

# **Land Adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield, Suffolk**

**Planning application: 3881/08**

**HER Ref: BED 025**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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

(December 2011)

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**Site details for HER**

Name: Land adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield, Suffolk IP13 7JF

Client: Springfield Residential

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 3881/08

Development: Erection of 8 dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 22 November, 2011

HER Ref: BED 025

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-114665

Grid ref: TM 2180 6668

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*Summary: Bedfield, land adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green (BED 025, TM 2180 6668) evaluation trenching of an area of rough pasture on the western side of what had been a moated site until c1850 prior to a proposed residential development revealed two, small, undated pits and a small group of unstratified medieval pottery sherds from a trench in the area fronting onto the road to Monk Soham. The remaining trenches revealed no archaeological features and only one sherd of medieval pottery (John Newman Archaeological Services for Springfield Residential).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Hollins Architects on behalf of their clients, Springfield Residential, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works on a plot of land on the western side of The Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield (see Fig. 1) that is to be developed as required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 3881/08. The evaluation requirements, including the preparation and approval of a Written Scheme of Investigation by the appointed contractor (see Appendix II) were set out in a Brief set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition. This development concerns the erection of 8 dwellings on a plot of land that has been rough pasture for many years.

1.2 The village of Bedfield is some 4 miles north-west of Framlingham in central Suffolk on part of the Till plateau of central Suffolk in an area characterised by a gently rolling landscape on heavy clay with flint soils of the Hanslope series. The proposed development site (PDS) is located at c60m OD some 1000m north-west of the parish church but adjacent to The Old Rectory and c70m west of what is shown on the 1842 tithe map (see Fig. 2) as the western edge of Long Green and fronting onto the road to Monks Soham. The tithe map also depicts a moated site (HER BED 007) immediately to the east of the PDS (see Fig. 2- plot 107) which fronts onto the green and this is likely to be the earlier parish rectory which is described as being in poor repair by c1830 (Goult, 1990) and replaced by a new rectory by 1854. This rebuilding clearly remodelled the site as the first edition large scale OS map of 1880 shows a new building, the property now known as The Olde Rectory (see Fig. 3), and the moat infilled. The PDS at these dates is in agricultural use and remains undeveloped to date but it is noteworthy that at the time of the tithe map the PDS falls within the same overall plot, number 107, as the moated site and therefore both would have been under the same ownership which at 1842 was the parish church.

1.3 Archaeological interest in the PDS was therefore generated by its close proximity to a moated site of medieval date in particular in addition to it being relatively close to a green edge and fronting onto a road which is likely to have been in use since at least the medieval period.

## 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The proposed development area to the west of The Old Rectory was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 3) laid out on a grid basis to sample all parts of the site and the proposed house and garage footprints using a wheeled 180 machine equipped with a 1.60m toothless bucket on its back arm which was under archaeological supervision at all times. The trenches were 1.8m wide and the agreed trenching plan comprised 3 which were 10m long, one at 17m long and one at 22m long to achieve the 5% sample as specified with 69m in total or, by area, 124.2m<sup>2</sup> of the 0.25ha site.

2.2 The exposed, naturally occurring, stiff pale grey clay glaciofluvial deposit exposed in the base of the trenches, which contained numerous small chalk fragments and occasional pockets of yellow silty sand, was closely examined for archaeological features and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned. The upcast

spoil and the base of the trenches was examined visually and by an experienced metal detector user for any finds. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken on a dull, foggy day with gave even light and good overall visibility. The two features that were identified were hand excavated, sampled and the respective sections drawn against the relevant trench sides. The trenches were plotted in relation to locally mapped features and a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) and monochrome film was taken of the trenching works and the site in general.

2.3 As the development site lies immediately to the west of a moated site that was remodelled in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century as outlined in section 1.2 above the common boundary between the two was examined and a number of digital images were taken (see Appendix I) though this area was heavily overgrown with a hedge and other vegetation between the two plots of land.

## 3. Results

3.1 The overall evaluation results giving individual trench details are summarised in Table 1 below (see also Fig. 3):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological /natural features/finds
1	NE-SW	22	300	200/300	Stiff pale clay with flints, chalk frags & occasional pockets of orange silty sand	Two small pits, few US med sherds
2	NW-SE	10	200	100	(as T1)	–
3	NE-SW	10	200	100	(as T1)	–
4	NE-SW	17	200	200	(as T1)	One US med sherd
5	NW-SE	10	200	100	(as T1)	–
Total/ summary		69		Subsoil- mid brown clay with chalk frags		Two archaeological features, main conc. of US med sherds in T1 near road

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As outlined in Table 1 above four of the five trenches did not reveal any significant evidence for past activity with no archaeological features and no finds of any antiquity save a single, unstratified, medieval pottery sherd (0006) from trench 4. The overall lack of stray finds of any date at the site suggesting that it has been not been used for arable cultivation to any great extent in the past. However trench 1 at the front of the site and closest to the road to the Monk Soham road did contain two features (see Fig. 3 for highlighted section of trench 1 & Fig. 4 for feature detail). The two features (0002 & 0004- see Appendix V) identified were both small, shallow pits between 600mm and 750mm across and between 120mm and 150mm deep and were located 5m from the eastern end of trench 1 on opposing sides of the trench.

