

**Land East of 5 Prospect View, The Common,
Lavenham, Suffolk**

Planning application: B/11/00146

HER Ref: LVM 060

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(June 2011)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land east of 5 Prospect View, The Common, Lavenham, Suffolk, CO10 9RJ

Client: Mr G Deacon

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/11/00146

Development: Erection of detached outbuilding

Date of fieldwork: 23 April, 2011

HER Ref: LVM 060

Grid ref: TL 9198 4916

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-103962

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Summary: Lavenham, land east of 5 Prospect View, The Common (LVM 060, TL 9198 4916) monitoring of ground works for a detached outbuilding on the northern edge of The Common recorded two large pits which can be dated to the late medieval and late medieval/early Post medieval periods respectively on the evidence of the pottery sherds that were recovered (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs G Deacon).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr G Deacon 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 B/11/00146. 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 outbuilding 12m to the north-east of 5 Prospect View, The Common, Lavenham (see Figs. 1 & 2).

1.2 Lavenham is a well known historic town in south Suffolk that was granted a market and grew to prominence and great prosperity in the medieval period as reflected by its major church and numerous listed buildings. The town lies within the till plateau of central Suffolk with 5 Prospect View, which is at the eastern end of a small terrace of houses of later 19th century date on the northern edge of The Common, being some 700m east of the parish church and at the south-eastern extremity of the built-up area. Archaeological interest in this small development being generated by its location towards the south-eastern edge of the area defined as the medieval town of Lavenham within the County Historic Environment Record.

1.3 More specifically The Common immediately to the south of Prospect View is likely to be an area formerly used for communal grazing and therefore a significant feature in the medieval life of Lavenham. While the construction of buildings on such areas of communal grazing was not allowed in the medieval period settlement was attracted to their edges making Prospect View on the northern boundary an area of archaeological potential where evidence for past activity might be found and it is noteworthy that Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 shows structures along this edge of The Common.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was 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 nearby prior to use for landscaping part of the garden allowing for its inspection and the collection of unstratified finds (0001). The foundation trenches were 500mm wide and 26m long for the full footprint (see Fig. 3) and the total length of these trenches was inspected during the site visit as the ground works reached their final stage. During the visit it was possible to enter the complete length of the trenches and trowel clean any indistinct areas on the sides or base. The extent of the foundation trenches were then recorded in relation to nearby mapped boundaries and the archaeological features that had been identified were recorded in plan and section within the foundation trenches, finally a number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 The 26m of trenched foundation were taken to a depth of 1000mm revealing between 200mm and 300mm of topsoil across the building footprint and where exposed the naturally occurring drift geology at the site proved to be an orange silty sand and gravel. Examination of the foundation trenches revealed three features

which were a small, red brick, foundation and two large pits (see Fig.3) as detailed in the table below:

Context	Type	Part of	Finds	Description	Spot date
0001	U/S finds	0001	X	Unstratified finds from spoil	
0002	Foundation	0002		Red brick foundation in SW corner of footprint, bricks 9inx4inx2.75in	19 th C
0003	Pit	0003		Large pit in SE quarter of footprint, not bottomed at 1000mm	
0004	Fill	0003	X	Mid brown sandy loam with occasional oyster shells & cbm fragments	15 th -16 th C
0005	Pit	0005		Large pit in NE quarter of footprint, not bottomed at 1000mm	
0006	Fill	0005	X	Mid brown sandy loam with occasional oyster shells & cbm fragments	14 th -15 th C

3.2 The red brick foundation (0002) located in the south western corner of the footprint was constructed of red bricks which were very similar in fabric and size to bricks used for the nearby house and it can be interpreted as the base for small outbuilding of later 19th or early 20th century date.

3.3 The two pits (0003 & 0005) that were identified were noted in various foundation trench sides and each feature was at least 4m-5m across and in excess of 1000mm deep (see Fig. 3) as the base of the trench in the south-eastern and north-eastern quarters of the footprint remained within the respective pit fills (0004 & 0006). Finds were collected from the trench sides and base within the areas of the two pits.

