

**Clarice House, Bramford Road,
Bramford, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/19/00870/HYB

HER Ref: BRF 181

Excavation Report

(© John Newman BA MCIFA, 10 Fitzgerald Road, Bramford, Ipswich, IP8 4AA)

(November 2021)

(Tel: 07754 501033 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details for HER

Name: Land adjacent to Clarice House, Bramford Road, Bramford, Suffolk, IP8 4AZ

Client: Helmingham Holdings Ltd

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: DC/19/00870/HYB

Development: Erection of 14 dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 23-26 August, 2021

HER Ref: BRF 181

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-427841

Grid ref: TM 1309 4621

Previous land use: Grounds of Clarice House under grass cover (excavation areas under grass cover crossed by two service trenches)

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Excavation methodology
3. Excavation results
4. The Pottery and metal finds
5. The Paleoenvironmental samples
6. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of excavation areas

Fig. 3 Site plan (Sarah Veasey)

Fig. 4 Site sections (Sarah Veasey)

List of appendices

Appendix I- Images

Appendix II- Written scheme for excavation

Appendix III- Context List

Appendix IV- The Pottery (Sue Anderson)

Appendix V- The Paleoenvironmental Evidence (Val Fryer)

Appendix VI- The Metal Finds (JNAS)

Appendix VII- OASIS data form

Summary: Bramford, Clarice House, Bramford Road (BRF 181, TM 1309 4621) Following an evaluation that identified some features of medieval date (by Cotswold Archaeology) three areas between service trenches were opened for excavation at a site at the junction of Bramford Lane and Bramford Road. Two of the areas were blank but one did reveal more of a ditch seen in the evaluation in addition to a pair of pits of medieval date and a large irregular feature of probable natural origin. This site is suggested as a back-plot area for a small low status settlement of 11th/12th to 14th century date at the junction of two historic route ways (John Newman Archaeological Services for Helmhingham Holdings Ltd).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Artisan Planning & Property Services on behalf of Helmingham Holdings Ltd commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological excavation works required prior to the erection of 14 new dwellings at Clarice House, Bramford Road, Bramford (see Fig. 1) under application DC/19/00870/HYB. These excavation works following an evaluation (Cuthbert, 2021) which identified an area of settlement type activity of very late Saxon to medieval (12th-13th/14th century) date. JNAS produced the written scheme of investigation (WSI- see Appendix II) detailing the background to the archaeological requirements as set out in the Brief for Archaeological Excavation works set by Mr M Baker of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS). This final stage of the archaeological programme of works at the site covers three areas in the northern part of the Clarice House grounds which are separated by two underground service trenches.

1.2 Historically Bramford is a very interesting village and parish having been one of the major parishes in the lower Gipping valley with boundaries that extended both to the west and east of the river before Ipswich expanded; local council boundaries having been re-drawn in the mid-19th to early 20th century period. For most parishes boundaries were drawn at a major river; however not for Bramford where Lovetofts Hall stood on the eastern side (now under the Lovetofts Drive area) and Boss Hall in Sproughton parish existed as a moated site until the growth of the industrial estate with, in this area, Bramford and Sproughton parishes being linked in the earlier medieval period. In addition Bramford contained a major estate at Domesday Book in 1086 which records 12 carucates of land (one carucate equals 120 acres or 48.50 hectares) held by King Edward in 1066 and then by King William in 1086. The manor of Bramford/Carlton was also of 10 carucates held by King William in 1086. The area of archaeological interest at this site is bounded on its northern side by a remnant of Bramford Lane which still survives as a sunken lane (see Appendix I) of likely medieval origin and on its western side by Bramford Road; the latter route way probably also being on a medieval alignment leading from Ipswich.

1.3 Topographically the site slopes down from east to west at 24m to 20m OD towards the Bramford Road frontage though it is unclear how much landscaping work has taken place since Bramford Lodge (now Clarice House) was constructed in the mid-19th century period. The British Geological Survey indicates superficial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation diamicton type so a mix of sands, silts and clay was anticipated. At the time of the excavation the relevant areas A-C were under a grass cover.

1.4 Archaeological interest in this site was therefore initially generated by a number of recorded nearby finds of prehistoric date (HER BRF 013 & IPS 018), an area of Iron Age settlement (HER IPS 283), a few stray Roman period finds (HER IPS 233 & 242) and three burials of uncertain date (HER IPS 543). As indicated above the initial

stage in the archaeological programme of works at the site then identified evidence for a settlement site of very late Saxon to medieval, 11th to 14th century, date (*ibid.* 2021) with a pit and three ditches in addition to features of Post medieval date including a quarry type pit under a substantial depth of overburden in the south-eastern part of the development area indicating more recent landscaping works in this area.

2. Excavation methodology

2.1 In total an area of 380m² was stripped using a large 360 machine with an 1800mm wide flat bucket with the main area being 192m² with the two smaller areas each being 92m² (see Fig. 2). These areas being separated by existing underground service trenches. The machine was supervised throughout this work and spoil was stockpiled on an area that was formerly tennis courts. Any indistinct areas were cleaned and examined by hand and a full metal detector search was carried out in and around the opened areas and across the spoil.

2.2 Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the site excavation works which were undertaken under dry and sunny conditions. Any potential archaeological features were examined by hand with sections at appropriate points to better understand their nature and sequence, any finds were collected, bulk soil samples were taken and the features were recorded in plan and section and via digital photographs. The excavation areas were also plotted in relation to nearby mapped landscape features.

3. Excavation results

(See also Figs. 3- Plan & 4- Sections and Appendices I- Images & III- Context list)

3.1 The three excavation areas were 700mm to 900mm deep with 400mm of topsoil over 300mm to 500mm of mid brown sandy subsoil where the local natural glaciofluvial deposit proved to be soft yellow sand with flints and it was at this point that archaeological features could be defined.

3.2 While no archaeological features or finds were found in areas B and C a small number were revealed in area A in addition to a few stray pottery sherds in the subsoil (0001).

3.3 At the western edge of area A an 800mm wide and 400mm deep, north-south orientated, ditch (1002/1010) was revealed. This linear feature was sectioned at two points (1003 & 1014) with the fill being pale to mid brown sand with a notable number of scallop shells. Four metres from the western edge of area A the shallow and ephemeral traces of a north-east to south-west orientated linear feature (1015) was traced. This feature was 400mm wide but only 150mm deep with a pale brown sandy fill (1016) and it faded away toward its south-western end. Towards the eastern end of area A two small pits (1004 & 1007) were revealed. The western pit (1004) was 1000mm wide by 2000mm long and 500mm deep with a mid-brown sandy

fill (1005) and the eastern pit (1007) was of similar dimensions again with a mid-brown sandy fill (1005). As these two features (1004 & 1007) clipped each another section was excavated to determine their chronological relationship (section 1004/1006 & 1007/1009) and from this it could be determined that the western feature (1004) was later than the eastern one (1007). Finally a large though somewhat irregular feature (1012) which was 2500mm to 3000mm across and 500mm deep with a pale to brown sandy fill (1013) which contained a few small Post medieval brick fragments was revealed and investigated. The remaining features (1002, 1004 & 1007) all contained earlier pottery sherds and all were bulk sampled.

4. The Pottery and metal finds

4.1 In total 54 sherds (wt. 647g) of pottery were recovered as unstratified finds (0001) and from three features (1004/1005, 1004/1006, 1007/1008, 1007/1009) and 1002/1014) in area A and the full report and catalogue by Sue Anderson is included as Appendix IV below.

