

**Land at 1 & 2 St Annes School House,
Crown Place, Suffolk**

Planning application: C/10/2148

HER Ref: WBG 079

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(May 2011)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land at 1 & 2 St Annes School House, Crown Place, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1BU

Client: Michael Howard Homes

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/10/2148

Development: Erection of detached dwelling & garage

Date of fieldwork: 23-28 March, 2011

HER Ref: WBG 079

Grid ref: TM 2736 4893

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-100272

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Summary: Woodbridge, land at 1&2 St Annes School House, Crown Place (WBG 079, TM 2736 4893) monitoring of ground works for a new house on a plot some 70m south of the western end of The Thoroughfare revealed a single pit of 16th century date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Michael Howard Homes).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Michael Howard Homes 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 C/10/2148. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Mr K Wade of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). This development concerns the erection of a detached house with an integral garage on land at 1&2 St Annes School House, Crown Place, Woodbridge.

1.2 Woodbridge is a small town close to the coast in south east Suffolk located close to the lowest crossing point of the River Deben. Granted a market in 1227 and with an uncertain, though undoubtedly significant, status as a centre from at least the Late Saxon period, Woodbridge still fulfils various local administrative and economic roles. The town is located in an area of predominantly light, glacially derived, sands and gravels generally giving rise to well drained soils. The proposed development area (PDA) is within the garden of 1&2 St Annes School House, Crown Place (see Fig. 1) at c9m OD. Historically Woodbridge has had two main foci, the parish church and market place, which are c300m to the north of the PDA and the River Deben some 250m to the south. The PDA is some 70m south of the Thoroughfare which formed one of the main foci for development in the town through the late to Post medieval periods. More detailed information relating to how and when Woodbridge grew is uncertain as opportunities for archaeological investigations have been rare within the historic fabric of the town.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to inspect the foundation trenches and upcast spoil with all of the ground works being undertaken using a small mini-digger equipped with a toothed, bucket. Spoil from the ground works was stock piled on site prior to removal allowing for detailed inspection on each visit and the collection of unstratified finds (0001). The foundation trenches were 700mm wide and 64m long for the full footprint (see Fig. 2) and the total length of these trenches was inspected in the two visits as the work progressed. During the visits it was possible to enter nearly the complete length of the trenches and trowel clean any indistinct areas on the sides or base. The only exception was in the area of the single feature (see Fig. 3- 0002) that was revealed as the trench sides along this length of foundation proved to be unstable due to the potentially loose nature of the feature fill. Finds from this feature were therefore collected from the upcast spoil as it was spread on the ground adjacent to the trench and the section was recorded from above. The extent of the foundation trenches were then recorded in relation to the plot boundaries and the single feature was recorded within the respective trench, finally a number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 The 64m of trenched foundation were taken to a depth of 1200/1400mm revealing, from the top, a uniform depth of 450mm of dark brown sandy topsoil across the building footprint. Below this was a 350/450mm deep layer of a mid brown sandy subsoil which in turn lay over the local, glaciofluvial, deposits which comprised a firm, orange sand and gravel. A single feature (0002, see Fig. 3) was revealed in a

cross foundation trench just to the west of the centre of the house footprint. This feature (0002) was 2500mm wide and 1600mm deep from the modern ground level and appeared to be cut from a point within the subsoil layer above. However, as noted in section 2, the foundation trench at this point could not be entered as the sides appeared to be potentially unstable. The fill (0003) within what can most probably be interpreted as a pit comprised a mid brown silty sand with occasional small flints and oyster shells.