While the southern feature (0002) had a mid brown clay fill (0003) with occasional small chalk fragments the northern feature (0004) had a similar mid brown clay fill (0005) which also contained a moderate number of small carbonised fragments. Neither of the two features contained any finds and both were bulk sampled for palaeoenvironmental evidence. However a small number of medieval pottery sherds (0001) were recovered from the upcast spoil from trench 1.

3.3 The metal detector search of the upcast spoil and trenches did not recover any finds of any great age with the majority of the few finds being undateable small iron nails. The only non-ferrous finds were all copper alloy and consisted of a small fragment of a Post medieval rumbler or crotal bell, a small belt plate again of Post medieval date and a 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century spoon fragment.

3.4 While not directly part of the relevant Brief or WSI the eastern boundary of the site was inspected as it runs along the line of the western arm of the moat depicted on the tithe map for Bedfield for the site of The Old Rectory (see Fig. 2). Along the line of this boundary immediately adjacent to The Old Rectory there is a marked depression in the ground which while heavily overgrown is c5m wide and c800mm deep (see Fig. 3 & Appendix I- Images). This depression does not extend to the north or south and in all likelihood is the single, remaining remnant of the medieval moat. However it appears to have been heavily landscaped and backfilled and will remain as the boundary between what will become a new residential development and the existing house to the east though as planned to be part of an amenity area appears to be under minimal threat of further disturbance.

## 4. The Finds

4.1 The full pottery report by Sue Anderson is included below as Appendix III. In summary all of the 10 unstratified sherds (106g) recovered from the site were of typical medieval wares common to north-eastern Suffolk with the majority being of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date. While all of the sherds were unstratified finds from the upcast spoil it is noteworthy that 9 (95g) came from trench 1 which produced the only identified features and are unabraded suggesting medieval activity nearby.

## 5. The Environmental Evidence

5.1 The full assessment of the charred macrofossil and other remains from the two sampled features (0002 & 0004) by Val Fryer is included below as Appendix IV. In summary the sampled features fills (0003 & 0005) contained charred plant macrofossil at a low to moderate density and other scarce remains including small pieces of coal, fragments of bone, fish bones, eggshell and pieces of burnt clay. Cereal remains included evidence for oats, barley and wheat plus other food remains such as pulse fragments and possible hazel nutshell and sloe. Overall while the assemblages were small and sparse it is suggested that they are similar enough to be roughly contemporary and could well represent 'small, low density scatters or deposits of hearth waste, including some dietary waste.'

## 6. Conclusion

6.1 From the results of this evaluation trenching it appears likely, as might be anticipated, that the PDS has been used for peripheral activities most probably

related to the moated site adjacent including the disposal of domestic waste at a low intensity.

6.2 While the site as a whole did not reveal much evidence for past activity of any intensity the small area in trench 1 where two small, undated, pits were recorded plus the small number of medieval pottery sherds from the upcast spoil of this trench suggests a low level of activity close to the adjacent road. The environmental evidence from the sampled feature fills of the two pits supporting this conclusion with indications for the deposit of hearth waste at a low density and being most probably of medieval or slightly later date. The area where the two small pits were recorded will be directly affected by the proposed development as it is located at the point where a new access road will enter the site with mains drainage being placed under this access. Therefore it would appear to be prudent to examine the area around the two features (0002 & 0004) via a small scale excavation before any other works commence in this part of the site and thereby gain a better understanding of this area close to the adjacent medieval moat site.

***Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. BED 025.***

***Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological work in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.***

***(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Terry the machine operator, James Armes for the metal detector search, Esther Newman for her finds processing work and to Sue Anderson, Val Fryer and Sue Holden for their specialist input to the evaluation reporting).***

Ref:

Goult, W      1990 'A Survey of Suffolk Parish History,' Suffolk CC

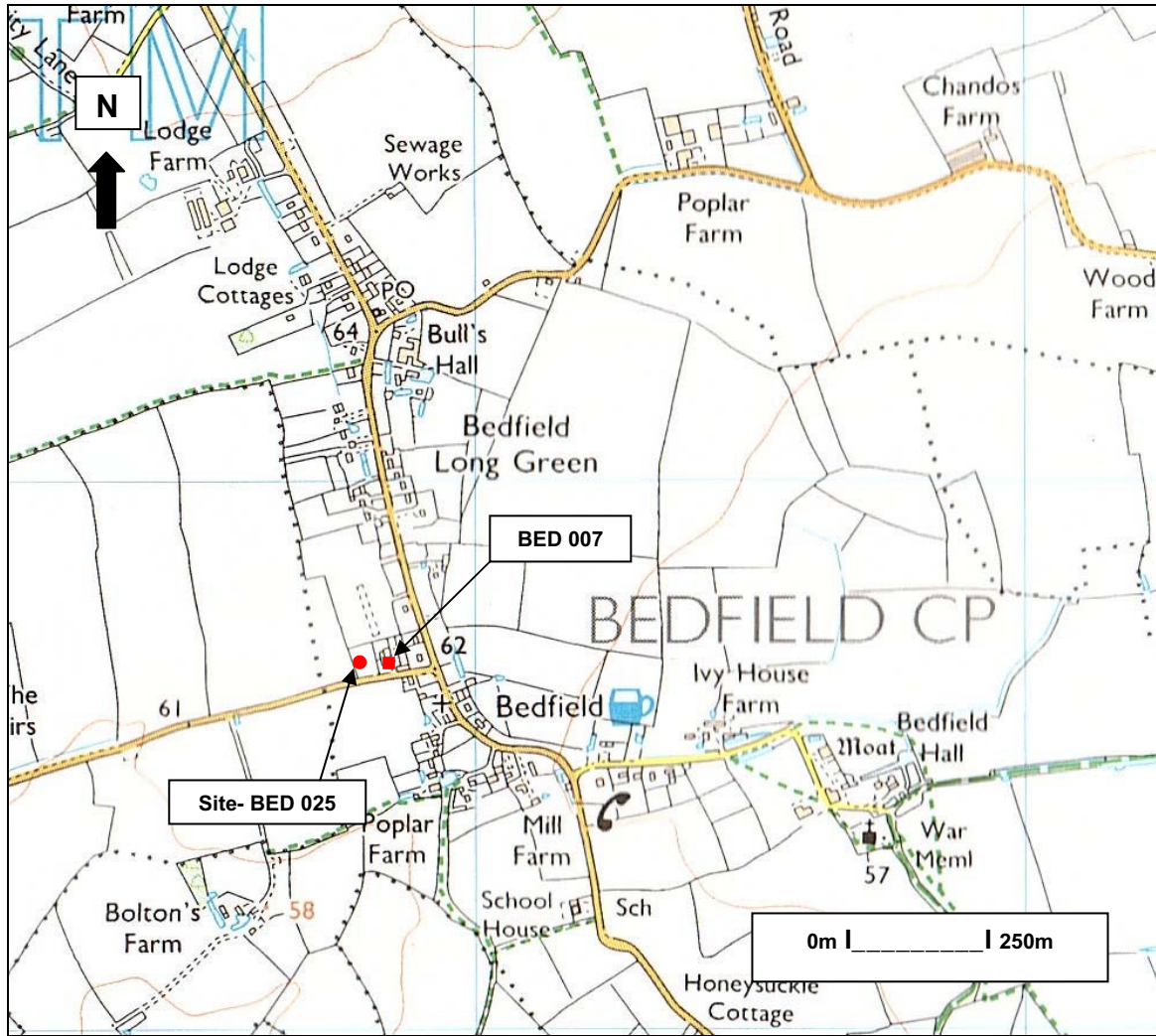


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
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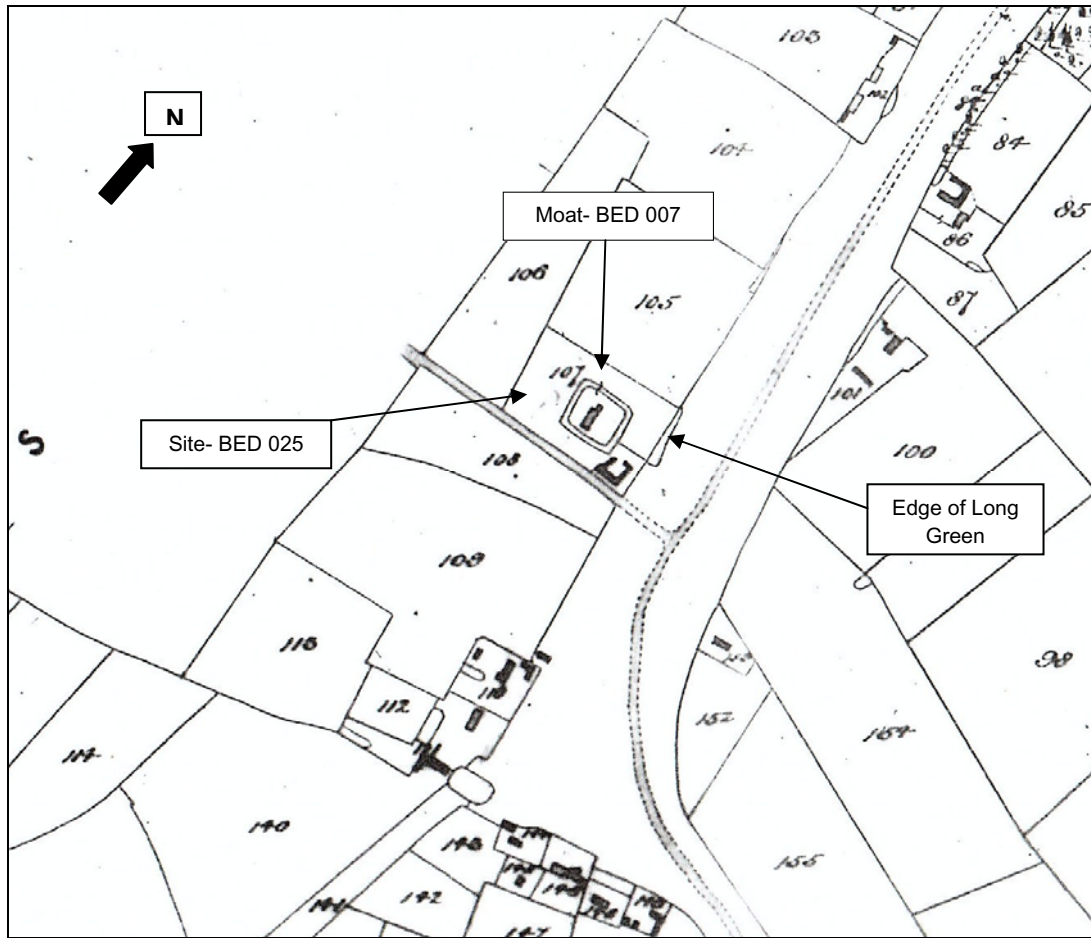