4.2 In summary the sherds are mainly common coarseware types of local origin and of mainly late 13th to 14th century date with some evidence of a 12th century origin for the site. In addition one sherd of Thetford type ware hints at a late Saxon 11th century presence and this complements a St Neots ware sherd found in the evaluation. The pottery assemblage is seen as debris indicative of occupation of particularly 13th-14th date and of a lower status with no glazed sherds present.

4.3 The recovered metal finds recovered from between the trenches are listed in Appendix VI. With no metal finds of pre 18th century date a low status interpretation for the medieval period activity at this site is supported. One halfpenny of 18th century was recovered with the remainder of the metal finds being of low status type including a fragment of 19th/20th century costume jewellery, two or three simple furniture or harness fittings and a small musket ball.

5. The Paleoenvironmental samples

5.1 The samples taken for an assessment of plant macrofossil assemblages and other paleo-environmental material from the two pits (1004 & 1007) and a nearby ditch (1010) produced small assemblages and the full report by Val Fryer is included in Appendix V below.

5.2 In summary it is noted that the preservation of the remains was generally very poor. The report concludes that the cereal and seed fragments are affected by high temperature processes and oat, barley, rye and wheat is represented. In addition weed remains are common field types though a possible marigold seed is noted as this plant was used later in the early Post medieval period in herbal works. Overall this assemblage is interpreted as being scattered midden debris that became incorporated in the three exposed features.

6. Conclusion

6.1 As the evaluation indicated this site contains evidence for an occupation area of possible late Saxon/11th-12th century origin. However the main phase of activity is in the 13th-14th century period with features and finds indicative of domestic settlement in a backyard area at this site at the junction of Bramford Lane and Bramford Road, both of which are route ways of likely medieval origin. This settlement site being located in an area where a dispersed settlement pattern is typical scattered along roads and lanes in the outer area of parishes around the nuclei of local villages. In this case the ceramic evidence and lack of metal finds of medieval date suggests a low status and with a termination in the 14th century perhaps points to it being a casualty of the Black Death in the middle of the century with such low status occupation sites being very unlikely to leave a mark in the historic record for this period. Additionally the paleo-environmental evidence points to scattered domestic and hearth type debris again suggesting the proximity to a small settlement site.

6.2 While this investigation is only part of a small occupation site of mainly 13th-14th century date it can provide information for any future study of overall settlement patterns in a rural landscape where dispersion is common and this chimes with stated regional archaeological research agendas (Glazebrook, 1997, 53). In addition other regional agendas relating to agrarian economy and settlement diversity with regard to status, size and function are relevant (Brown & Glazebrook, 2000, 24-25) in addition to the likely effect of the Black Death.

6.3 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/>) where it would be available for public access.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. BRF 181.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Stuart King for his close cooperation and help, to Kelly and Steve for the soil stripping works, to James Armes and Keith Lewis for the metal detector search, to Sue Anderson for the pottery study, to Val Fryer for the palaeoenvironmental study and to Sarah Veasy of CAT for preparing Figs. 3 & 4).

Ref.

Cuthbert, M	2021	'Phase 1 Land Adjacent to Clarice House, Bramford Road, Bramford, Suffolk' CA Project SU0254, OASIS cotswold2-417543
Glazebrook, J	1997	'Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties- 1. Resource assessment,' EAA Occasional Paper 3
Brown, N & Glazebrook	2000	'Research & Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties- 2 research agenda and strategy,' EAA Occasional Paper 8

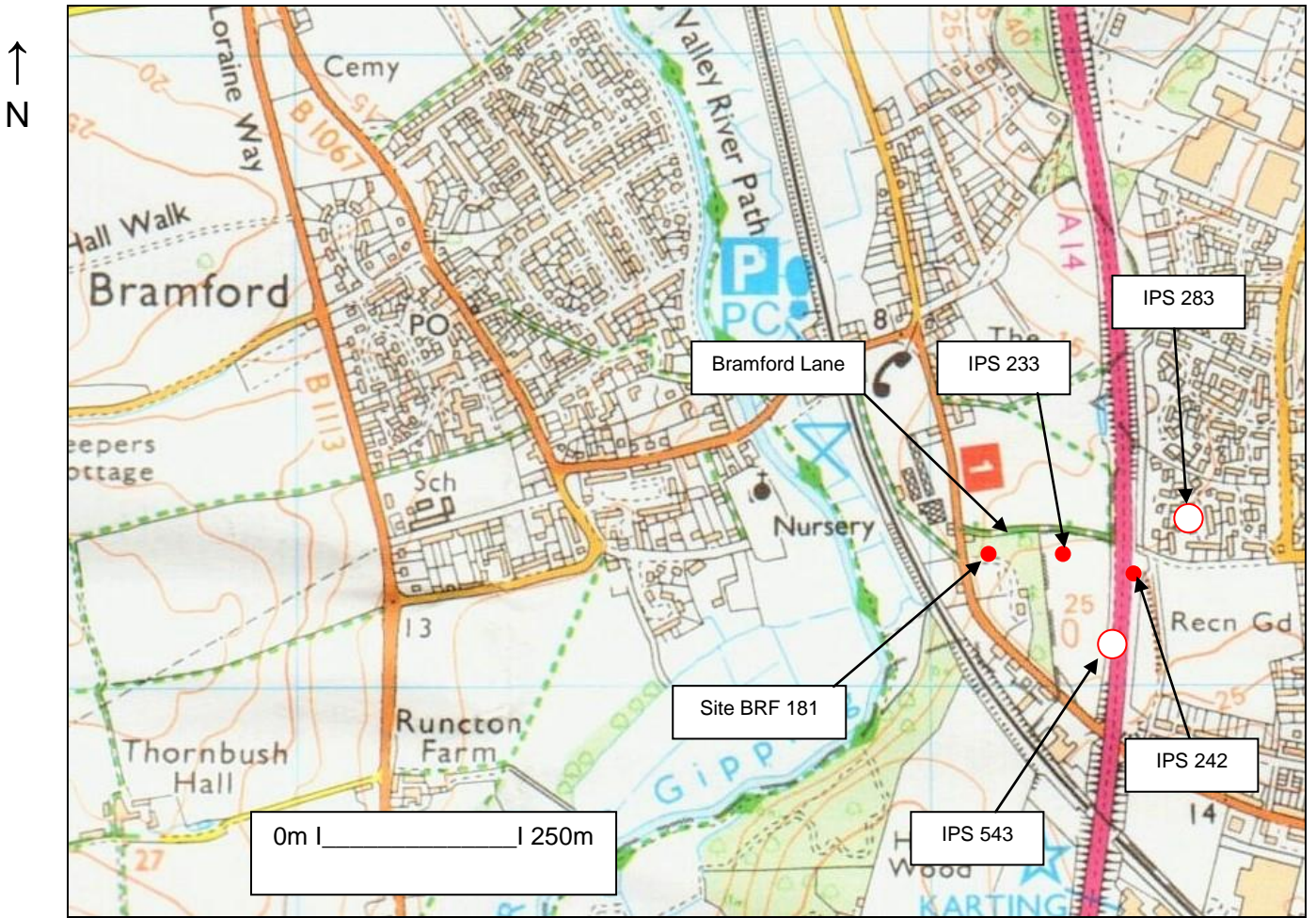


Fig.1: Site location

(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008 All rights reserved Licence No. 100049722)