4 The Finds

4.1 The finds collected from the upcast spoil (0001) at the site proved to be common types of 19/20th century date and probably result from rubbish disposal in relatively recent times. However the single feature (0002) that was revealed proved to be more interesting as its fill (0003) contained sherds of 15th and 16th century date including some imported Raeren stoneware. The full finds report by Sue Anderson is attached as Appendix III.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The low density of archaeological features at this site is perhaps unsurprising as it set well back from the nearest definite historic street frontage which is The Thoroughfare some 70m to the north. The development area probably, therefore, formed part of the garden and orchard area behind properties on the southern side of this street and the identification of a pit of 16th century date but which also contained pottery of Late Medieval Transitional type is interesting as it is likely that the town of Woodbridge expanded from its earlier Saxon/medieval core along The Thoroughfare in the later medieval/early Post medieval period. That the number of sherds recovered from the feature (0002) was low coupled with the lack of any other cultural material save a few oyster shells perhaps points to an origin for the pit as a small quarry rather than being deliberately excavated for rubbish disposal.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the ground works for the proposed house and garage have enabled valuable archaeological information to be recorded for this part of Woodbridge with the recovery of a small group of 15th/16th century pottery sherds.

(The report archive is to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER Ref. WBG 079).

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Michael Howard Homes and their contractors for the close cooperation and to Sue Anderson of CFA Archaeology for her specialist finds work).