4 The Finds

4.1 The finds collected from the upcast spoil (0001) at the site consisted of two stray sherds of pottery, one of earlier Post medieval date and the other of 18/19th century date, and a clay pipe stem of 17/18th century date. However the pottery sherds collected from the two pits were of more interest as the three sherds from the one (0003/0004) in the south-eastern quarter of the footprint have a date range of 13th-16th century and the four sherds from the other (0005/0006) in the north-eastern quarter a date range for the 13th-15th century period. Most of the pottery sherds are of relatively local origin though one is from an imported Raeren stoneware vessel from the Continent and of late 15th-16th century date (from 0003/0004). The full finds report by Sue Anderson is attached as Appendix III.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While the footprint for the proposed outbuilding is relatively small monitoring of the ground works has allowed information of archaeological value to be recorded relating to the medieval town of Lavenham. The existence of an area called The Common on the south-eastern edge of this historic town suggested the creation of an area of communal land use, for purposes such as the grazing of livestock, in the medieval period. As noted above in section 1.3 while buildings could not be

constructed on such areas of communal land use medieval settlement was often attracted to the edges of commons or greens in East Anglia and this monitoring has recorded features and related pottery finds confirming settlement related activity on the northern edge of The Common from at least the 13th/14th century period.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the ground works for the proposed outbuilding have enabled valuable archaeological information to be recorded for this part of Lavenham with the recovery of two small groups of later medieval/early Post medieval century pottery sherds.

(The report archive is to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER Ref. LVM 060).

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Mr & Mrs G Deacon for their close cooperation, to Sue Anderson of CFA Archaeology for her specialist finds work and to Sue Holden for producing Fig. 3).

