

**Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard,
Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/21/3626/FUL & DC/21/3627/LBC

HER Ref: BUD 016

Archaeological Monitoring Report

(Continuous observation of ground works)

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

(March 2023)

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

Site details for HER

Name: Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard, Suffolk, IP17 2EJ

Client: Bruisyard Country Estate

Local planning authority: East Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: DC/21/3626/FUL & DC/21/3627/LBC

Development: Conversion of outbuildings to bedrooms and repairs to garden wall

Date of fieldwork: 15 & 16 November, 2022 & 16 & 17 February, 2023

HER Ref: BUD 016 (also BUD 001)

SM: 1007681

LBS: 11883054

Grid ref: TM 3337 6621

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-508472

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Summary: Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard (BUD TM 3337 6621) monitoring of shallow floor lowering groundworks for the conversion of former 19th century farm outbuildings to bedrooms and related drainage works to the rear of the hall only revealed top and subsoil containing fragments of Post medieval brick and tile and a flint wall base with brick fragments on the eastern side of the east range is likely to be part of a garden wall of relatively recent date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Bruisyard Country Estate).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 The Bruisyard Country Estate 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 notices for applications DC/21/3626/FUL and DC/21/3627/LBC and the related Scheduled Monument Consent 1007681 (SMC). The monitoring requirements were set out following planning advice in a Brief issued by Mr M Baker of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy this condition and agreed by Historic England (SMC) JNAS produced the relevant written scheme (Appendix II) to gain the conditional discharge allowing works to start on site. This development concerns the conversion of former farm buildings to bedrooms for the overall complex plus related drainage works.

1.2 To the north-east of Framlingham Bruisyard is a small and isolated parish but it contains Bruisyard Hall, an impressive early Post medieval country mansion that is over the site of a medieval nunnery. This nunnery was a house of the Franciscan Nuns (Poor Clares) founded in 1366 on the site of a college of chantry priests from 1354 which was of a high status with Maud of Lancaster, Countess of Ulster being a patron. The nunnery was dissolved in 1536 and was sold to Sir Nicholas Hare, as senior official in Henry VIII's service before passing to his son Michael and during this period the structure was altered to be a high-status country house in the 16th century. Later, in 1611, the property was owned by the Rous family who still own it to this day. It is a property that is a rare example of continued family ownership and it is a grade II* listed building and a scheduled monument, therefore of national importance. More recently nearby farm buildings have been converted as a wedding and meetings venue and the hall has been renovated in addition as a venue and building for similar related use. The farm buildings that are planned for conversion to bedroom use will complement this complex and have been recorded as historic structures (Alston, 2022) and are identified as curtilage listed red brick structures but only of mid-19th century date and not of great historic significance in their own right but an asset to the overall property. Conversion work did not entail a large amount of ground works as floor levels were only to be lowered by a limited amount, in addition a service pipe run was planned and they were also to be monitored and floor levels will be examined to be sure almost present levels will be maintained. Essentially this planned bedroom development was seen to have potentially little impact of below ground archaeological levels. Bruisyard Hall is some 800m east of the parish church with the relevant 19th century buildings being a short distance behind to the west and north-west of the main hall structure though within the area defined by the moat at the site and other historic water features. The main courtyards for the medieval complex having been to the front of the hall on its southern side.

1.3 The British Geological Survey describes the site as being on Lowestoft diamicton deposits, therefore a mix of silts, clay and gravel at c30m OD.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Initial works at the site entailed the excavation and monitoring of a drainage pipe trench parallel and close to the north-western part of the hall. Following this mechanical lowering of floor levels within the farm buildings using a small 360 machine equipped with a flat bucket was monitored. The upcast spoil was examined visually, and the overall project was photographed as the works continued (see Appendix I) .

3. Results

3.1 The drainage pipe trench (see Fig. 2) was 36m long, 400mm wide and 700mm deep with 300mm of topsoil above 400mm of mid brown silty clay subsoil with fragments of Post medieval brick and tile to its full depth. At the base of the trench traces of grey and silty orange clay could be seen but was not disturbed.

3.2 Within the 19th century farm buildings floor levels were scraped to a depth of 350mm to 400mm and at this level it was still within mid clay subsoil containing numerous fragments of later Post medieval brick and tile. One small, 500mm x 1500mm, rectangular pit within the eastern range was taken to an overall depth of 1000mm and with grey/blue clay at its base. A flint based lower part of the eastern farm building farm was noted but it also contained Post medieval brick fragments and is likely to be a garden wall of relatively recent date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While Bruisyard Hall is noted as a building of national importance on the site of a medieval site also seen as being of national importance. However grounds works for these conversion works were limited to a short length of pipe trench and shallow lowering of ground levels within the building complex and only small fragments of Post medieval brick and tile were noted plus the remnant of a garden wall of relatively recent date. No indication that any archaeological features or finds of any interest were disturbed and therefore the archaeological integrity of the site has been maintained in the works to create bedrooms within the red brick 19th century farm building complex at Bruisyard Hall.

