

**Land to the Rear of The Old Rectory,
Causeway, Pakefield, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/10/0889/FUL

HER Ref: LWT 175

Archaeological Monitoring Report

(Continuous observation)

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(November 2010)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land to the rear of The Old Rectory, Causeway, Pakefield, Suffolk

Client: Mr J Egan

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/10/0889/FUL

Development: Residential dwelling

Date of fieldwork: Wednesday, 3 November, 2010

HER Ref: LWT 175

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-86237

Grid ref: TM 5378 9058

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Summary: Lowestoft, land to the rear of The Old Rectory, Causeway, Pakefield (LWT 175, TM 5378 9058) monitoring of foundations for a single residential dwelling did not reveal any archaeological features and the only finds of any age were two small and abraded sherds of medieval coarseware. However examination of the exposed soil profile did indicate that the site area has been heath land in the more distant past (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr J Egan).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr J Egan 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 DC/10/0889/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). This development concerns the erection of a single residential dwelling on land to the rear of The Old Rectory, Causeway, Pakefield, Lowestoft (see Fig. 1). At the time of the monitoring the area concerned had been detached for some time from the garden of The Old Rectory and was soft ground with a small modern garage already existing in the south east corner of the house plot, access is from Sunningdale Avenue.

1.2 While now a suburb on the southern side of Lowestoft the former parish and village centre of Pakefield centred on its historic church has an historical integrity where later Saxon and medieval settlement activity can be anticipated. The present proposal entailed the excavation of house foundations within this historic village core area being in the grounds of The Old Rectory and some 100m north west of the parish church of All Saints and St Margarets (Suffolk CC HER LWT 030). The site is on level ground at c8m OD. Hodkinson's map of 1783 depicts a compact settlement along a main north-east/south-west aligned road with a green to the west and the church and a windmill to the east and separated by some distance of open agricultural land from the then small fishing port of Lowestoft. A rapid examination of the first edition large scale OS map of 1884 indicates that the main road depicted by Hodkinson is Pakefield Street which is some 60m north of the site; at that time The Old Rectory had not been constructed and the area appears to have been an open, probably grass covered, area. The development area therefore lies between potential areas of medieval activity around the church to the south and along Pakefield Street to the north.

2. Monitoring methodology

2. A single visit was made to the site to monitor the ground works, which were undertaken using a 360 machine equipped with a 600mm wide bucket, on the specified continuous basis and inspect the upcast spoil. In all some 45m of foundation were inspected, and where necessary cleaned by hand to aid the inspection, representing the complete perimeter of the house footprint (see Fig. 2). Weather conditions were fine at the time of the monitoring with good visibility for all the exposed trench sections. A small number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 The foundation trenches were a uniform 600mm wide by 1000mm deep and the sides revealed a 400mm thick humic rich, dark brown sandy topsoil across the site. The subsoil below the topsoil was a 200mm thick pale to mid brown sandy layer and this graded into some a 300mm thick layer of a very pale brown sand which had pronounced areas of very dark brown iron staining at its base over the naturally occurring orange sand drift geology at the site(see Appendix I – images). There was no evidence for any truncation of deposits at the site. The very dark brown iron

staining at a depth of 900mm at the base of the soil profile is a natural feature characteristic of a podsolised heath type profile where leaching in an area of acidic, freely draining, soils causes iron and aluminium sesquioxides to be deposited at the base of the B horizon. No archaeological features of any date were visible in the trench sides or base and finds of any date from the upcast spoil were rare and consisted largely of very small Post medieval brick and tile fragments and a few pottery sherds of 19th century and later date. The only finds of any note were two small and abraded sherds of medieval coarseware of c13/14th century date whose combined weight is under 10g.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While the site is within the area of archaeological interest close to Pakefield parish church these ground works did not reveal any significant deposits or finds. The two abraded medieval pottery sherds can be seen as the typical consequence of the spreading of contemporary debris over land in the general vicinity of a settlement during a process such as manuring. However some topographic information of interest has been recorded as the lower soil profile gave a clear indication that the area has been heath land for some time in the more distant past and it was probably only in the 19/20th century period when the humic rich topsoil built up when the site became part of a garden. As heath land in the more distant past the lack of any marked human activity is also more easily explicable as such areas have usually only seen use for low intensity livestock grazing with only occasional cultivation.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the ground works for the planned house have not impinged on any archaeological deposits.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Dr A Antrobus for her assistance with historic map cover of the area, Mr J Egan for his close liaison and to the contractors on site for their close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring).