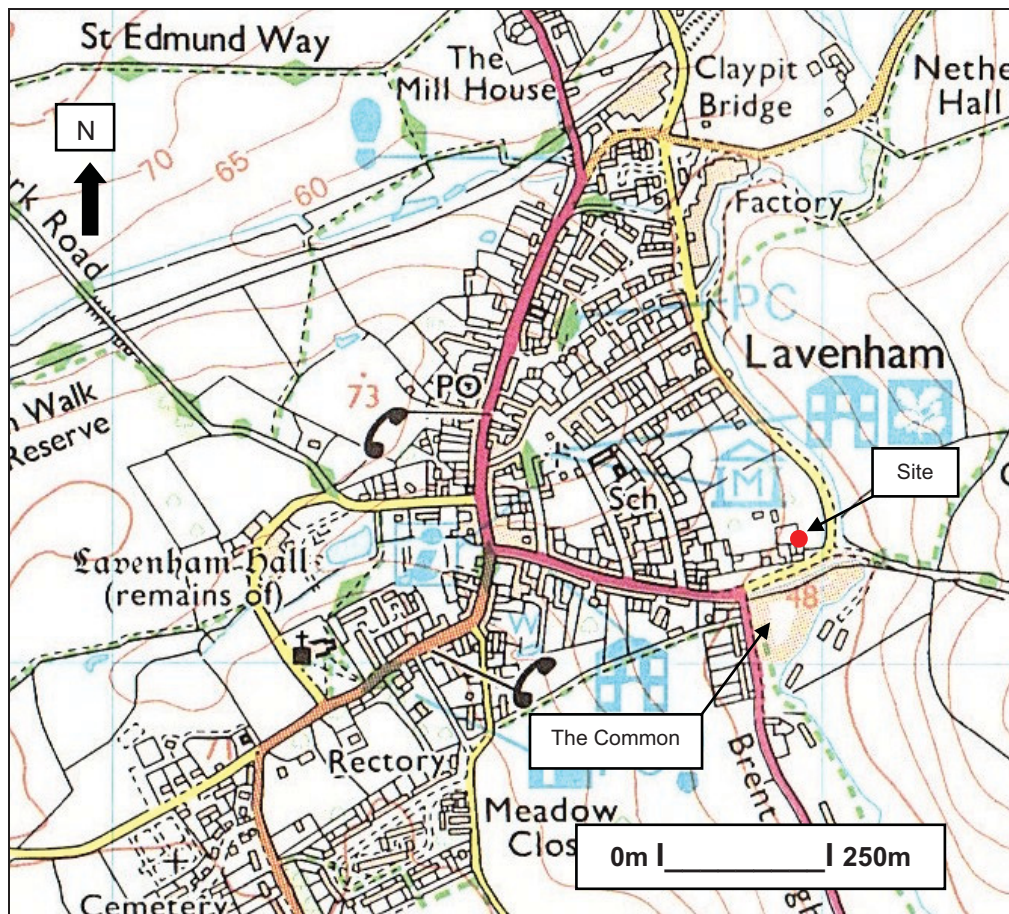


Fig.1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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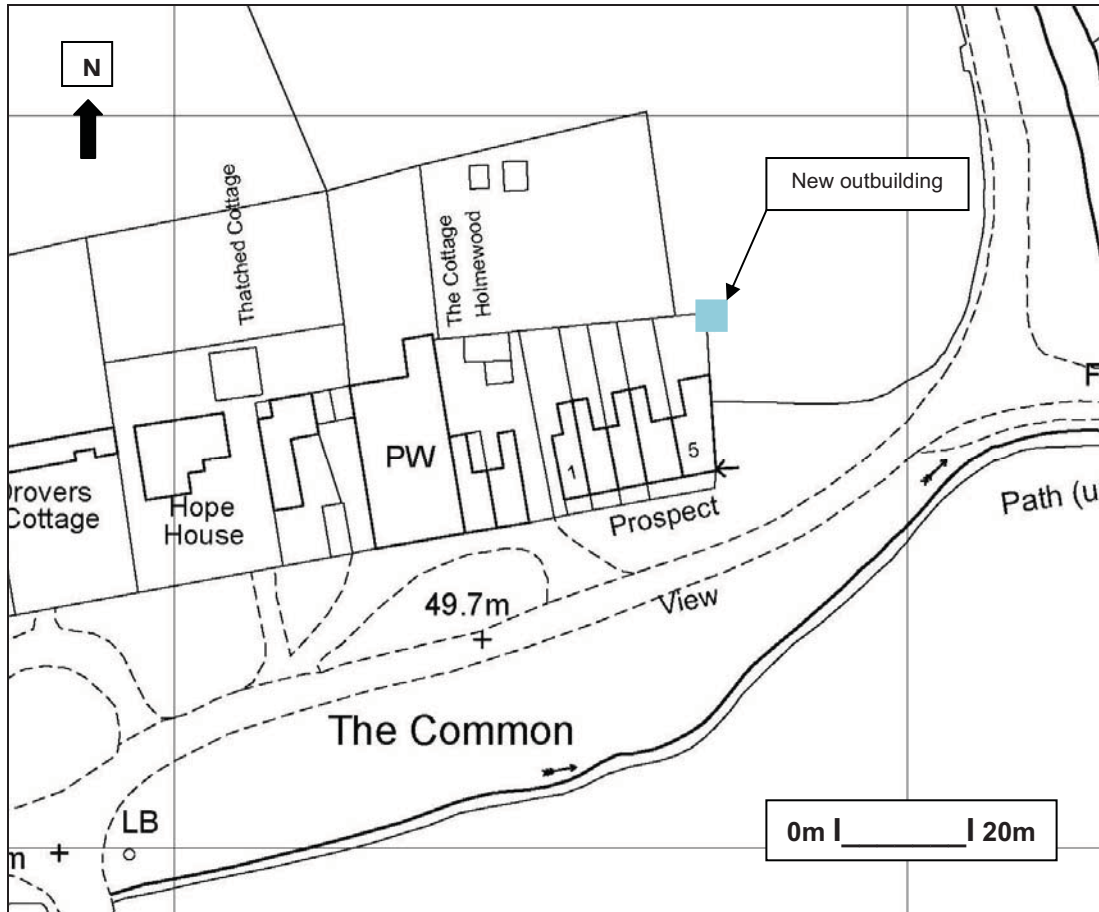