Alston, L 2022 'Outbuildings at Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard, Suffolk (HBR, HER BUD 016)

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Tim, Andy and everyone on site for their close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring).

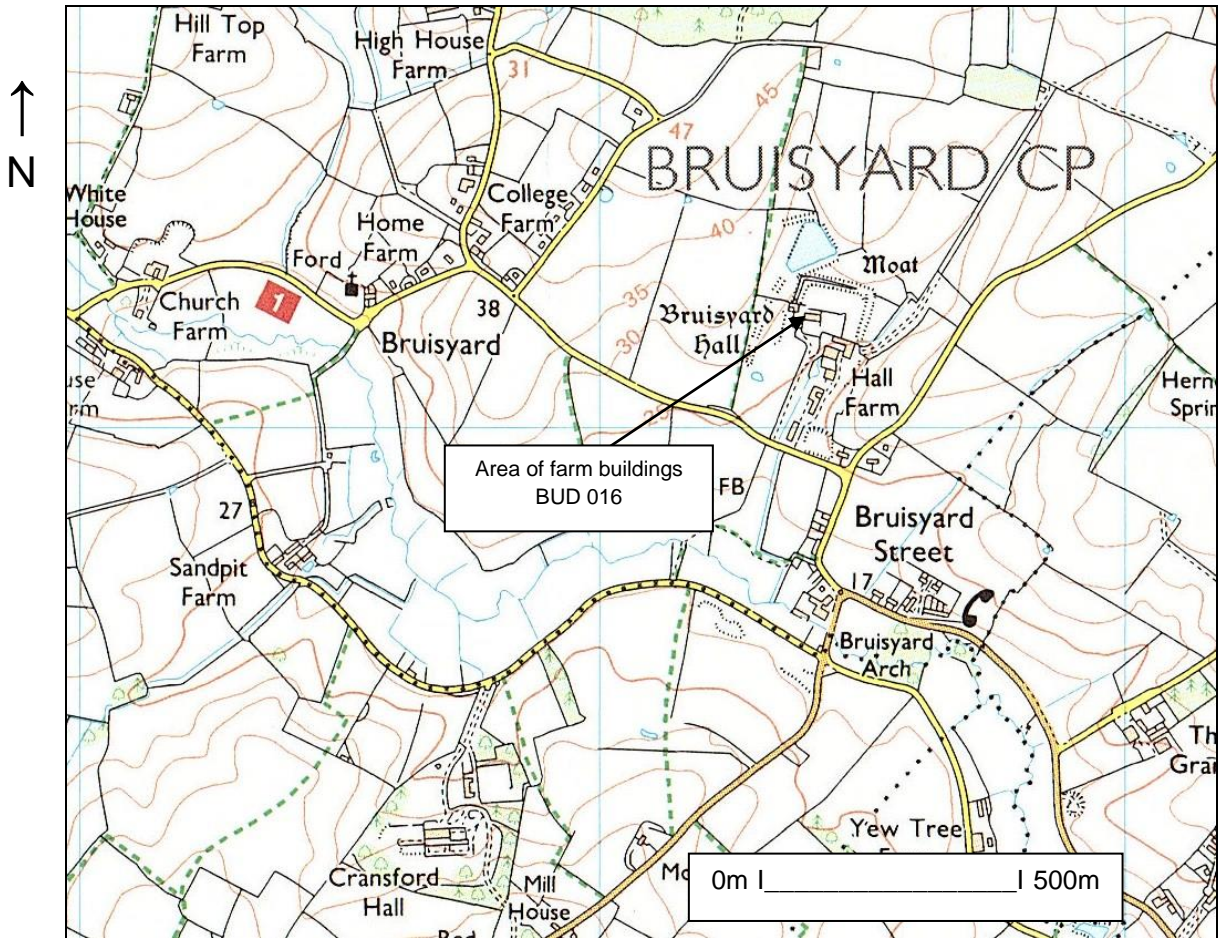


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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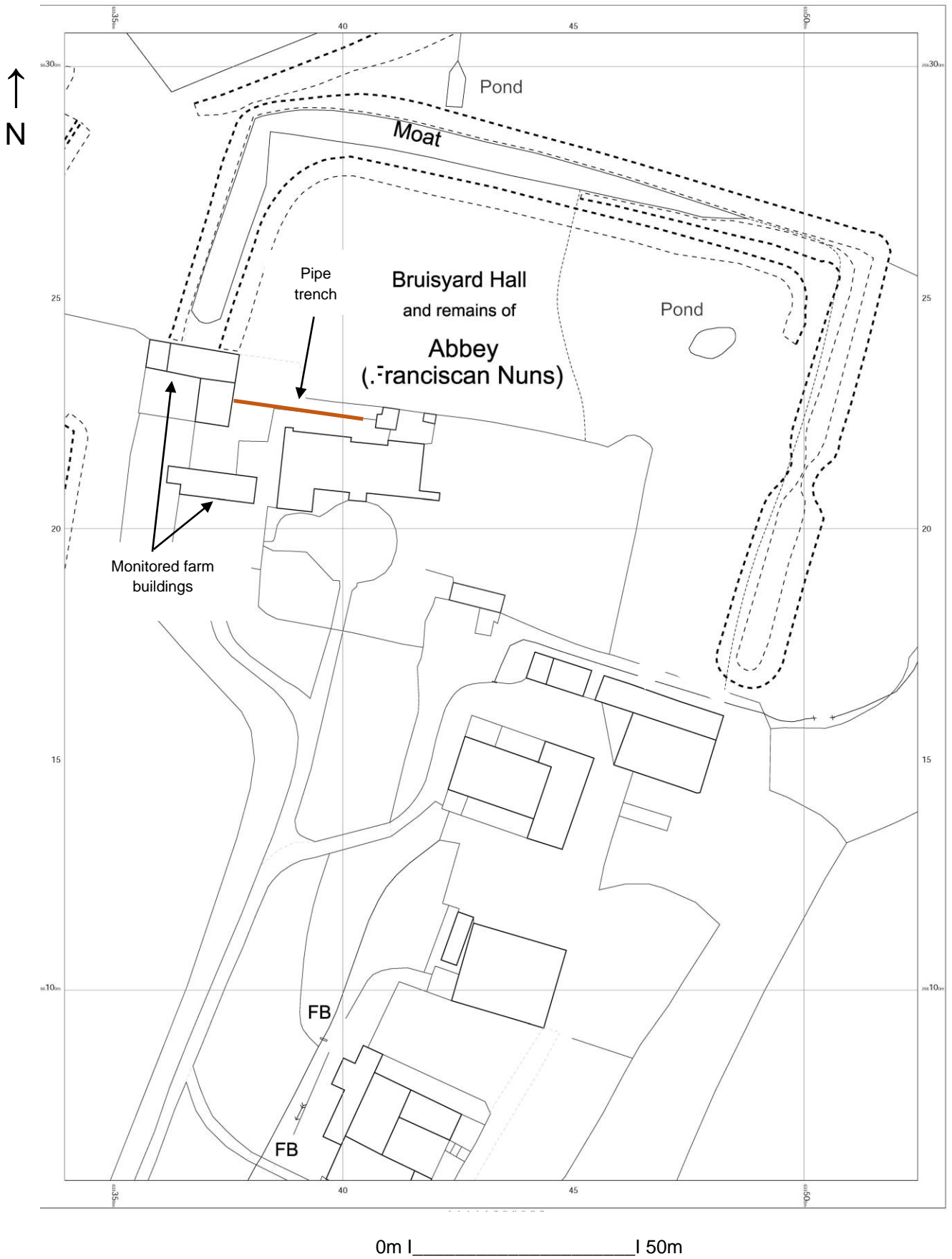


Fig. 2: Location of monitored areas

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Appendix I- Images



General view from east of works area with hall to left



Drainage trench from east



Profile of drainage trench with Post medieval cbm in section



Floor lowering in eastern range of outbuildings



Small pit in eastern range



Post medieval flint wall on east side of eastern range containing Post medieval brick- probably part of garden wall earlier than 19th century outbuildings

**Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard,
Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/21/3626/FUL & DC/21/3627/LBC

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Continuous Archaeological Monitoring**

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

Site details

Name: Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard, Suffolk, IP17 2EJ

Client: Bruisyard Country Estate

Local planning authority: East Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: DC/21/3626/FUL & DC/21/3627/LBC

Proposed development: Conversion of outbuildings to bedrooms and repairs to garden wall

Brief ref: SCCAS 18/21/3626_3627_Brief for continuous archaeological recording at Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard

Proposed date for ground works: tbc (further HER ref. tbc)

HER ref: BUD 001 & BUD 016 (Early Pmed hall and site of medieval nunnery)

SM: 1007681

LBS: 11883054

Grid ref: TM 3337 6621

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Bruisyard Country Estate has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works that will be required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works for the planning decision notice that has been issued for applications DC/21/3626/FUL and DC/21/3627/LBC. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements set in a Brief from Mr M Baker of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the conversion of farm outbuildings to bedroom units at Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard.