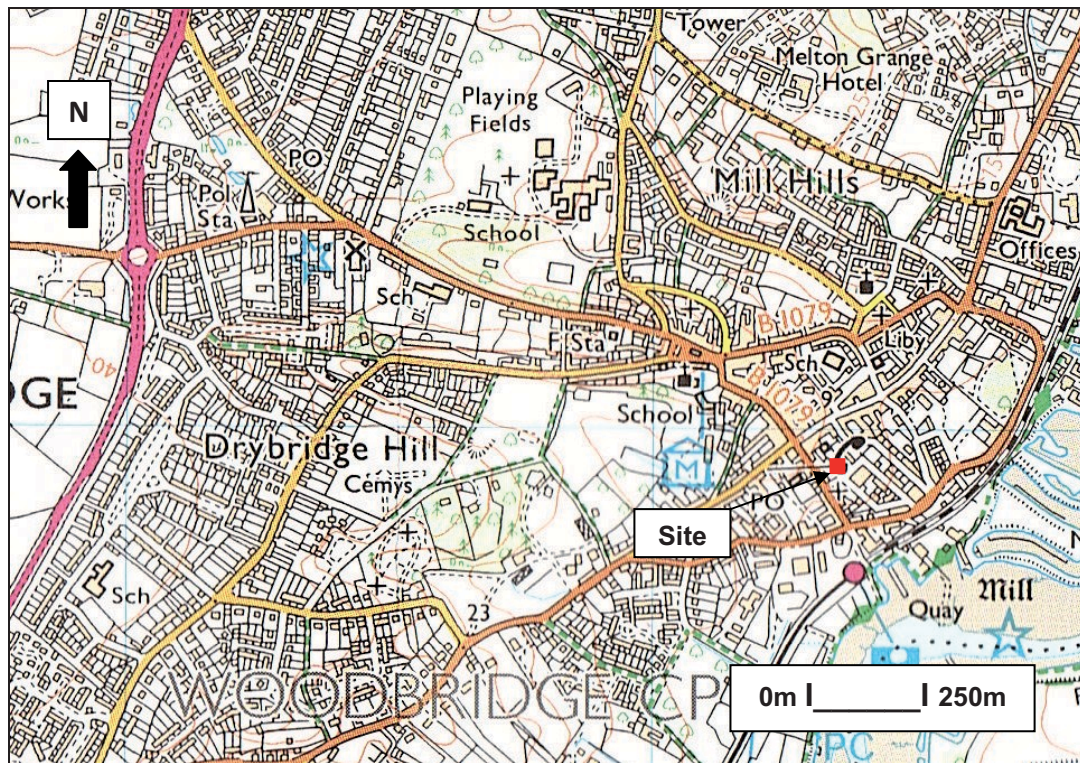


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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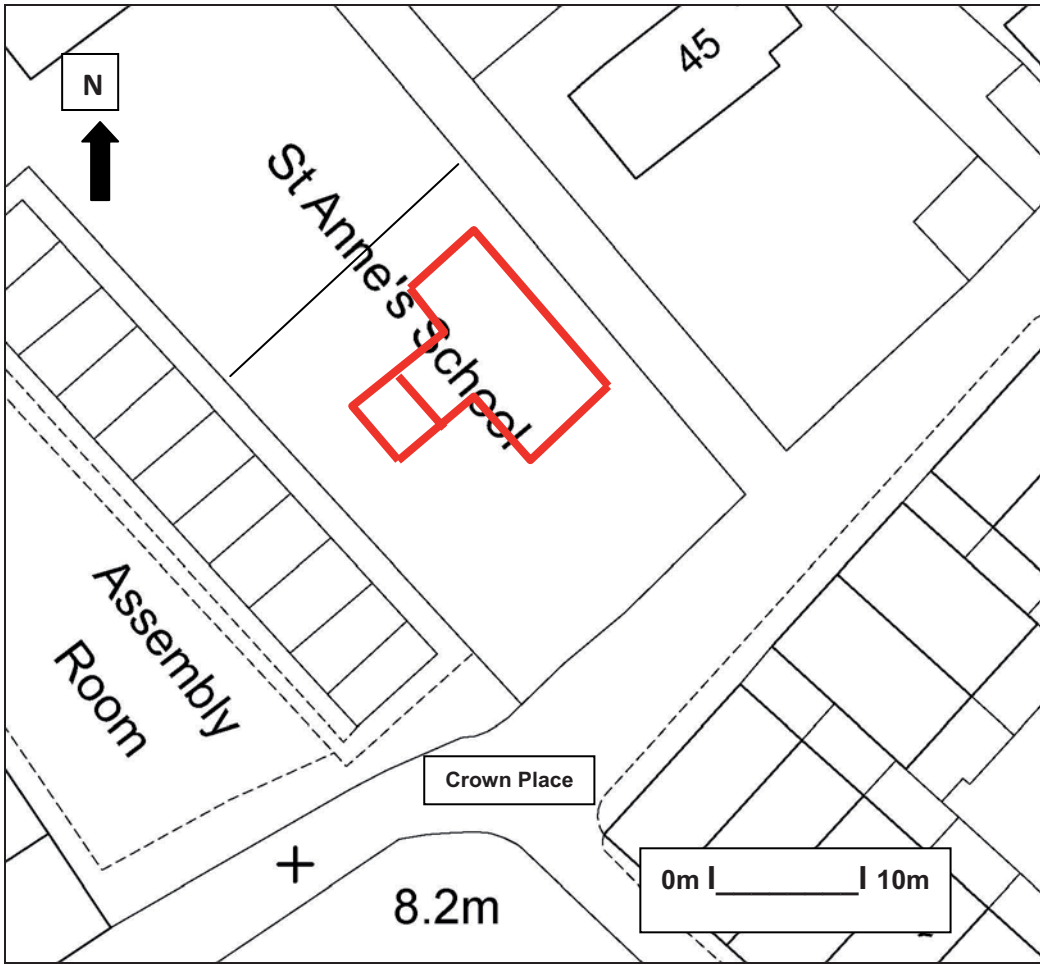