Fig. 2: Location of new outbuilding

(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

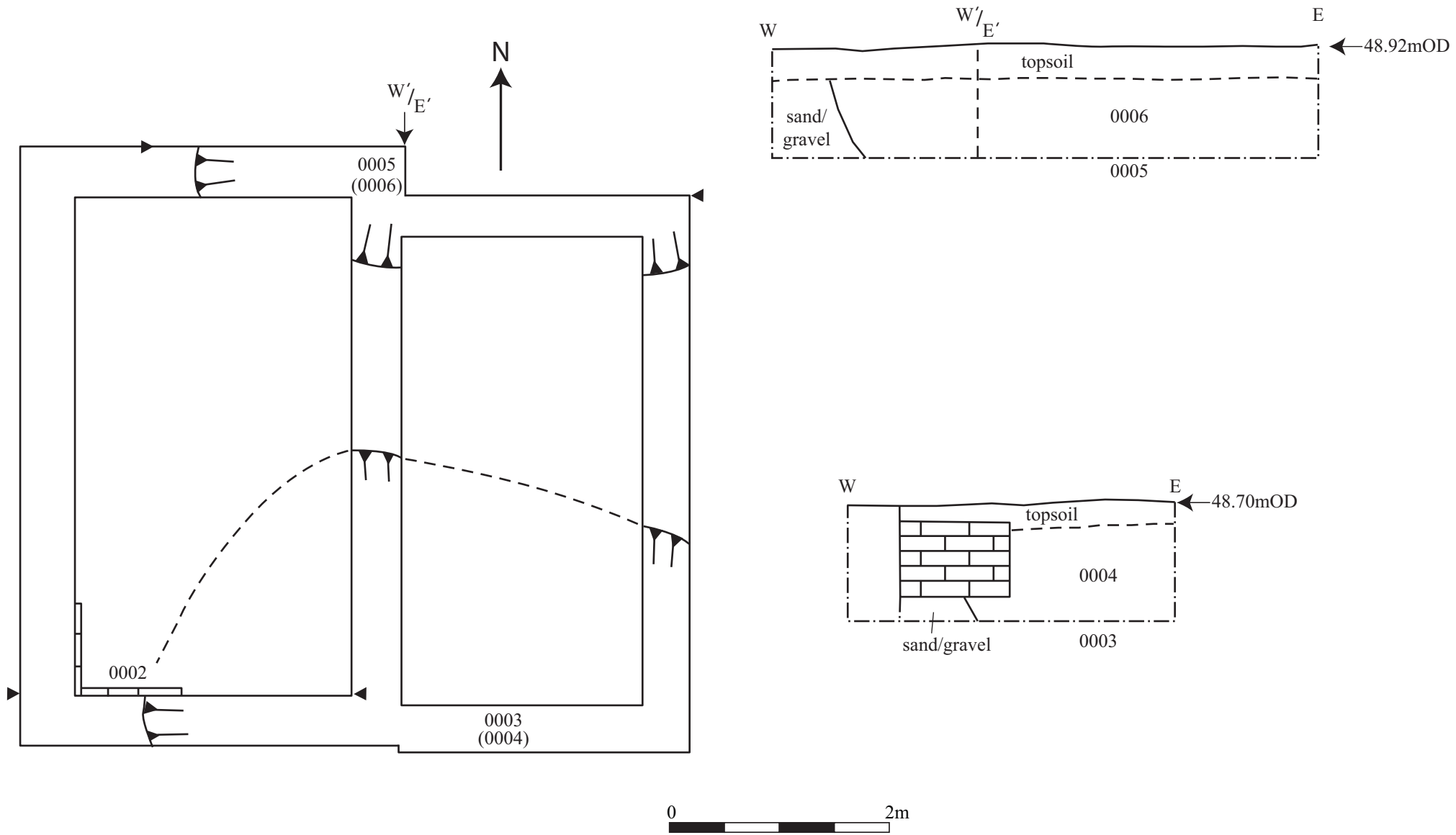


Fig. 3. Plan and sections.

Appendix I- Images



General view from north-east



Brick foundation 0002 in background pit 0003 in foreground



Pit 0005 from south-east

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

Land East of 5 Prospect View, The Common, Lavenham

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect an outbuilding on land east of Prospect View, The Common, Lavenham, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/11/0146/FUL). 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 archaeological importance defined for the medieval town of Lavenham in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve 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 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 archaeological detail is observed, one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean and sections drawn at a minimum scale of 1:50.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be half sectioned and then fully excavated when possible and recorded in section and plan at a minimum scale of 1:50. Trench locations should be recorded 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: 14th April 2011

Reference: Adj Prospect View

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 Finds

5 Prospect View, The Common, Lavenham (LVM 060): ceramics

Sue Anderson, May 2011.

Nine sherds of pottery weighing 2223g were collected from three contexts, along with one fragment of clay pipe (5g) and two sherds of roof tile (89g).

Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series. 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	GSW3	1	33	handle	L.15th-16th c.
	LSRW	1	55	rim of subrectangular bowl?	L.18th/19th c.
0004	ESOW	1	35	base, spots glaze ext	13th-15th c.
	LMT	1	33	glaze int, burnt	15th-16th c.
	GSW3	1	21	handle	L.15th-16th c.
0006	MCW	2	6	jar rim & body, both oxid & slightly micaceous	13th-14th c.
	ESOW	2	40	base with internal glaze, body with spots of glaze	13th-15th c.
<i>Total pottery</i>		9	223		
0001	clay pipe	1	5	stem, wide bore	17th/18th c
0004	msm	2	89	plain roof tile	lmed/pmed

Table 1. Ceramics catalogue.

Key: MCW – medieval coarsewares; ESOW – Essex-type sandy orange ware; LMT – late medieval and transitional; GSW3 – Raeren stoneware; LSRW – late post-med slipped redware; msm – medium sandy micaceous.

The majority of pottery in this group was of medieval or late medieval date. Local wares were in medium sandy fabrics with occasional mica and coarse quartz inclusions and all were oxidised (MCW, ESOW). One jar rim, a thickened everted type typical of 13th/14th-century jars, was found in pit fill 0006. The other fragments were body and base sherds and were not identifiable to form type. One base fragment of an LMT vessel was found in pit fill 0004 and other late medieval wares comprised two mug handles in Raeren stoneware from spoil 0001 and pit fill 0004. A sherd of a late slipped redware bowl was found in 0001.

Two fragments of plain roof tile were recovered from pit fill 0004. Both were in medium sandy micaceous fabrics and were fully oxidised. They are likely to be late medieval or post-medieval in date.

A piece of clay pipe stem came from spoil 0001. It had a wide bore, suggesting a relatively early date (17th/18th-century?).

References

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