1.2 The monitoring will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 & reissued 2014)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 To the north-east of Framlingham Bruisyard is a small and isolated parish but it contains Bruisyard Hall, an impressive early Post medieval country mansion that is over the site of a medieval nunnery. This nunnery was a house of the Franciscan Nuns (Poor Clares) founded in 1366 on the site of a college of chantry priests from 1354 which was of a high status with Maud of Lancaster, Countess of Ulster being a patron. The nunnery was dissolved in 1536 and was sold to Sir Nicholas Hare, as senior official in Henry VIII's service before passing to his son Michael and at during this period the structure was altered to be a high-status country house in the 16th century. Later, in 1611, the property was owned by the Rous family who still own it to this day. It is a property that is a rare example of continued family ownership and it is grade II* listed building and scheduled monument, therefore of national importance. More recently nearby farm buildings have been converted as a wedding venue and the hall has been renovated in addition as a venue and building for similar residential use. The farm buildings that are planned for conversion to bedroom use will complement this complex and have been recorded as historic structures (Alston, 2022) and are identified as curtilage listed but only of mid-19th century date and not of great historic significance in their own right but an asset to the overall property. Conversion work will not entail a large amount of ground works as floor levels will be near enough retained, however some service pipe runs are planned and they will be monitored and floor levels will be examined to be sure almost present levels will be maintained. Essentially this planned bedroom development will have little impact of below ground archaeological levels. Bruisyard Hall is some 800m east of the parish church.

2.2 The British Geological Survey describes the PDS as being on Lowestoft Formation diamicton deposits, therefore a mix of silts, clay and gravel.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 As outlined above Bruisyard Hall is recorded as a site of national importance being both grade II* listed and a scheduled monument on the site of medieval nunnery and containing a 16th century country mansion. Therefore any ground disturbance has the potential to reveal evidence of past activity.

3.2 The archaeological advice then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording as the ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting for the pool area and associated works to the rear of the exiting house.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to the depth of overburden and evidence, character and date of any past activity that is revealed with the primary aim of gaining more information relating to past activity of medieval and early Post medieval date.

5. Methodology

5.1 The conversion works, and related service trenches will be monitored as they are carried out. Notice of ground works starting, with a ten-day notice period, and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to investigate any possible archaeological deposits and scan the upcast spoil with a metal detector. Care will also be taken to avoid machine activity during inclement weather conditions as this might cause excessive disturbance. To inform the reporting on any positive archaeological results from the monitoring a search will be commissioned from the County HER for the area within 500m of this site in consultation with SCCAS.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under a HER numbers supplied by Suffolk CC beforehand. 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 with the monitored areas shown. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high-resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features (using a Lumix DMC-FZ5 camera).

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand

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investigated and recorded within the constraints of the relevant trenched service trench works. Even if no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land use and topography in the area. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litres if possible) will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains. The possibility of modifying the groundwork design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (the potential of this site to contain burials is assessed as being low).

5.4 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological 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 SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

5.5 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *MoRPHE* and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 4 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.6 The monitoring 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 level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter and be related to current knowledge of the site. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). A pdf version draft copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER, a pdf copy will also be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before site works start followed by

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submission of the final draft in .pdf format. A summary prepared of any positive results will be sent for 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 & earmuffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

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

6.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and any ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

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

6.5 Deep holes/trenches will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

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 detector search	James Armes
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman period small finds	N Crummy

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Post Roman small finds:

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Alston, L 2022 'Outbuildings at Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard, Suffolk (HBR, HER BUD 016)



Proposed conversion works

Summary for johnnewm1-508472

OASIS ID (UID)	johnnewm1-508472
Project Name	Watching Brief at Bruisyard Hall Hall Road Bruisyard
Sitename	Bruisyard Hall Hall Road Bruisyard
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	
Planning Id	DC/21/3626/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	John Newman Archaeological Services
Project Dates	15-Nov-2022 - 17-Feb-2023
Location	Bruisyard Hall Hall Road Bruisyard NGR : TM 33370 66210 LL : 52.2445588049313, 1.41703316982005 12 Fig : 633370,266210
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : East Suffolk Parish : Bruisyard
Project Methodology	Monitoring
Project Results	Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard (BUD TM 3337 6621) monitoring of shallow floor lowering groundworks for the conversion of former 19th century farm outbuildings to bedrooms and related drainage works to the rear of the hall only revealed top and subsoil containing fragments of Post medieval brick and tile and a flint wall base with brick fragments on the eastern side of the east range is likely to be part of a garden wall of relatively recent date.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	John, Newman
HER Identifiers	HER Monument No - BUD 016
Archives	