Fig. 2: Monitored house foundations (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011
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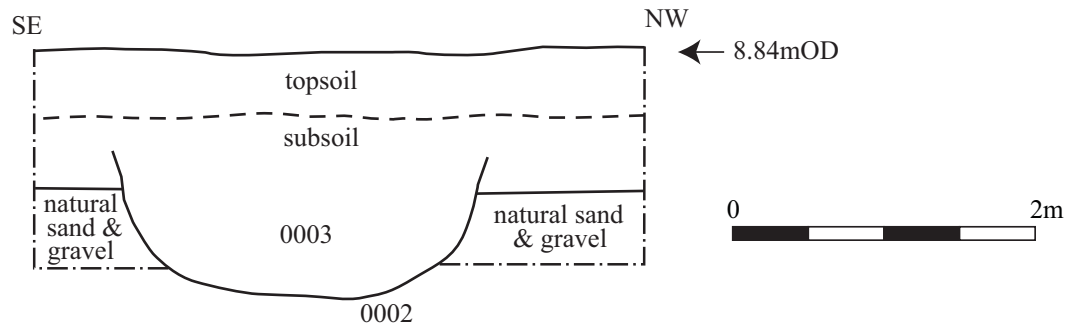
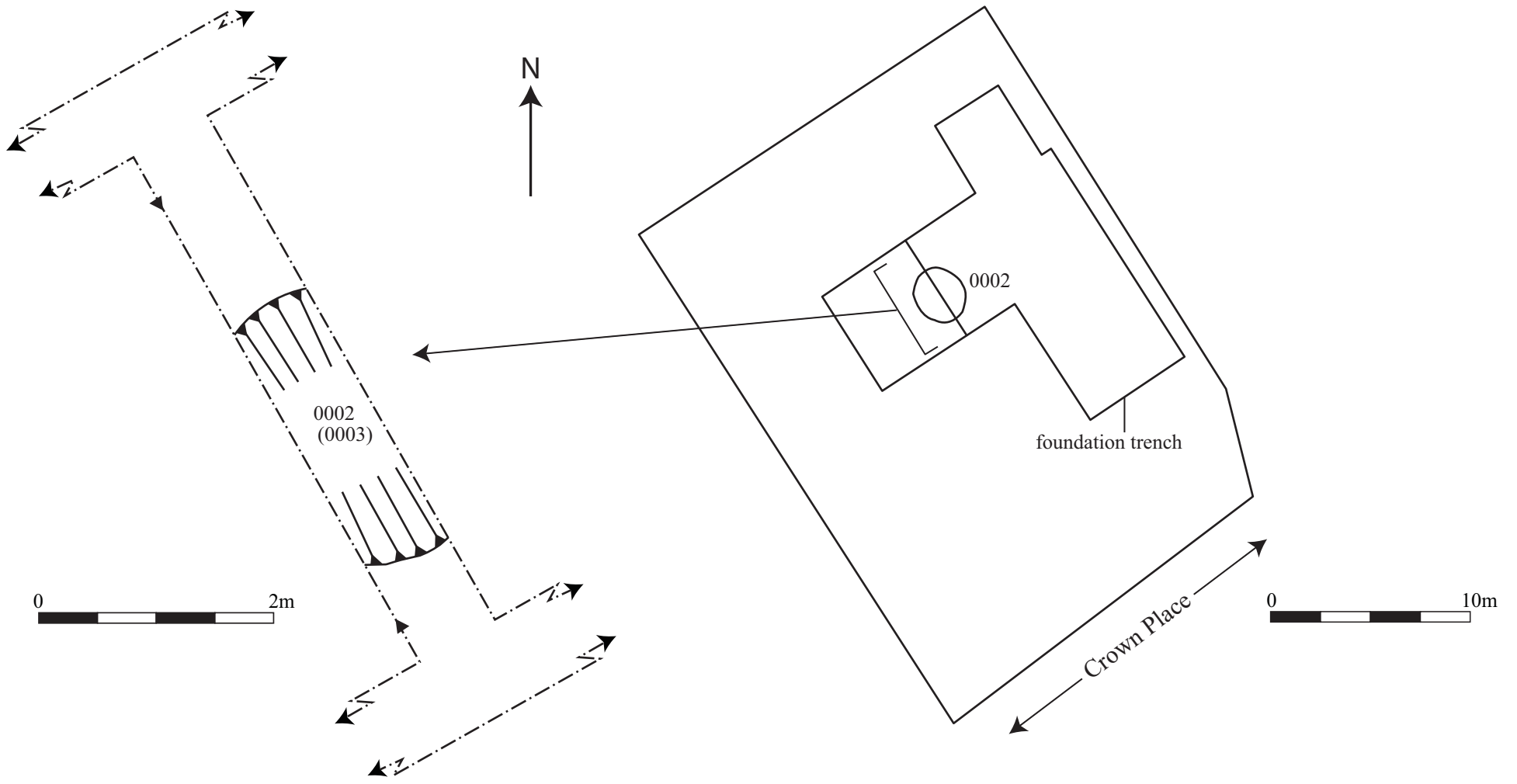