Fig. 2: Extract from Bedfield tithe map (Ref: Suffolk RO P461/2, 1842)

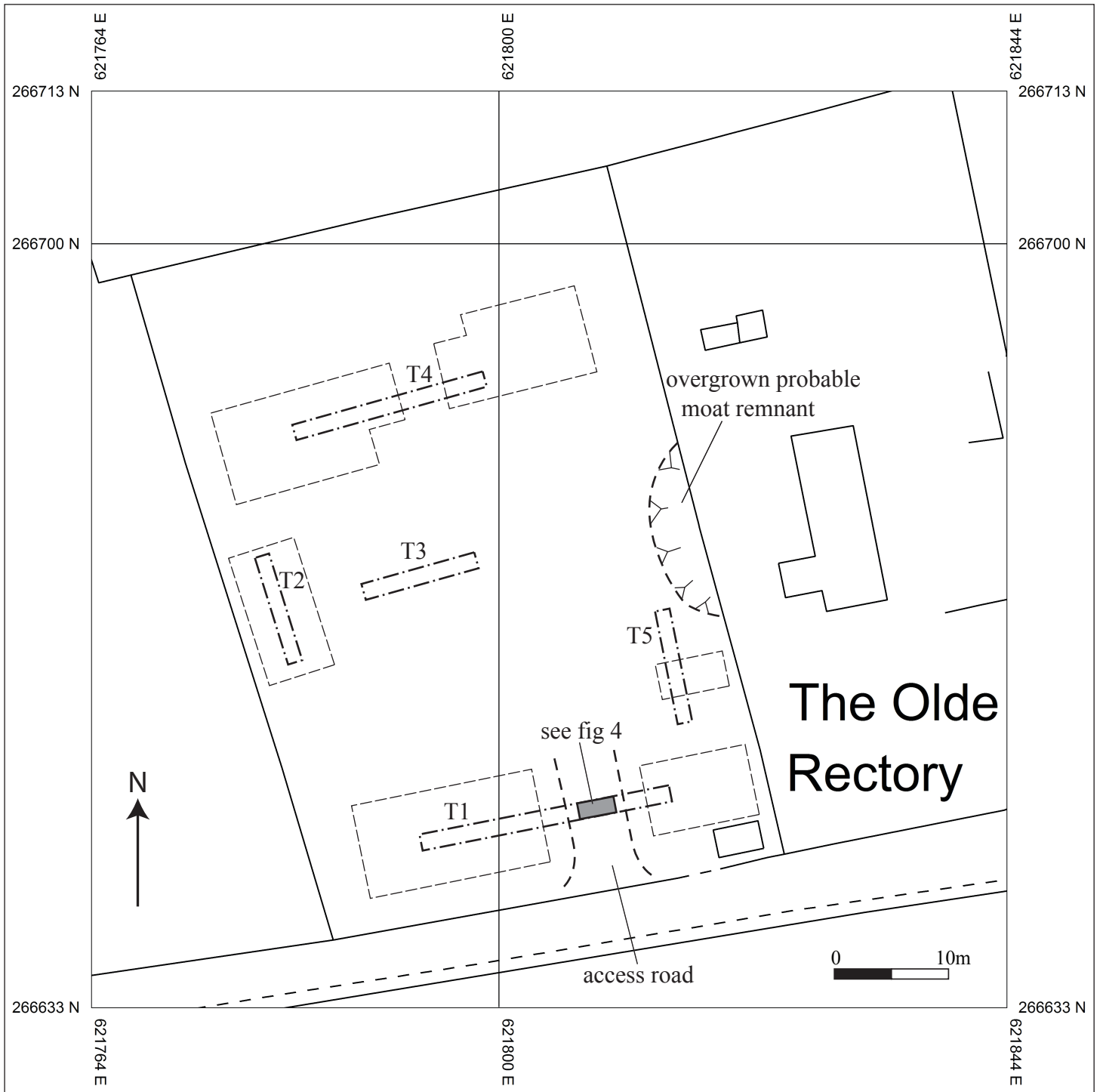


Fig. 3: Trench location and proposed building footprints and access road.  
 (Ordnance Survey©Crown copyright 2010 All rights reserved LN 100049722)