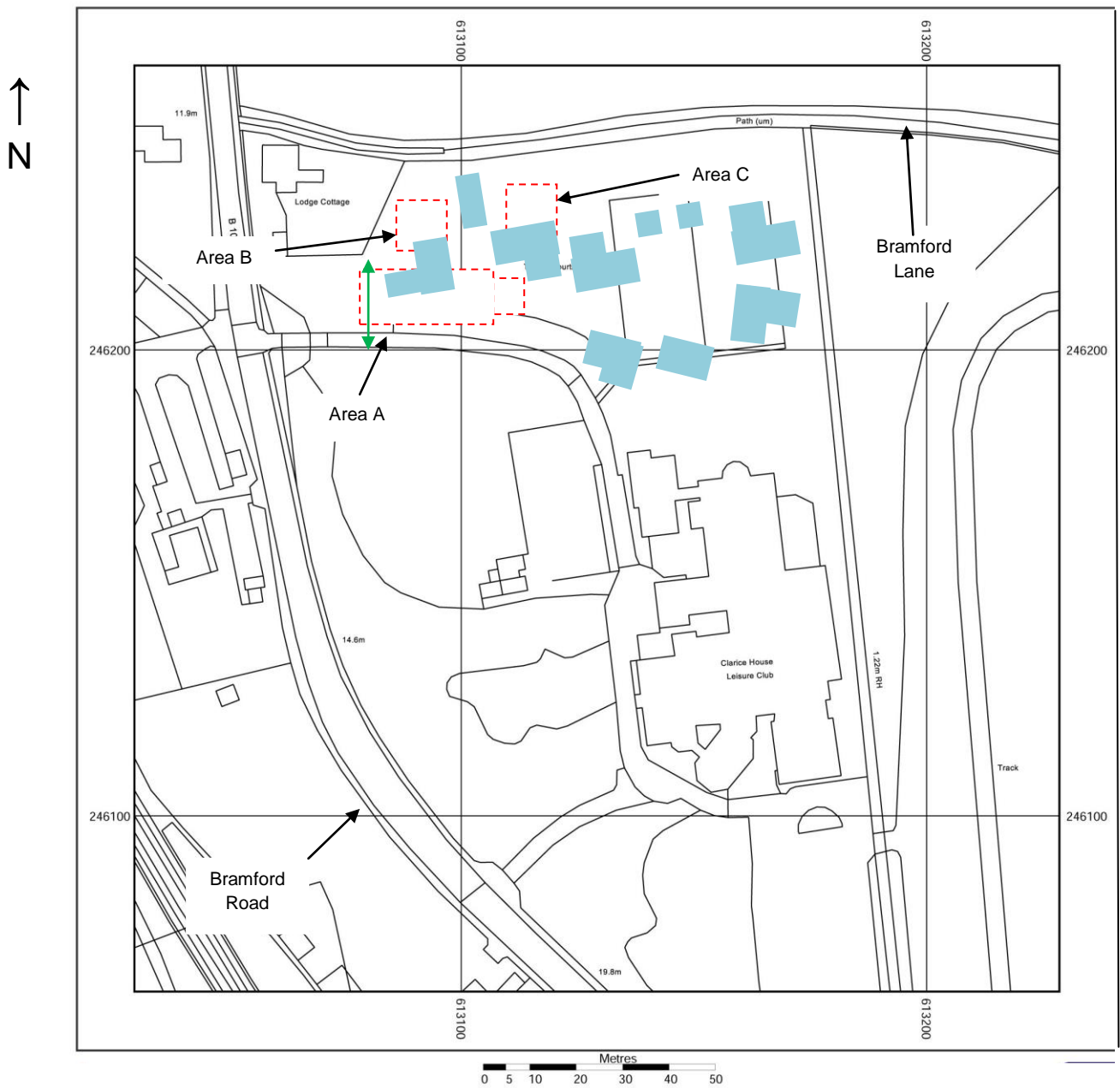


Fig. 2: Location of excavation areas

(Light blue- planned footprint areas for phase 2 dwellings, green arrow- ditch 1002)

(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2021 All rights reserved Licence No 10004972)

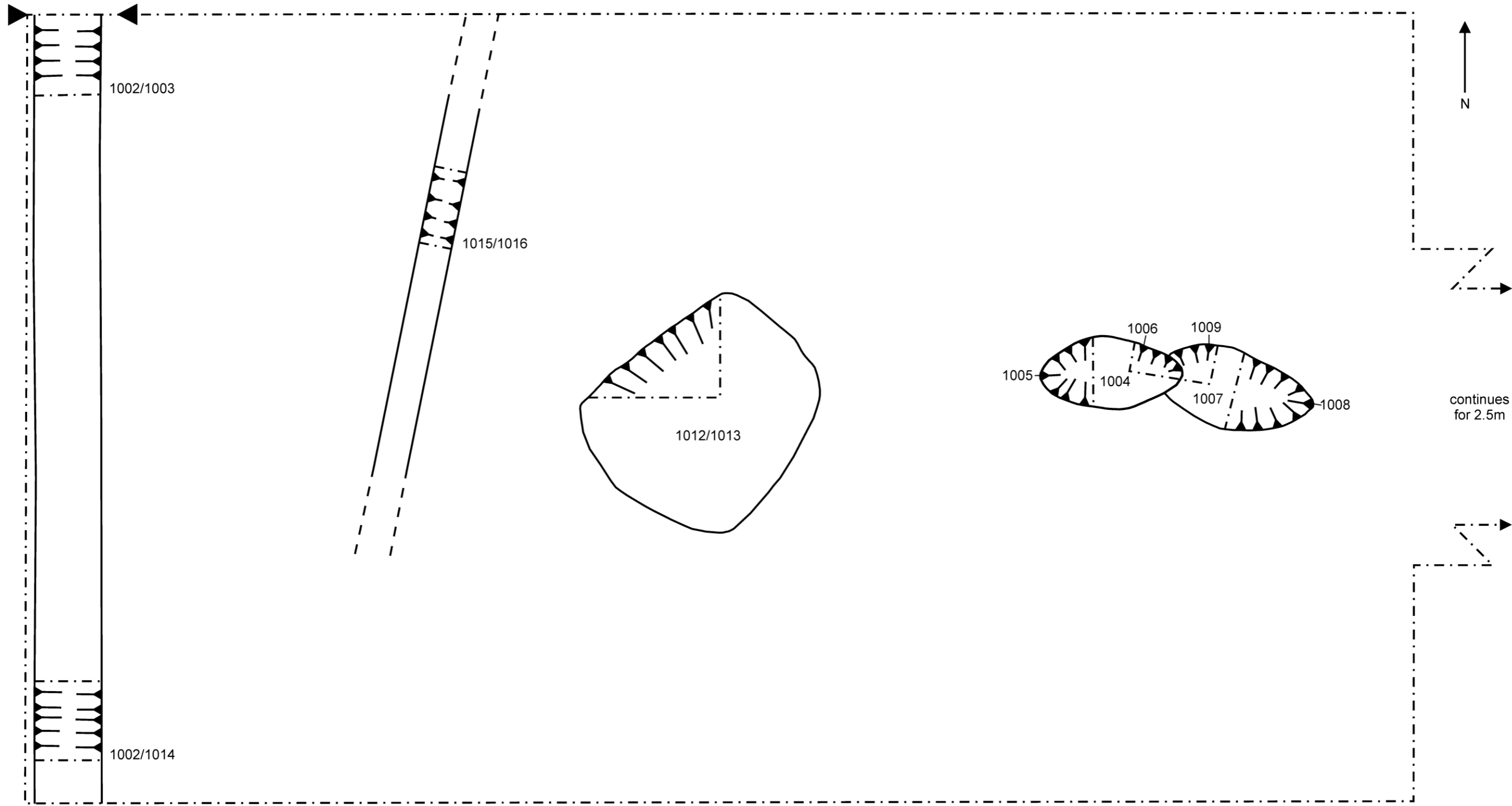


Fig. 3: Area A plan.