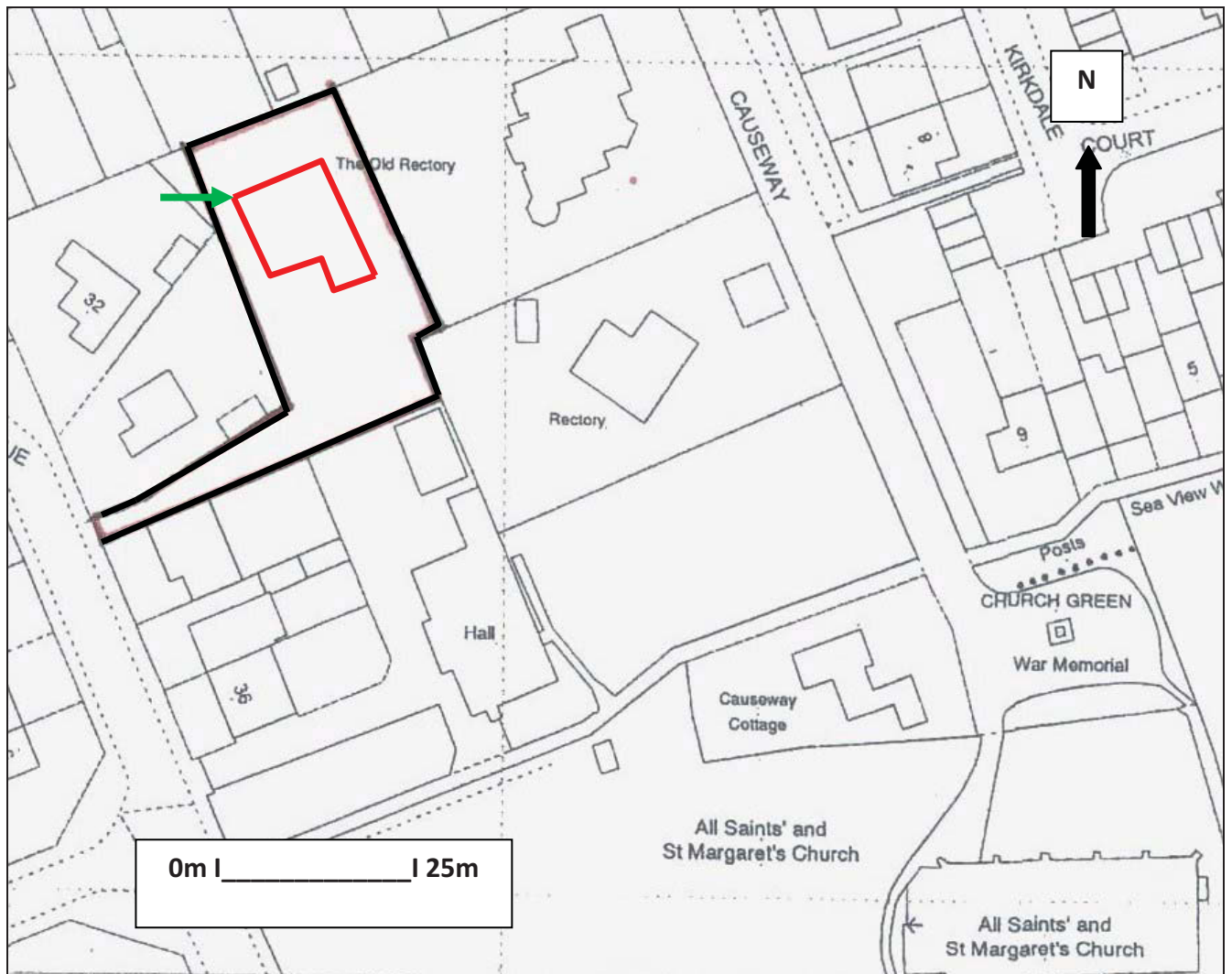


Fig.2: Monitored house footprint (red with location of soil profile in Appendix I arrowed in green). (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I – Images



Soil profile- NW corner of foundation trenches



Eastern foundation trench from north



Site from south

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

LAND TO THE REAR OF THE OLD RECTORY CAUSEWAY, PAKEFIELD, LOWESTOFT (DC/10/0889/FUL)

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 sought from Waveney District Council for the erection of a house on land to the rear of the Old Rectory Causeway, Pakefield (TL 537 905). **Please contact the developer for an accurate location plan.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The proposed application affects an area of archaeological potential, in the vicinity of the medieval church (County Historic Environment Record LWT 030). There is potential for early occupation remains to be present on the site. Any groundwork associated with the development has the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains that exist.
- 1.4 Aspects of the proposed works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any heritage assets of archaeological importance that exist.
- 1.5 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the erection of the new building, and associated groundwork, can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundwork. **Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development.**
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. 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.

- 1.7 Following approval of the WSI, our office will advise the Local Planning Authority that an acceptable scheme of work is in place, and therefore we (will) have no objection to the work commencing. Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Suffolk County Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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 Recording

- 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 Any ground works (including removal of existing concrete), and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping in order to ensure no damage occurs to any archaeological heritage asset. 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 Brief and 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 hardcopy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to 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, a single copy of the assessment report should be submitted to both 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: Dr Abby Antrobus

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Date: 29 September 2010

Reference: Lowestoft 2010/0889

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.