# Moseleys Farm, Fornham All Saints, Suffolk

## Planning application: SE/11/1474

### HER Ref: FAS 042

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(January 2012)

(Tel: 01473 832896  Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com )

## Site details for HER

Name: Moseleys Farm, Fornham All Saints, Suffolk IP28 6JY

Client: R C Browne & Sons

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: SE/11/1474

Development: Erection of agricultural storage building

Date of fieldwork: 20 January, 2012

HER Ref: FAS 042

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-118111

Grid ref: TL 8356 6752

**Contents**



*Summary: Fornham All Saints, Moseleys Farm (FAS 042, TL 8356 6752) evaluation trenching at the site of a proposed agricultural storage building did not reveal any archaeological features with the only finds being occasional small Post medieval peg tile fragments. (John Newman Archaeological Services for R C Browne & Sons).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 The TNS Group on behalf of their client, R C Browne & Sons, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works at Moseleys Farm, Fornham All Saints (see Fig. 1) that is to be developed as a permitted agricultural development under application SE/11/1474. 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. This development concerns the erection of an agricultural storage building on the north western edge of Moseleys Farm on the edge of a flat field which is currently under a grass cover but which has been arable and used for open air pig production in the more recent past.

1.2 The village of Fornham All Saints is located on the southern side of the River Lark some 2.5 miles north-west of the centre of Bury St Edmunds in west Suffolk. Local soils are generally light and sandy being derived from the underlying naturally occurring glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits which lie over chalk. Moseleys Farm lies on the south-western edge of the village between the 25m and 30m OD contours with the proposed agricultural store site being 700m south of the River Lark and 250m south-west of the parish church. At the time of the evaluation the development site was soft ground in use for storing farm equipment. While many of the structures within the farm complex to the south and south-east are of recent origin three merit listed building status. These are the farmhouse c100m to the south-east which is described as having an 'early 19$^{th}$ century face to an older timber frame,' Moseleys Barn c100m to the east which is listed as being of 17$^{th}$ century date and a stable c160m to the south-east which is dated to the late 17$^{th}$ century.

1.3 Archaeological interest in the proposed development site was generated by its close proximity to an area of past, multi-period activity (HER- FAS 002) known from aerial photographs which is of a complexity and quality to merit statutory protection as a Scheduled Monument (SF 114).

## 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The footprint of the proposed storage building covers an area of 14.50m by 30m and, as specified in the relevant Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, this was sampled with a 30m long and 1.80m wide trench along its main, north-west/south-east axis (see Fig. 2), this trench area of 54m$^2$ equating to 12.41% of the footprint of the proposed structure. The machine used to excavate the trench was a mid-sized 360$^0$ tracked type equipped with a 1.60m wide toothless bucket on its back arm and this was under archaeological supervision at all times. Top and subsoil was removed in c150mm layers and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned and loose spoil was shovelled away to fully expose the naturally occurring glaciofluvial deposits at the base of the trench. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken on a wet, dull day which gave even light and good overall visibility. Throughout the evaluation the upcast spoil was scanned and detected for stray finds and at the end of the trenching works the surface of the spoil heaps was re-examined. The trench was plotted in relation to the outline of the proposed store as laid out by The TNS Group and a photographic

record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works and the site in general.

## 3. Results

3.1 The deposits within the trench proved to be straightforward with 300/350mm of topsoil lying over 500/600mm of mid brown sandy subsoil which contained occasional small flints. At the base of the trench the exposed glaciofluvial deposit as anticipated proved to be a yellowish orange sand with numerous small and medium sized flints characteristic of the site's location where valley base terrace gravels would be expected. No archaeological features were revealed in the subsoil layer or cut into the naturally occurring sand and gravel below. The only archaeological finds seen were two small fragments of Post medieval peg tile within the upper part of the subsoil.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 The lack of any archaeological features or finds of any age from what represents a substantial sample of the proposed development footprint indicates that this site, though close to area with evidence of intense past activity, was peripheral and in all probability simply used as agricultural land. Perhaps the single point of interest gained from the evaluation is that crop marks may not appear on aerial photographs in the vicinity of the proposed building if the substantial depth of subsoil extends to the west and north across the adjacent field.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out on the site of the proposed storage building.

***Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. FAS 042.***

***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 James Williams from The TNS Group for marking out the site, Adrian from R C Browne & Son for his careful machine operation and James Armes for the metal detector search*)**.