0m 2m

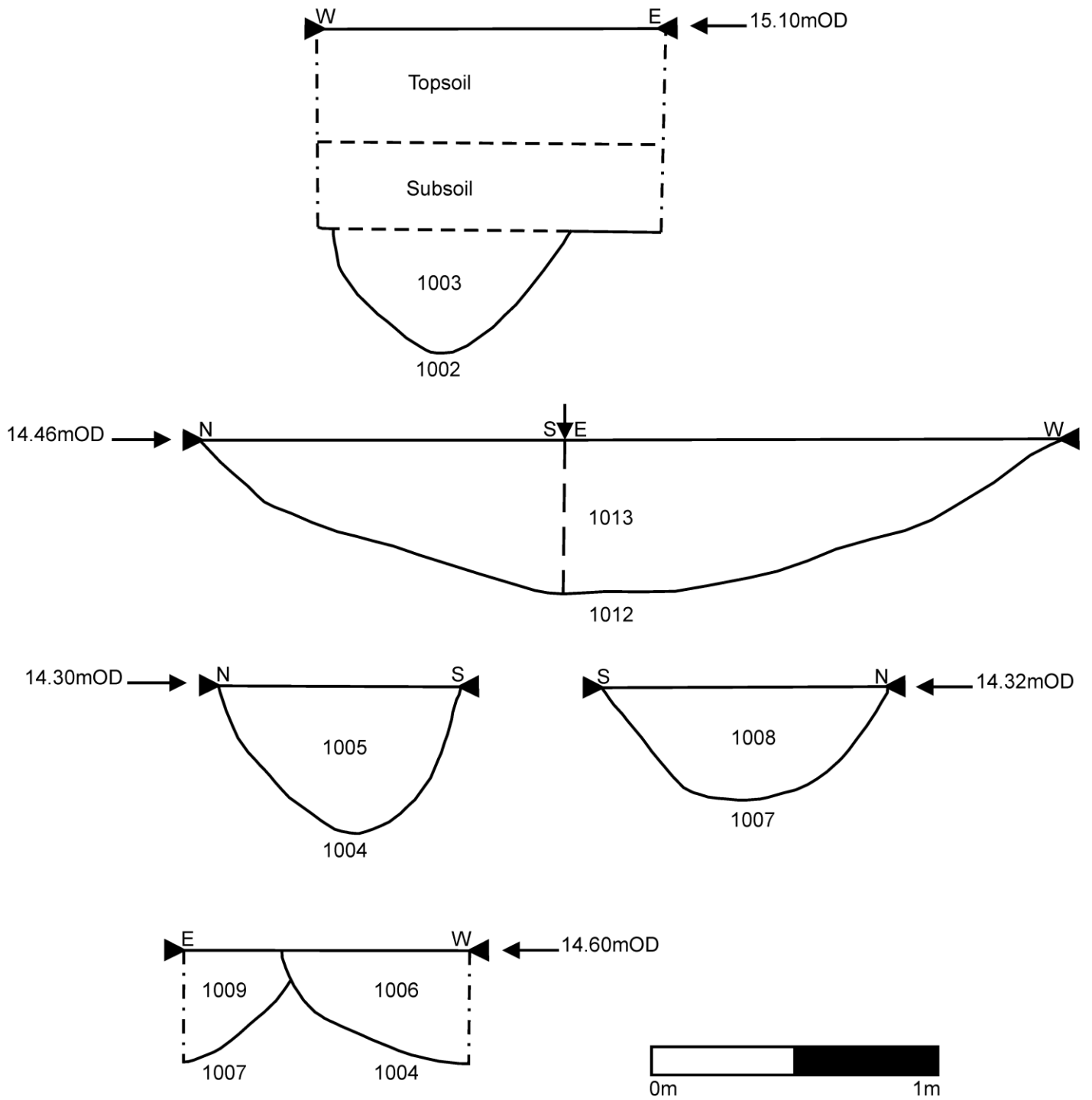


Fig. 4: Area A sections.

Appendix I- Images



General view from south



General view of area A from east



Pits 1004 and 1007 from west



Pit 1004 with section 1006/1009 from north



Pit 1007 from east



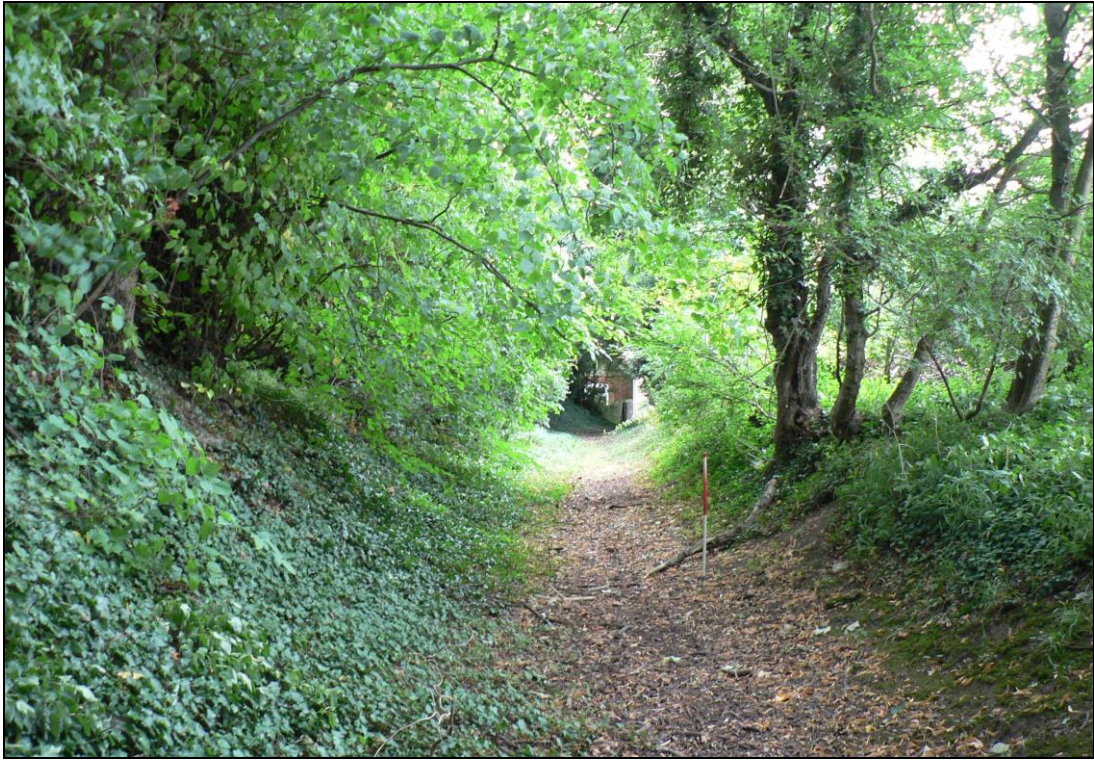
Ditch 1002/1003 from south



Area B from east



Area C from east



Bramford Lane on north side of site looking west

**Land Adjacent to Clarice House, Bramford
Road, Bramford, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Excavation**

(© John Newman BA MCIFA, 10 Fitzgerald Road, Bramford, Ipswich, IP8 4AA)