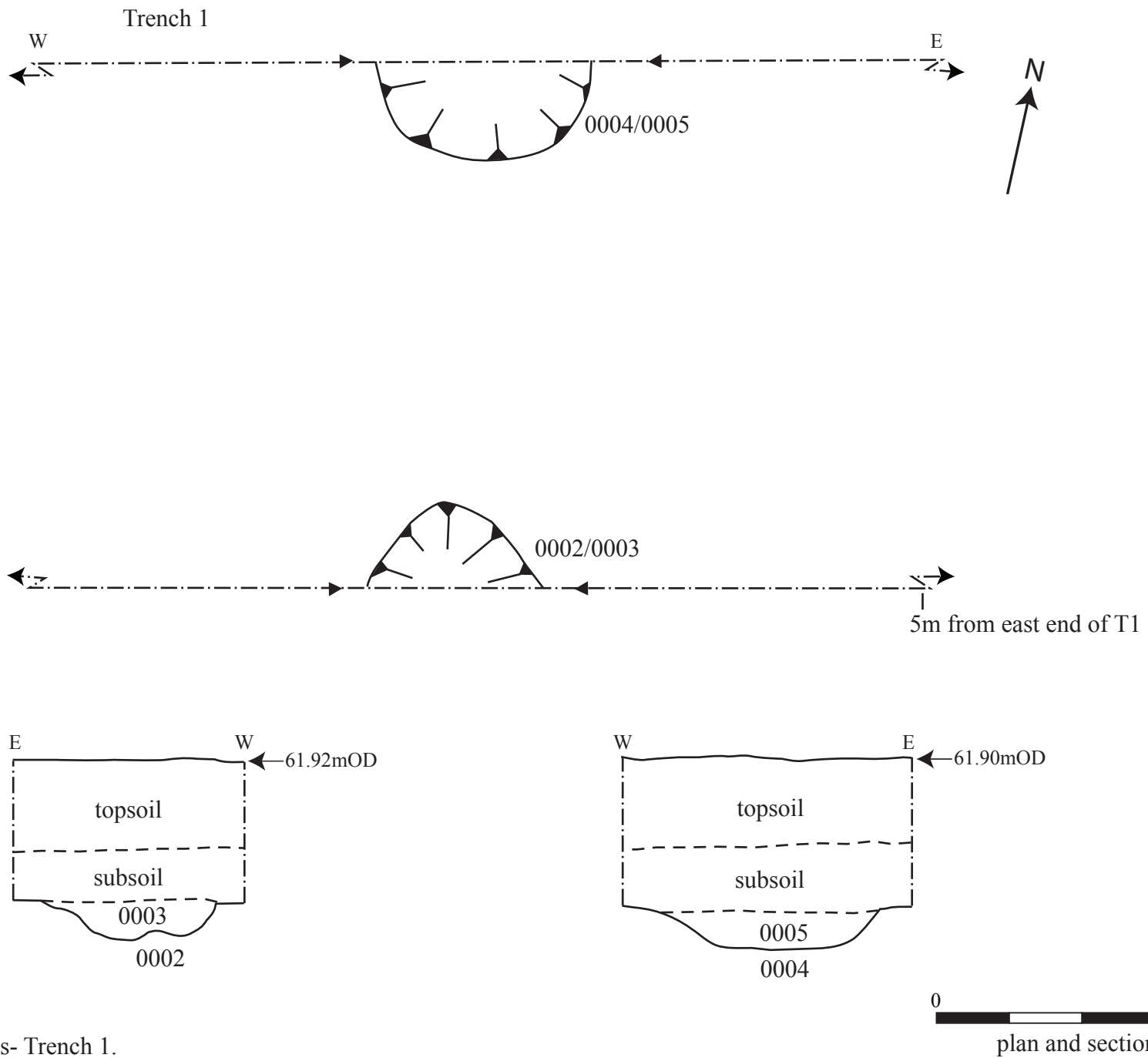


Fig. 4: plan and sections- Trench 1.

## Appendix I- Images



General view from west with The Olde Rectory in background



Moat remnant on eastern edge of site from north-west



Moat remnant on eastern edge of site from south-west



Trench 1 from east



Trench 4 from west



Small pit 0002 from north



Small pit 0004 from south

**Land Adjacent to The Old Rectory,  
Long Green, Bedfield, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Evaluation**

## **Site details**

Name: Land adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield, Suffolk

Client: Springfield Residential

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 3881/08

Proposed development: Erection of 8 dwellings

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: 2011\_10\_18\_SCCAS\_TrenchedArchaeologicalEvaluation\_Brief\_TheOldRectory\_Bedfield

Grid ref: TM 217 666

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1. Introduction
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3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Evaluation
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6. Risk Assessment
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Hollins Architects on behalf of their clients, Springfield Residential, have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed small residential development. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition on planning application 3881/08 and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the construction of 8 dwellings on land adjacent to The Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield.