Fig. 3: Monitored house footprint and plan and section
 (map extract after Ordnance Survey©Crown copyright 2010
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Appendix I- Images



Site from north east



Typical trench section- eastern side of footprint



Feature 0002 from above showing western section of relevant trench

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

Land at 1&2 St Anne's School House, Crown Place, Woodbridge

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a single dwelling on land at 1 & 2 St Anne's School House, Crown Place, Woodbridge has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/10/2148). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of Woodbridge medieval town, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve extensive ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the medieval and later occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the up-cast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 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 paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be fully excavated and planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. Reporting Requirements

- 5.1 **Reporting should be commensurate with results.**
If significant archaeological features or finds are found:
- 5.2 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 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. This should include a plan showing the proposed development with all areas observed during the monitoring clearly marked.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.4 A report, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must also 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. 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).

- 5.5 A summary report should be provided, in the established format for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology* (which can be included in the project report)
- 5.6 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan showing all the areas observed should be included with the report. This must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration into the County HER. 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.

When no significant features or finds are found

- 5.9 A short report should be provided including the following information:
- Grid Ref
 - Parish
 - Address
 - Planning Application number
 - Date(s) of visit(s)
 - Methodology
 - Plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development (a digital vector plan as in 5.8 above when possible)
 - Depth of ground disturbance in each area
 - Depth of topsoil and its profile over natural at each location of observation
 - Observations as to land use history (truncation etc)
 - Recorder and Organisation
 - Date of report

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
 Archaeological Service Conservation Team
 Economy, Skills and Environment Department
 9-10 The Churchyard
 Shire Hall
 Bury St Edmunds
 Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 19th October 2010

Reference: St Anne's School House

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 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.

Appendix III- The pottery

Crown Place, Woodbridge (WBG079): ceramics

Sue Anderson, April 2011.

Ten sherds of pottery weighing 202g was collected from two contexts, and there was one sherd of roof tile (57g).

Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series. Local wares and common imports were identified from Jennings (1981). Form terminology follows MPRG (1998).

Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes.

Table 1 shows the quantification by context.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	REFW	4	42	small plate, blue floral transfer print	19/20th c
	REFW	1	56	oval serving dish, willow pattern	19/20th c
0003	LMT	3	63	body sherds, ?pipkin or handled jar	15/16th c.
	GSW3	1	26	body sherd, brown glazed ext	L.15th/16th c.
	LEPM	1	15	green-glazed mug handle with incised herringbone pattern	16th c.
<i>Total pottery</i>		<i>10</i>	<i>202</i>		
0003	ms	1	57	roof tile fragment, reduced core	med/lmed

Table 1. Ceramics catalogue.

Key: LMT – late medieval and transitional; LEPM – local early post-medieval; GSW3 – Raeren stoneware; REFW – refined factory-made whitewares; ms – medium sandy.

Sherds of two refined whiteware vessels were found in spoil. These were both blue transfer-printed and comprised a small plate with slight scalloping of the rim and a floral design, and part of a serving dish in willow pattern. Both were probably of 19th or 20th-century date.

Pit fill 0003 contained body sherds of Raeren stoneware and an LMT pipkin, as well as a green-glazed mug handle with incised decoration. These suggest a 16th-century date for the fill.

A fragment of plain roof tile was also recovered from pit fill 0003. It was a hard, thin, uneven fragment with a reduced core and is likely to be medieval or late medieval in date.

References

Jennings, S., 1981, *Eighteen Centuries of pottery from Norwich*. E. Anglian Archaeol. 13, Norwich Survey/NMS.

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