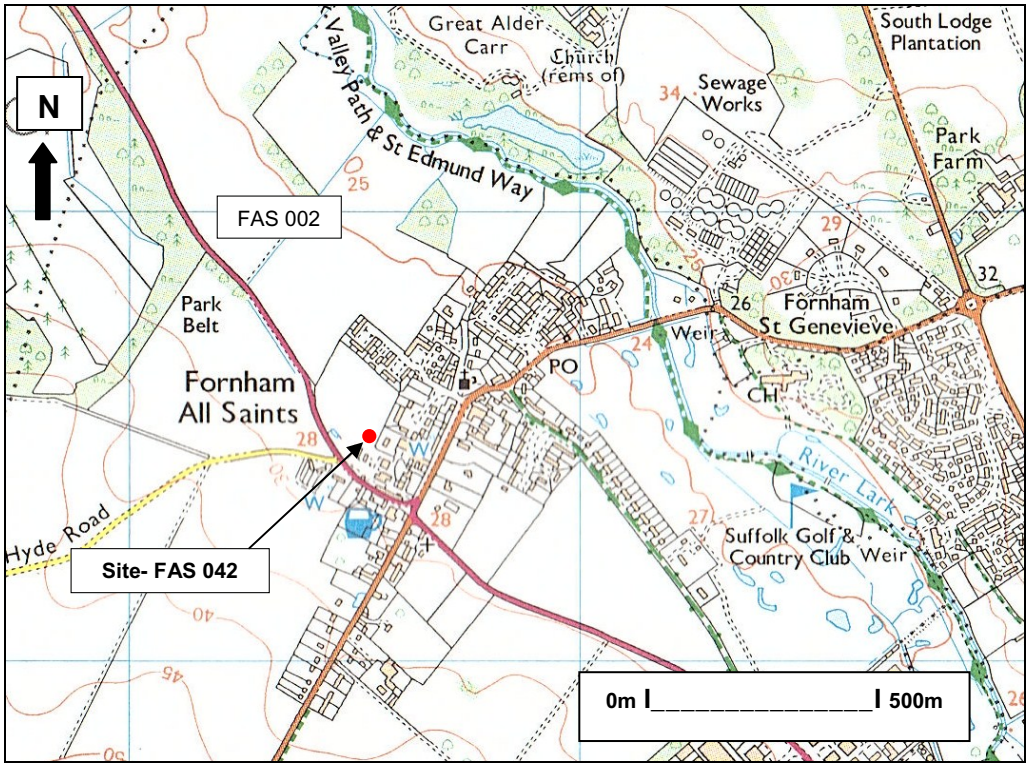


Fig. 1: Site location

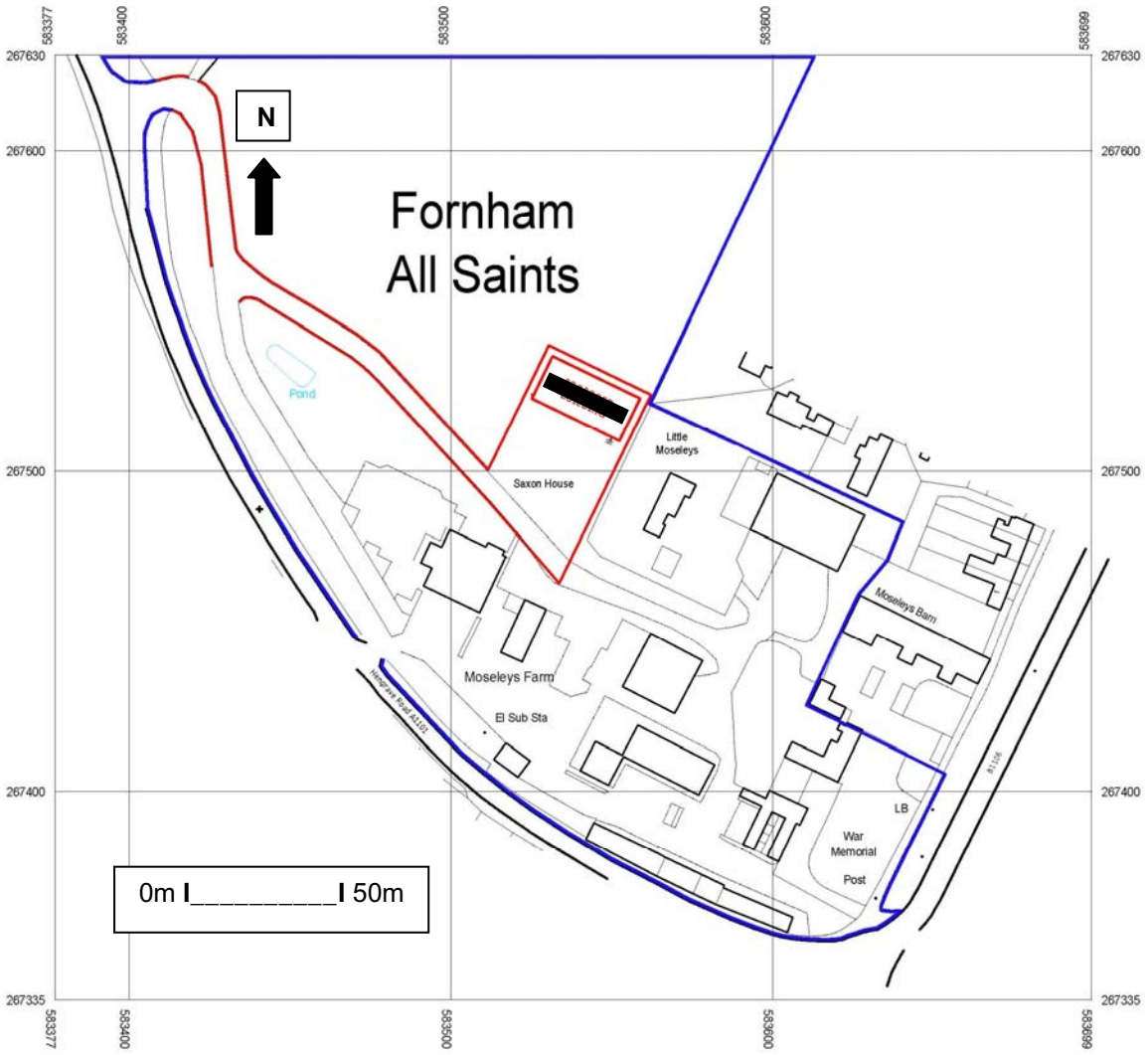


Fig. 2: Trench location within proposed building footprint

## Appendix I- Images

General view- site from north west

Trench from west

# Moseleys Farm, Fornham All Saints, Suffolk

## Written Scheme of Investigation for

## Archaeological Evaluation

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(Tel: 01473 832896  Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com )

## Site details

Name: Land at Moseleys Farm, Fornham All Saints, Suffolk, IP28 6JY

Client: R C Browne & Sons

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: SE/11/1474

Proposed development: Erection of agricultural store

Proposed date for evaluation: Friday, 20 January, 2012

Brief ref: 2011_10_18_SCCAS_TrenchedArchaeologicalEvaluation_Brief_ Moseleys Farm Fornham

Grid ref: TL 835 675

## Contents

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The TNS Group on behalf of their client, R C Browne & Sons, have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed small scale development. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition on planning application SE/11/1474, a permitted agricultural development, 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 erection of an agricultural storage building at Moseleys Farm, Fornham All Saints.

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. 1.2 (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 Fornham All Saints is located on the southern side of the River Lark some 2.5 miles north-west of the centre of Bury St Edmunds in west Suffolk. Local soils are generally light and sandy being derived from the underlying naturally occurring glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits which lie over chalk. Moseleys Farm lies on the south-western edge of the village between the 25m and 30m OD contours with the proposed development site (PDS) being 700m south of the River Lark and 250m south-west of the parish church. At present the PDS is soft ground and until recently formed part of the adjacent arable field. While many of the structures within the farm complex to the south and south-east are of recent origin three merit listed building status. These are the farmhouse c100m to the south-east which is described as having an 'early 19$^{th}$ century face to an older timber frame,' Moseleys Barn c100m to the east which is listed as being of 17$^{th}$ century date and a stable c160m to the south-east which is dated to the late 17$^{th}$ century.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The site of the proposed agricultural store has high potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown heritage assets of archaeological interest in view of its location to the south-east of an extensive multi-period archaeological landscape and

nationally important site, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER no. FAS 002) and statutorily protected (Scheduled Monument SF 114). However, the site has not been the subject of previous systematic investigation'

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the PDS relates to its location close to where evidence for past activity is evident from aerial photographs. This evidence being of multi-period origin as the local light soils and nearby river has attracted human settlement and related activities from the earliest pre-historic periods. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the planned footprint area 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 a 30m long x 14.50m wide agricultural storage building on what is currently soft ground.