(Tel: 07754 501033 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details

Name: Land adjacent to Clarice House, Bramford Road, Bramford, Suffolk, IP8 4AZ

Client: Helmingham Holdings Ltd

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application refs: DC/19/00870/HYB

Proposed development: Erection of 14 dwellings

Proposed date for excavation: 23 August, 2021 (tbc)

Brief ref: SCCAS_ Brief for an Archaeological Excavation at Land Adjacent To Clarice House, Bramford Road, Bramford

Grid ref: TM 1309 4621

HER ref: BRF 181

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-427841

Area: c1100m²

Current site use: Grounds of Clarice House under grass cover (crossed by two service trenches)

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Excavation
5. Methodology
6. Risk Assessment
7. Specialists

Location of excavation areas

John Newman Archaeological Services

1. Introduction

1.1 Artisan Planning & Property Services on behalf of their client Helmingham Holdings Ltd have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site excavation for a 14 dwelling development that has received consent to go ahead under application DC/19/00870/HYB. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application DC/19/00870/HYB and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Excavation set by Mr M Baker of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). These excavation works following an evaluation carried out in April, 2021 (Cuthbert, 2021) which revealed evidence for past activity of medieval and Post medieval date. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This overall proposed development site (PDS) concerns the construction of 14 dwellings at land adjacent to Clarice House, Bramford Road, Bramford

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)*, locally in *SCCAS Requirements for Archaeological Excavation (updated 2020)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 & 2020)*.

1.3 The specified archaeological excavation works are planned to complete the programme of works for this 14 dwelling residential development to the north-west of Clarice House in an area that has been part of the outer grounds of what, historically, was Bramford Lodge, a country house of earlier 19th century date, this building now forming the basis of what is now Clarice House. A summary relating to the history of Bramford Lodge is included below.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Historically Bramford is a very interesting village and parish having been one of the major parishes in the lower Gipping valley with boundaries that extended both to the west and east of the river before Ipswich expanded; local council boundaries having been re-drawn in the mid-19th to early 20th century period. For most parishes boundaries were drawn at a major river; however not for Bramford where Lovetofts Hall stood on the eastern side (now under the Lovetofts Drive area) and Boss Hall in Sproughton parish existed as a moated site until the growth of the industrial estate with, in this area, Bramford and Sproughton parishes being linked in the earlier medieval period. In addition Bramford contained a major estate at Domesday Book in 1086 which records 12 carucates of land (one carucate equals 120 acres or 48.50 hectares) held by King Edward in 1066 and then by King William in 1086. The manor of Bramford/Carlton was also of 10 carucates held by King William in 1086.

John Newman Archaeological Services

2.2 As noted above this summary regarding Bramford Lodge has been contributed by Beryl Sims of the Bramford Local History Group and the author is grateful for these details:

'Bramford Lodge is more tricky. It wasn't owned by the Loraine Family so I haven't seen any deeds for it. On the 1846 Tithe comm. map it was plot 582 owned by Wm Chapman Clarke and Robert Stokes. On the 1841 census the 2 men were living there with 3 servants. On the 1881 census a widow named Wainright lived there with her family, her sons were grocers. In 1901 Donald Warnes and his family lived there, he was a magistrate and solicitor.

Miss Loraine Lived there in the 1940's when Bramford hall was requisitioned for soldiers. That is all I know!

I would guess that it's a 19th century build. There are a couple more similar houses in the area, one on the Henley Road just after the end of Ipswich, and I think there is one on the Tuddenham Road too, I know I have passed it recently.

In my view Bramford Lane was the earliest route out of Ipswich to Bramford. On old maps it is clear that the lane came down to the river (ford?) and joined with what is now Vicarage Lane, south of the church. It would then have carried on into Fitzgerald road up to the old Roman road. It seems to me that Bramford Road is a later route out of town as it doesn't have any really old buildings along its length apart from the chapel at the junction of course. Bramford Lane continues into town along Little Bramford Lane and up to the Norwich Road not far from the present road junction.

2.2 The British Geological Survey indicates that the PDS is on Lowestoft Formation diamicton deposits made up of clays, sands and silts at 20m to 25m OD; therefore the likelihood of mixed superficial deposits can be anticipated as revealed in the evaluation. The River Gipping being c200m to the south-west.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The relevant archaeological evaluation carried out in April, 2021, revealed a small number of linear features or ditches containing a moderate quantity of medieval pottery sherds of 11th to 13th century date with a low level of domestic debris from the soil samples that were taken. This evidence suggesting that the evaluation was over an area close, but not directly over, a settlement site of this date. In addition a few ditches and at least one quarry pit of Post medieval date were revealed.

3.2 Interestingly the local history summary in section 2.2 above suggests that Bramford Lane which forms a hollow way on the northern edge of the PDS was quite possibly the main route from Ipswich to Bramford though it is not shown in this area on Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk. This lane heads towards a probable ford

John Newman Archaeological Services

across the River Gipping and fronting onto Bramford Lane a small settlement of medieval date at Clarice House would be a logical location. Perhaps a settlement that peaked in the earlier to high medieval period before population levels dropped during the era of The Black Death where many more minor cottage and farm sites were abandoned.

4. Aims of the Site Excavation

4.1 As outlined in sections 2 and 3 above the archaeological potential of this PDS relates to what has already been revealed in the evaluation with respect to an area of 11th to 13th century occupation, in all likelihood adjacent to a historic route way.

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for the construction of 14 dwellings. In this case an HER search is not proposed as one has already been carried out for the evaluation (*ibid.* 2021). Ten days notice of the excavation starting will be given to SCCAS so a monitoring visit can be agreed. Contact will also be maintained with SCCAS as the excavation progresses and through the post-excavation study and work with regard to the results from the site, the finds and any samples and the main assessment and final report preparation.

5.2 The Brief has specified an area of c1100m² to be stripped, investigated and recorded in the area of evaluation trenches 7 and 8, however two service lines cross the excavation area and each of these will entail the maintenance of 6m wide exclusion zones (see below) once their exact line has been defined. This will be undertaken using a wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with spoil stockpiled nearby. 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 which the evaluation indicates as a depth of c700mm, where hand investigation will start, or to expose the underlying drift geology which will be further hand cleaned and examined as required. Any need to modify the excavation areas due to services will be communicated with SCCAS. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the excavation including both for ferrous and non-ferrous finds. The up cast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in past rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits. Allowance has been made for 7-8 person days on site. If required further investigation of the area around the edges of the excavation will be carried out in particular following a SCCAS monitoring visit and examination of the exposed deposits. Any requirement to vary the related brief requirements and this WSI will only be carried out following communication with SCCAS in particular with regard to extending the excavation areas dependant on the initial results.

John Newman Archaeological Services

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall HER number obtained from the Suffolk CC HER beforehand, ideally following on from the evaluation HER number and context list. 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 in high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features (using a Lumix DMC-FZ5 camera with allowance for .jpeg and higher definition .tif images depending on what is revealed).

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before appropriate hand investigation and recording. Exposed archaeological features will be sampled at standard levels. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained during investigation and recording. Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%- possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. These features will be hand investigated unless agreed with SCCAS that larger/more recent features can be partially machine/hand investigated. If human burial evidence is revealed 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 excavation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial evidence is assessed as being low given investigation on site to date).

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 and any finds that qualify under the Treasure Act will be reported to the local Finds Liaison Officer within 14 days.