1.2 The evaluation 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 *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver. 1.1 (Suffolk CC)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 The village of Bedfield is some 4 miles north-west of Framlingham in central Suffolk on part of the Till plateau of central Suffolk in an area characterised by a gently rolling landscape on heavy clay with flint soils of the Hanslope series. The proposed development site (PDS) is located at c60m OD some 1000m north-west of the parish church but adjacent to The Old rectory and c70m west of what is shown on the 1842 tithe map (see below) as the western edge of Long Green and fronting onto the road to Monks Soham. The tithe map also depicts a moated site (HER BED 007) immediately to the east of the PDS which fronts onto the green and this is likely to be the earlier parish rectory which is described as being in poor repair by c1830 (Goult, 1990) and replaced by a new rectory by 1854. This rebuilding clearly remodelled the site as the first edition large scale OS map of 1880 shows a new building and the moat infilled. The PDS at these dates is in agricultural use and remains undeveloped to date.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER), adjacent to a medieval moated enclosure (HER no. BED 007).... There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be

disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists'

### 4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the main archaeological potential relates to the site's location close to where evidence for medieval and earlier Post medieval settlement and related activities may exist. In particular, as noted in section 2.1 above, the PDS falls within an area adjacent to a medieval moated site and fronting a historic road line where for example, related activities and settlement may have taken place. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the planned footprints under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed, a strategy can be formulated for the possible preservation in situ or, failing that, systematic recording of deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost before any other ground works commence

### 5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for 8 residential dwellings on what is currently soft ground.

5.2 The Brief requires a 5% trenched sample of the development area of 0.25ha which equates to 125m<sup>2</sup> or 69m of 1.8m wide trench. This will be undertaken using a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench plan as set out below. 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, where hand investigation will start, or to expose the underlying drift geology which will be further hand cleaned and examined. The spoil will be stored adjacent to the excavated trench with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. No trenches will be backfilled until the relevant officer at SCCAS has been consulted and should any modification to the trench layout be required due to any unforeseen circumstances, such as local services, then SCCAS will be contacted immediately. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the evaluation. The up cast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site HER number obtained from the Suffolk CC HER 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. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record in monochrome film and high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

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 with care being taken to cause minimum disturbance to the site consistent with evaluation to a level adequate to properly form a subsequent mitigation strategy. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained (and during backfilling). Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%-possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCCAS Officer will be informed and the clear presumption must be to preserve such remains in situ with minimum disturbance during this evaluation stage. If this is not possible then 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 evaluation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial is assessed as being very low at this location).

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. While this evaluation work

is SCC funded the land (and therefore any finds) is not in SCC ownership at present.

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 *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis* (Murphy P L & Wiltshire P E J, 1994). 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 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 evaluation 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 evaluation results and to aid the planning of any further field work)
- 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 evaluation 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 close consultation with the evaluation 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 evaluation on such deposits this will be covered within the resources agreed for the first date but will take time to obtain, however examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is unlikely).
- Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the evaluation the relevant SCCAS Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling and assessment by the relevant evaluation specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged)

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2, and particularly Appendix 3). This archive will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the guidelines outlined in '*Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2008). 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 evaluation report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 3.1 & Appendix 4.1) 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. 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.

5.9 Any interpretation of the evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results and the results 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 evaluation 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, 1997 & 2000). There will be no further work on site until the evaluation results have been assessed and the SCCAS Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required. The report may give an opinion regarding the necessity for further evaluation work as appropriate. A draft copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS following completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER with a digital version on disc. As required the site evaluation 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.

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

6.3 A site visit and discussion with the client has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the discovery of

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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underground services is unlikely. No overhead services impinge on the trench locations. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the evaluation 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 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

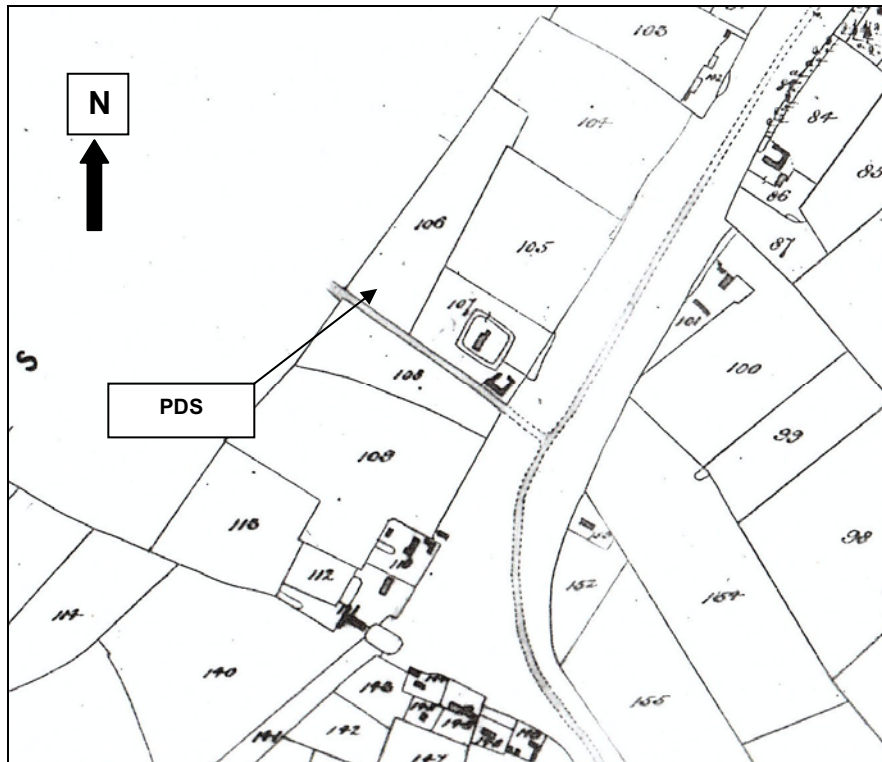
6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Torgate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