5.2 The Brief requires a 30m long and 1.8m wide linear trench along the main axis of the planned structure (see trench plan below). This will be undertaken using a minimum 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench. 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 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.

5.6 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas in order to inform any further stages in the archaeological programme of works for the PDS. 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, & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). 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. As required the site evaluation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER, with the relevant OASIS summary detail form and the digital archive on disc. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up. The trench location will be provided for the HER as a .dxf vector plan.

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 Discussion with the agent/client has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the discovery of 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.

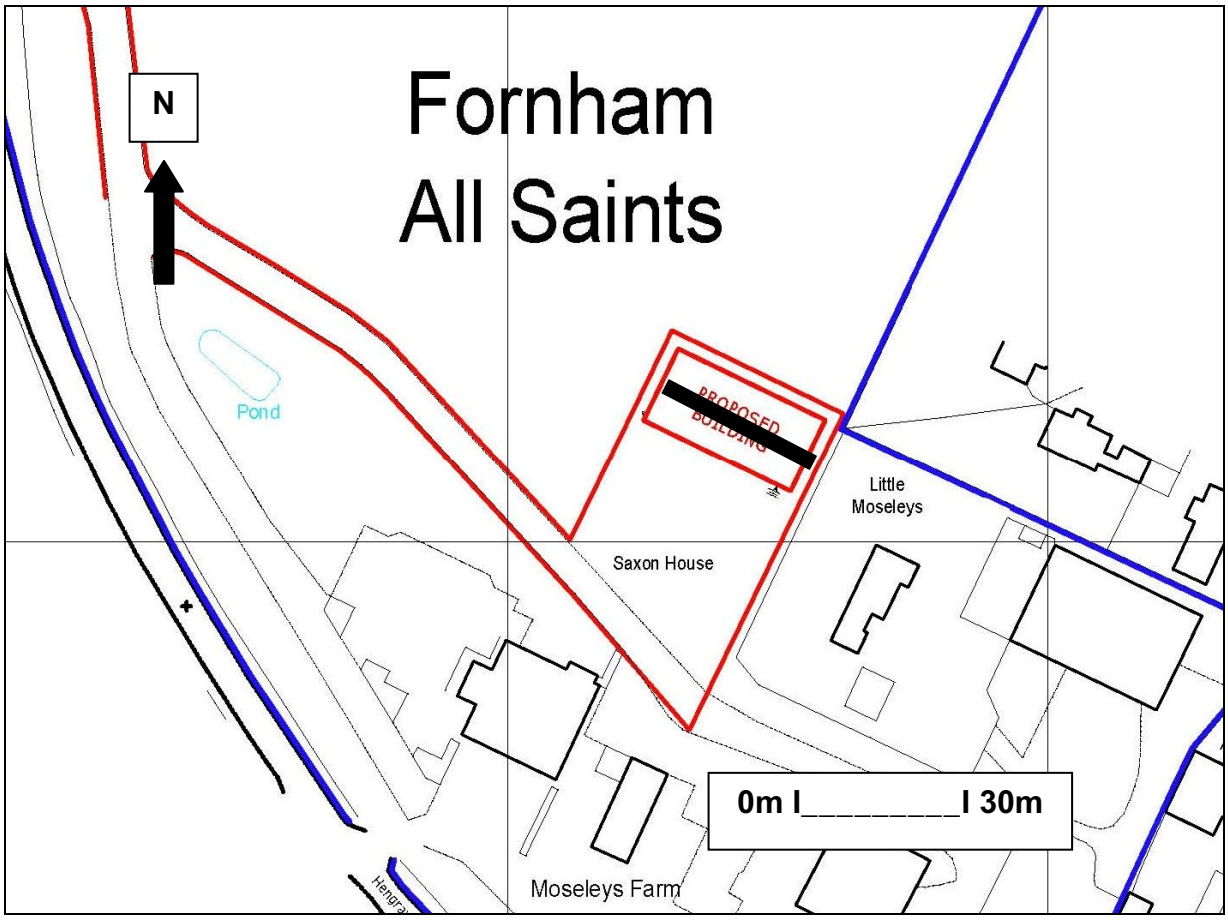
6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

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 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 (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 |




Proposed location of trial trench