5.6 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas. The sampling, processing and assessment will follow the guidelines as detailed in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English

John Newman Archaeological Services

Heritage, 2011). 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 the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor (RSA) if the deposits merit more targeted advice) including deposits that cannot be immediately dated by their artefact content, so the state of preservation and full archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the deposits can be assessed and any further sampling, should further field work take place, be systematically planned and fully costed. 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:

- What is the quality and state of preservation of charred plant remains, mineralised plant and animal related remains, small vertebrates and industrial residues such as evidence for iron working (contributing to the fullest interpretation of the excavation results and to aid the planning of any further field work- if any RC dates are required for features containing suitable material but no easily dateable finds then this will incur an additional cost).
- What is the concentration of macro-remains (to inform sampling strategy in any further field work), in particular how might bulk sampling inform the interpretation of burial deposits.
- 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 excavation results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)
- Do waterlogged deposits exist on site, if so is there potential for palaeoenvironmental data from preserved insects or pollen and do such deposits contain organic material suitable for RC dating from samples taken as advised by the relevant soil specialist (who would also coordinate the assessment for pollen and insect remains), the RSA will also be consulted in such cases in conjunction with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Incremental column samples will be taken should waterlogged deposits be revealed in

John Newman Archaeological Services

close consultation with the soils specialist with 10-20 litre sample sizes which will be sub-sampled for preserved pollen, insects, diatoms, preserved parasite eggs etc. If waterlogged wood is encountered it will ideal to leave in situ, if it has to be lifted it will be packed while wet in black polythene and stored at 5C until it can be transferred to a specialist for species identification, assessment and potential for RC dating is undertaken (should RC dating be required in the excavation on such deposits this will incur an additional cost and will take time to obtain, examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is unlikely unless deep deposits are revealed).

- How do excavation samples relate to previously collected and assessed evaluation samples

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE* (and the guidelines in the Archaeological Archives Forum: a guide to best practice 2007). This archive, including the digital content, will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 4 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the guidelines outlined in '*Archaeological Archives in Suffolk- Guidelines for preparation and deposition*' (SCCAS Conservation Team revised version 2019). As necessary the site digital archive will 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 *MoRPHE* 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 plus the evaluation results. 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. Any developments during the site and reporting works will be communicated to SCCAS with discussion regarding the need for any published report in addition to a summary for PSIAH for the annual round-up of archaeological work in the county.

5.9 Any interpretation of the excavation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the excavation and its results and these will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. 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 in pdf format. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be

John Newman Archaeological Services

provided for the County HER with a digital version on disc. As required the site 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, and 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. COVID guideline requirements will be adhered to with social distancing, no sharing of equipment and separate rest areas.

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

6.3 Prior to excavation work starting on site the client will be consulted with regard to any potential contamination at the site. No overhead services impinge on the trench locations and 6m exclusion zones will be maintained along the known services which will be marked out beforehand following a survey. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the excavation 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 From the evaluation results a soil strip to a depth of c700mm is anticipated with sloped sides to the three areas. 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 (Freelance)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	tbc
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)

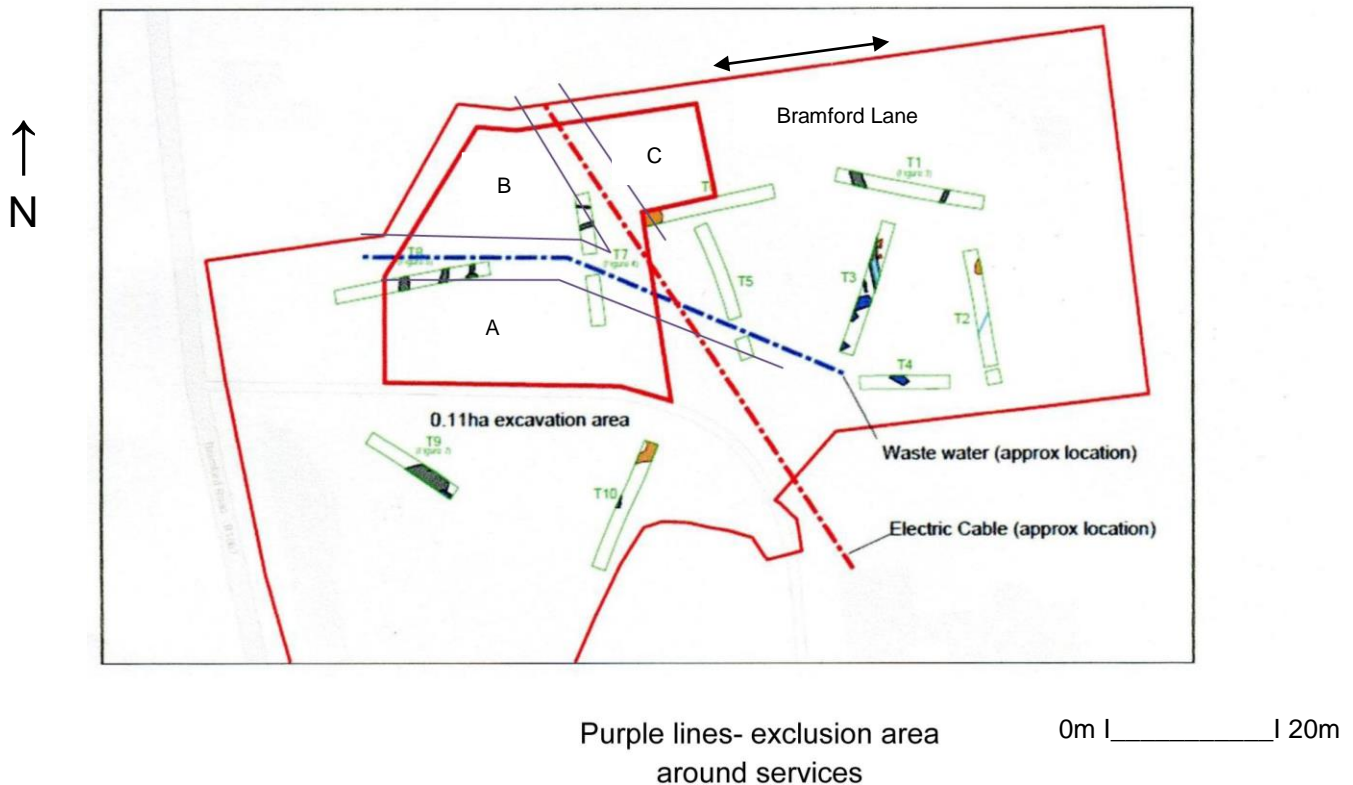
John Newman Archaeological Services

Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics:	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Medieval coins:	M Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS
Surveying (GPS)	A&B Surveys

Ref:

Cuthbert M 2021 'Phase 1 Land Adjacent to Clarice House, Bramford Road Bramford, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation,' HER ref: BRF 181, OASIS ref: cotswold2-417543

Plan showing excavation areas outlined red



Proposed excavation areas A, B & C

Appendix III- Context list

Clarice House, Bramford HER BRF 181

Area	Context No	Type	Part of	Description	Date
A	1001	US		US finds from top and subsoil strip, MD finds all late Pmed, one George III halfpenny, two later 19C jewellery frags	
A	1002	Ditch	1002	Ditch at eastern side of area A (same as evaluation ditch 808)	
A	1003	Fill	1002	Mid brown sand	
A	1004	Pit	1004	Pit, 1800mm x 900mm x 500mm deep, cuts pit 1007	
A	1005	Fill	1004	Mid-dark brown sand fill with few oyster shells (bulk sample taken)	Med L13-14 C
A	1006	Fill	1004	Mid brown sandy fill of 1004 in area it cuts 1007	Med L13-14C
A	1007	Pit	1007	Pit, 1900mm x 900mm x 400mm deep, cut by 1004	
A	1008	Fill	1007	Mid brown sandy fill of 1007 (bulk sample taken)	Med 12-14C
A	1009	Fill	1007	Mid brown sandy fill	Med 13-14C
A	1010	Ditch	1002	Northern section across ditch 1002	
A	1011	Fill	1010	Mid brown sand fill of ditch	
A	1012	Pit	1012	Large disturbance in centre of site, 2500mm across, c560mm deep, irregular shape, possible tree root hole	
A	1013	Fill	1012	Pale to mid brown sand with small Pmed brick frags	?Pmed
A	1014	Fill	1002/1010	Southern section across N-S ditch 1002/1010 (808 from evaluation, bulk sample taken, whelk shells noted)	Med L13-14C
A	1015	Ditch	1015	Small ditch towards western part of area A, 400mm wide but only 150mm, NE-SW orientated fading away at its NE and SW ends	
A	1016	Fill	1015	Pale brown sandy fill, no finds	?