### 7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Roman period small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics:	S Benfield (CAT)
Medieval coins:	M Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

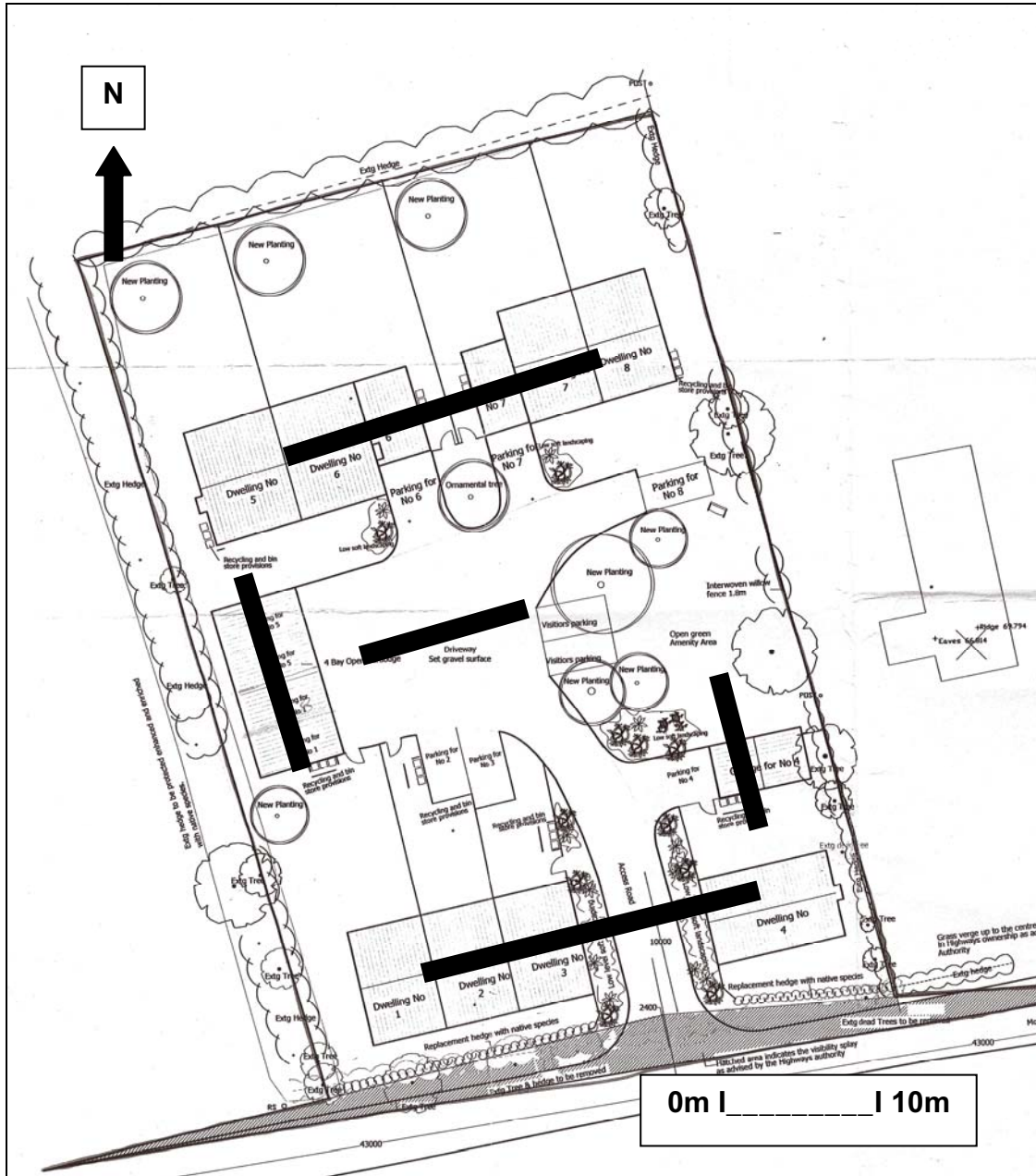
*Ref:*

Goult, W 1990 'A Survey of Suffolk Parish History,' Suffolk CC



PDS with moated site to east (Bedfield tithe map SRO ref.: P461/271)





Proposed location of trial trenches

## Land adj the Old Rectory, Long Green, Bedfield (BED 025): the pottery

Sue Anderson, CFA Archaeology, November 2011.

Ten pottery sherds (106g) were recovered from two contexts (0001, 0006), both unstratified. The pottery quantification is shown in Table 1

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	WVCW	5	44	body and base sherds of 4 vessels, dark brown-black	13th-14th c.
	WVCW	1	12	fine version, square beaded rim, 240mm diam, 6%	13th-14th c.
	HOLL	2	33	Stowmarket type with large clay pellets	13th-14th c.
	UPG	1	6	medium sandy whiteware with orange surface and partial green glaze, poss Stowmarket type?	13th-14th c.
0006	MCW	1	11	medium sandy, buff with grey core, similar to HOLL	12th-14th c.

