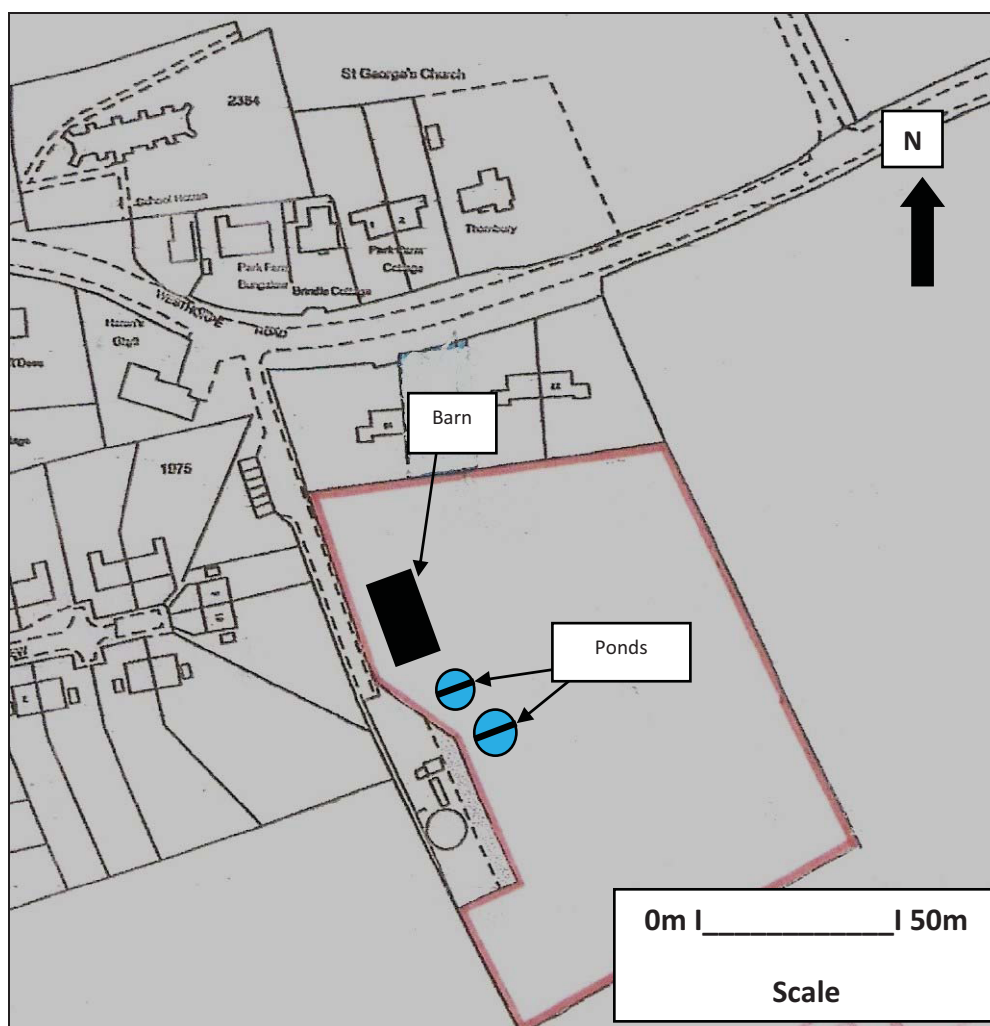


Fig. 2: Monitored barn area & evaluation trenches across pond sites
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Appendix I – Images



Barn site from north- soil stripping



Barn site- western footing from north



Trench across northern pond location from west



Trench across southern pond location from west

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
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Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

REAR OF 19-22 SOUTH VIEW, WESTHORPE ROAD, WYVERSTONE, SUFFOLK (0393/10)

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council for the construction of agricultural buildings and excavation of water storage ponds on land to the rear of 19-22 South View, Westhorpe Road, Wyverstone (TM 042 677), conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 0393/10). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 This application is located in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. It is situated 120m to the south of the medieval church (HER no. WYV 003), and finds of Iron Age through to medieval date have also been recorded from the vicinity (HER WYV 007). There is a high potential for encountering medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation deposits at this location. Any groundworks associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets.
- 1.3 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological recording during all groundworks.
- 1.4 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology* Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>).
- 1.5 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has

approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the fieldwork, a post-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

- 1.6 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.9 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.10 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the construction of a new barn (c. 15m by 6m) and the excavation of two water storage ponds (each c. 10m diameter and 1.5m depth). Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.

- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

- 5.4 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.5 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.6 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.7 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.8 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.9 An unbound copy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.10 Following acceptance, two copies of the assessment report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.11 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.12 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.13 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.14 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Sarah Poppy

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Date: 21 May 2010

Reference: /19-22SouthViewWyverstone_2010

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.