Appendix IV

Clarice House, Bramford (BRF181): pottery

Sue Anderson, September 2021.

Introduction

Pottery (54 sherds, 647g) was collected from six contexts during the excavation (Appendix 1).

Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series for Suffolk (Anderson 2020) and characterised using a microscope at x20 magnification. Methods follow MPRG recommendations (MPRG 2001) and form terminology follows MPRG classifications (1998). The results were input directly onto an MS Access database, which forms the archive catalogue.

Pottery by period

Table 1 shows the quantities of pottery by fabric.

Description	Fabric	Date range	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Thetford-type ware (Ipswich)	THETI	L.9th-11th c.	1	29	0.12	1
Early medieval ware, clay pellets	EMWcp	11th-13th c.	1	4		1
EMW sparse shelly	EMWSS	11th-13th c.	9	119		7
Early medieval ware gritty	EMWG	11th-12th c.	1	7		1
Medieval S Suffolk coarseware	MSSCW	12th-14th c.	18	220	0.15	15
Medieval E Suffolk coarseware	MESCW	12th-14th c.	11	146		11
SW Suffolk sandy micaceous ware	SWSSM	12th-14th c.	2	10		1
SE Suffolk micaceous coarseware	MCWMSE	12th-14th c.	2	23		1
Haughley coarseware fabric 1	HGHCW1	L.13th-14th c.	4	16		4
Hollesley-type ware	HOLL	L.13th-14th c.	1	22	0.03	1
Colchester-type ware	COLC	13th-15th c.	4	51	0.05	4
<i>Totals</i>			<i>54</i>	<i>647</i>	<i>0.35</i>	<i>47</i>

Table 1. Pottery quantities.

One sherd of Late Saxon Ipswich Thetford-type ware was an unstratified find. The sherd was a rim fragment of a medium jar with a parallel-sided everted rim (Anderson 2004, type 4; L.10th–11th c.).

Eleven sherds of handmade early medieval ware vessels were found. One body sherd (EMWG) was similar to Essex wares of the period, and there were nine sherds in shelly/clay pellet fabrics typical of SE Suffolk. Apart from a large fragment of a chunky wide strap handle, all fragments were undecorated body sherds. These wares were present in all six of the contexts which contained pottery, but were associated with later wares; most were small and probably residual.

The majority of the assemblage was of high medieval date. Sandy coarsewares typical of south and east Suffolk predominated, and there were minor components of fabrics

which are more typical of the SW quarter of the county and the SE coastal strip. However, only a few sherds could be matched with samples from known production sites, these being from Hollesley and Haughley. Two jar rims were present, a flat-topped everted type in MSSCW (comparable with Essex form H1; 13th-14th c.), and an upright square-beaded form more typical of Suffolk (13th-14th c.), also in MSSCW. The Hollesley ware sherd was a large bowl rim of square-beaded form. The few sherds of Colchester-type ware were fragments of jars and included a rim of upright flat-topped everted form (Essex type H2; 13th c.).

Pottery by context

Table 2 shows the distribution of pottery by context and feature with suggested spot dates.

Feature	Context	Type	Fabrics	Spot date
-	1001	U/S finds	THETI EMWcp EMWG MESCW MSSCW HGHCW1	u/s
1004	1005	pit	EMWSS MESCW MSSCW SWSSM HOLL COLC	L.13th-14th c.
1004	1006	pit	EMWSS MESCW MSSCW MCWMSE HGHCW1	L.13th-14th c.
1007	1008	pit	EMWSS MSSCW	12th-14th c.
1007	1009	pit	EMWSS MESCW MSSCW SWSSM HGHCW1	L.13th-14th c.
1002/1010	1014	ditch	EMWSS MESCW MCWMSE HGHCW1	L.13th-14th c.

Table 2. Pottery fabric distribution by context

The majority of pottery was recovered from pits 1004 and 1007, with six sherds being unstratified and six from ditch 1002/1010; this latter produced only one sherd of early medieval ware in the evaluation (context 0809).

Discussion

The earliest activity on the site appears to be of Late Saxon date. A single, but relatively large and unabraded, rim sherd of Ipswich Thetford-type ware was recovered and complements a sherd of St Neots-type ware collected during the evaluation (Goffin 2021).

Early medieval wares are present, but most appear to be residual. Although they overlap in their date range with the high medieval wares, most sherds were small and abraded. Based on the few rims, the high medieval wares in this group were of 13th–14th-century date and include some for which broadly 14th-century dates are possible. In general this group is slightly later than the similarly-sized assemblage recovered from the evaluation, but it represents the infilling of only three features. The size of the groups from the two pits is suggestive of occupation in the near vicinity in the 13th/14th century. Identifiable vessels were mainly jars/cooking pots, but one bowl was present, and the early medieval ware handle presumably represents a large spouted pitcher or perhaps a handled storage jar. Fabrics and rim forms are typical of SE Suffolk and NE Essex, but despite the relatively late date, no glazed wares were found. This may suggest a relatively poor community, although the two pits could perhaps contain the rubbish from a single household.

References

Anderson, S., 2004, 'The Pottery', in Wallis, H., *Excavations at Mill Lane, Thetford*, East Anglian Archaeology 108, 67–86.

Anderson, S., 2020, *Suffolk Medieval Pottery Fabric Series*, <https://www.suffolkmedpot.co.uk/>

Goffin, R., 2021, 'The Pottery,' in Cuthbert, M., '*Phase 1 Land Adjacent to Clarice House, Bramford Road, Bramford, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation*,' CA Project SU0254

MPRG, 1998, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1

MPRG, 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Appendix 1: Pottery summary catalogue