Table 1. Pottery catalogue.

Key: MCW – medieval coarseware; HOLL – Hollesley-type glazed ware; WVCW – Waveney Valley-type medieval coarseware; UPG – unidentified glazed ware.

All sherds are of medieval date and are in fabrics typical of the north-eastern quarter of Suffolk. The only known production site for this type of ware is at Hollesley (West forthcoming), but the range of fabrics suggests that other kilns are yet to be discovered. Waveney Valley-type coarsewares were first identified at a late medieval pottery production site at Rickinghall (Anderson *et al.* 1996), although there is no evidence at present that high medieval wares were being made there. However, the presence of both Roman and late medieval pottery production sites in the area suggests that medieval pottery was probably also being produced somewhere in the Waveney Valley. Recent finds at sites on both sides of the Suffolk border suggest that this ware was relatively common in the area. Stowmarket-type Hollesley ware is distinguished by common clay pellets present in the fabric (Anderson 2004).

The ten sherds represent nine vessels, the majority of which are likely to be cooking pots. Only one rim was found, a developed jar form in Waveney Valley fine fabric. One body sherd of a glazed ware in a similar Hollesley-type fabric is also present.

The sherds are unabraded and are likely to be evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity, but the assemblage is too small for further interpretation.

### References

- Anderson, S, 2004, *Cedars Field Moated Site, Stowmarket*. E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 15.
- Anderson, S, Breen, A., Caruth, J. and Gill, D., 1996, 'The late medieval pottery industry on the North Suffolk border', *Medieval Ceramics* 20.
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## Appendix IV

### AN EVALUATION OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM LAND ADJACENT TO THE OLD RECTORY, BEDFIELD, SUFFOLK (BED 025)

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#### Introduction and method statement

Excavations adjacent to the moat at Bedfield, undertaken by John Newman, recorded a limited number of features of possible medieval date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the fills of two small pits (features [0002] and [0004]), and two were submitted for assessment.

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 (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots were present within both assemblages.

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

#### Results

Cereal grains/chaff, seeds and tree/shrub macrofossils were present at a low to moderate density within both assemblages. Preservation was moderately poor, with most of the grains being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of high temperatures during combustion.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded along with a number of cereals, which were too poorly preserved for close identification. Bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes were present within the assemblage from sample 0003. Seeds were scarce, but both assemblages did contain fragmentary pulse (Fabaceae) cotyledons. Sample 0005 also included a possible fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell and a possible sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) fruit stone. Charcoal/charred wood fragments and indeterminate culm nodes were also recorded within both assemblages.

Other remains were generally scarce, although both assemblages contained small pieces of coal and fragments of bone. Other materials included fish bones, eggshell and pieces of burnt or fired clay (see table below).

#### Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although both assemblages are small and relatively sparse, cereal grains and other plant macrofossils are recorded. The assemblages are reasonably similar in composition, possibly indicating that they have a common source, and it is tentatively suggested that both are derived from small, low density scatters or deposits of hearth waste, including some dietary refuse.

Although the current assemblages are somewhat limited, they both clearly illustrate that plant remains are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Bedfield. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed contexts recorded during excavation.

As neither of the current assemblages contains a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is required at this time. However, if any further samples are taken, the results of this assessment should be incorporated within any future report.

## Reference

Stace, C., 1997                      *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

## Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens  
cf = compare    fg = fragment

<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>0003</b>	<b>0005</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>0002</b>	<b>0004</b>
<b>Context type</b>	<b>Pit</b>	<b>Pit</b>
<b>Cereals</b>		
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)		xcf
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x	x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x	x
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis node)	x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx	x
<b>Herbs</b>		
Fabaceae indet.	xcffg	x
<b>Tree/shrub macrofossils</b>		
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.		xcf
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.		xcf
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>		
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x
Charred root/stem		x
Indet.culm nodes	x	x
<b>Other remains</b>		
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	
Bone	x	x
Burnt/fired clay	x	
Eggshell		x
Fish bone		x
Small coal frags	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones		x
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Volume of flot</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Appendix V

### Context list- BED 025

F- Finds S- sample taken

Context No	Trench	Type	Part of	S	Description	Spot date
0001	T1	U/S	NA	F	Unstratified sherds from upcast spoil of trench 1 (parallel to & closest to adjacent road)	
0002	T1	Small pit	0002		Small, shallow pit, 600mm E-W x 300mm N-S (to trench section) x 120mm deep	
0003	T1	Fill	0002	S	Fill of 0002, mid brown clay with small chalk fragments	?
0004	T1	Small pit	0004		Small, shallow pit, 750mm E-W x 350mm N-S (to trench section) x 150m deep	
0005	T1	Fill	0004	S	Fill of 0004, mid brown clay with charcoal flecks & small chalk fragments	?
0006	T4	U/S	NA	F	Unstratified sherd from upcast spoil of trench 4	