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Notes	Spot date
1001	THETI	R	1	29	1	AB	4		L10-11
1001	EMWG	U	1	7	1			common rounded cs/cq, poss Colchester area?	11-13
1001	MESCW	U	1	29	1			oxid surfaces	12-13
1001	MSSCW	U	1	18	1			reduced	12-14
1001	EMWCP	U	1	4	1				11-13
1001	HGHCW1	U	1	4	1				L13-14
1005	EMWSS	U	1	8	1				11-13
1005	COLC	U	1	8	1			reduced	13-15
1005	COLC	U	1	4	1				13-15
1005	COLC	R	1	12	1	JR	UPFTEV		13
1005	COLC	B	1	27	1				13-15
1005	MSSCW	R	1	14	1	JR	FTEV		13
1005	SWSSM	U	1	5	1				12-14
1005	MESCW	U	4	50	4				12-14
1005	MESCW	B?	1	13	1				12-14
1005	MSSCW	U	5	60	4				12-14
1005	MSSCW	U	1	17	1			oxid int	12-14
1005	MSSCW	B	1	26	1			oxid surfaces, poss ESOW	12-14
1005	HOLL	R	1	22	1	BL	EVSQ		13-14
1006	EMWSS	U	1	18	1			fairly thick, reduced	11-13
1006	MSSCW	U	3	8	1			hard, lt grey	12-14
1006	MSSCW	U	1	7	1			hard, grey	12-14
1006	MESCW	D	1	4	1				12-14
1006	HGHCW1	U	1	3	1				L13-14
1006	MCWMSE	U	1	8	1				12-14
1008	EMWSS	U	2	7	2				11-13
1008	MSSCW	B	1	18	1			hard greyware, some calcite	12-14
1008	MSSCW	U	1	9	1				12-14
1008	MSSCW	U	1	17	1			oxid surfaces, poss same as EMEMS	12-14
1009	EMWSS	U	3	4	1				11-13
1009	EMWSS	H	1	74	1			large, thick handle, sub-rectangular section	11-13
1009	MSSCW	R	1	12	1	JR	UPSQ		13-14
1009	SWSSM	B	1	5	1				12-14
1009	HGHCW1	U	1	5	1				L13-14
1009	MESCW	U	1	19	1				12-14
1009	MSSCW	U	1	14	1				12-14
1014	EMWSS	U	1	8	1			neck	11-13
1014	MESCW	U	3	31	3				12-14
1014	MCWMSE	U	1	15					12-14
1014	HGHCW1	U	1	4	1				L13-14

Key: Type: U/D – undecorated/decorated body sherd; R – rim; B – base.

Rims: EVSQ – everted square-beaded; FTEV – flat-topped everted; UPFTEV – upright flat-topped everted; UPSQ – upright square-beaded.

Notes: fs/ms/cs – fine sandy/medium/coarse sandy; cq – coarse quartz; oxid – oxidised; ext/int – external/internal.

Appendix V

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM CLARICE HOUSE, BRAMFORD, SUFFOLK (BRF 181)

Val Fryer, Environmental Archaeologist
November 2021

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Bramford, undertaken by John Newman Archaeological Services, recorded two pits and a ditch, all of which were of probable early medieval (twelfth to fourteenth century) date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within all three features.

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 (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds are present throughout, but do not appear in the table. Shells of terrestrial snails were also noted, but as all appear to be modern contaminants, their presence has not been further recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Cereals and seeds of common segetal weeds are present at a low to moderate density within all three assemblages. However, preservation is generally very poor. The majority of the cereals are severely puffed and distorted (probably as a result of very high temperature combustion), and grains and seeds are also very fragmented.

Probable oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded, but most cereals cannot be closely identified. Only one piece of chaff, a rachis node of bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type, is recorded within the assemblage from ditch [1010].

Weed seeds are mostly present as single specimens within an assemblage. Most are of common field weeds, with taxa noted including stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), small legumes (Fabaceae) and grasses (Poaceae). The possible marigold (*Calendula* sp.) seed from pit [1004] is unusual, although it must be stressed that this single specimen is extremely poorly preserved. Marigolds are often featured in herbals of the sixteenth century onwards, but it is not known if they were used in earlier medieval times. A single seed of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), a plant commonly found growing on or near dung heaps, is also recorded from pit [1004]. Highly comminuted charcoal/charred wood fragments are abundant within all three assemblages, but other plant macrofossils are scarce.

The black porous residues noted within all three samples are probably derived from the high temperature combustion of organic materials, including cereal grains. Other remains occur less frequently, but do include bone fragments, eggshell, fish bones and marine mollusc shell, all of which are probably derived from culinary refuse. Two large fragments of an indeterminate burnt concretion are noted from pit [1007] and ditch [1010]. Both have an open, porous texture, and that from ditch [1010] appears to have inclusions of straw or grass. Because of this, it is tentatively suggested that both may be fragments of burnt dung.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, all three assemblages are small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and the preservation of the remains is generally very poor. However, it is suggested that the recovered material could all be derived from midden waste including hearth detritus, culinary refuse and possible burnt stable/byre waste. As the primary deposition of material is probably not indicated, it is presumed that the remains are all derived from scattered detritus, which was probably accidentally incorporated within open features across the whole area of the excavation.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of identifiable material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any synthesis of data from the site.

Reference

Stace, C., 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press.

Key to Table

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

Context No.	1005	1008	1014
Feature No.	1004	1007	1010
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Ditch
Cereals			
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)			xcf
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x	xx
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grains)	xcf		xcf
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x	x	xx
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis node)			x
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx	xxx	xxx
Dry land herbs			
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	x		x
<i>Calendula</i> sp.	xcffg		
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.			x
Small Fabaceae indet.	x	xx	x
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.	x		

Small Poaceae indet.	x		
Large Poaceae indet.	x		
Tree/shrub macrofossils			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.		x	
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	xxx	xx
Charcoal >5mm	xx	x	x
Charcoal >10mm		x	
Charred root/stem	x	x	x
Indet. seeds	x		
Other remains			
Black porous material	xx	xxx	xx
Black tarry material	x	x	
Bone	x xb		
Burnt/fired clay	x	x	
Charred organic concretions		x	x
Eggshell	x		x
Fish bone	x		
Marine mollusc shell	x		x
Small coal frags.	x		
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x	x	
Sample volume (litres)	18	19	16
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%

Appendix VI- The Metal Finds

(JNAS)

All of the finds recovered from the site were unstratified from areas between excavation areas A, B & C

Worn 18th century halfpenny (probably George III)

Decimal one penny

Copper alloy small boss, domed disc with central piercing and three outer small rivet size piercings, probably furniture of harness fitting of later Post medieval date, 33mm diameter

Copper alloy pendant with green glass central setting and decorative wire wound frame, costume jewellery, 19th to earlier 20th century date

Copper alloy decorative plaque fragment, later Post medieval probably belt fitting

Copper alloy oval belt stiffener, 23mm x 30mm, later Post medieval date

Small copper alloy bracket rectangular head 16mm x 28mm head with two piercings and small central shaft, 19th-20th century date

Four copper disc shaped buttons, late Post medieval date

Small lead musket ball, 6mm diameter

Four small lead fragments, largest 18mm x 22mm

Summary for johnnewm1-427841

OASIS ID (UID)	johnnewm1-427841
Project Name	Clarice House, Bramford Road, Bramford, Suffolk- Archaeological Excavation Report
Activity type	EXCAVATION
Project Identifier(s)	
Planning Id	DC/19/00870/HYB
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	John Newman Archaeological Services
Project Dates	23-Aug-2021 - 26-Aug-2021
Location	CLARICE HOUSE BRAMFORD ROAD NGR : TM 13090 46210 LL : 52.0732348691561, 1.10792402139866 12 Fig : 613090,246210
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : Mid Suffolk Parish : Bramford
Project Methodology	Area excavation
Project Results	Bramford, Clarice House, Bramford Road (BRF 181, TM 1309 4621) Following an evaluation that identified some features of medieval date (by Cotswold Archaeology) three areas between service trenches were opened for excavation at a site at the junction of Bramford Lane and Bramford Road. Two of the areas were blank but one did reveal more of a ditch seen in the evaluation in addition to a pair of pits of medieval date and a large irregular feature of probable natural origin. This site is suggested as a back-plot area for a small low status settlement of 11th/12th to 14th century date at the junction of two historic route ways.
Keywords	Deserted Settlement - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	BRF 181, BRF 181, BRF181, BRF 181, BRF181, BRF 181

Archives	Physical Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service
----------	---