Part Garden, The Yellow House, Fishpond Lane, Holbrook, Suffolk

Planning application: B/11/00979/FUL/LJB

HER Ref: HBK 046

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(February 2012)

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

Site details for HER

Name: Part garden, The Yellow House, Fishpond Lane, Holbrook, Suffolk IP9 2QZ

Client: Mr & Mrs R Allinson

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/11/00979/FUL/LJB

Development: Erection of detached dwelling & construction of vehicular access

Date of fieldwork: 8 February 2012

HER Ref: HBK 046

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-119049

Grid ref: TM 1715 3620

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty- Suffolk Coast & Heaths

Contents

Summary: Holbrook, The Yellow House, Fishpond Lane (HBK 046, TM 1715 3620) evaluation trenching at the site, some 100m north-east of the parish church, for a single dwelling development did not reveal any archaeological deposits or finds of significance with the only features identified being extraction pits containing occasional finds of 18th century, or later, date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs R Allinson).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs R Allinson commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a single residential dwelling development with vehicular access on the eastern part of the garden of The Yellow House, Fishpond Lane, Holbrook. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application B/11/00979/FUL/LJB, set by Ms R Monk of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the area concerned. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to gain a conditional discharge and allow the trenching to go ahead before any other ground works were undertaken.

1.2 Holbrook is located some 7 miles south of Ipswich in the western part of the Shotley peninsula with the southern boundary of the parish being formed by the River Stour. The modern village covers a large area having seen a moderate amount of recent development but the historic core is located around the parish church and the main street with a subsidiary settlement at Lower Holbrook just over a mile to the south-east. The proposed development site at The Yellow House is located at c25m OD some 100m north-east of the parish church and 100m east of the main village street on Fishpond Lane which links Holbrook with Lower Holbrook (see Fig. 1). The fishpond in question being c120m to the east and having been formed by the damming of a small stream at some point prior to 1783 as it is shown on the Hodkinson map of Suffolk of that date. The glaciofluvial deposits in the area around Holbrook are generally made up of a very silty 'loess/brickearth' type material over well drained sands and gravels. Topographically the ground drops away gently from The Yellow House to the east and south-east across the proposed development area which at the time of the evaluation was soft with a grass cover.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its relatively close proximity to the parish church of All Saints (HER HBK 015) where evidence for earlier activity of later Saxon and medieval date in particular might be anticipated. The site also has a frontage onto Fishpond Lane which is a line of communication of some antiquity and therefore an area with some potential for evidence of medieval or earlier Post medieval settlement activity.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed single dwelling development and access was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2) using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1000mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity. Three 1.80m trenches were opened with their total length coming to the specified length of 20m giving a sample by area of 36m^2 for the site or c10% of the combined dwelling footprint and access. The trenches were located to avoid an existing mains sewer that runs on a north-south alignment across the site.

2.2 The glaciofluvial deposits exposed in the base of the trenches, as outlined in the table below, where it not already been disturbed by previous excavation work, proved to vary between an orange sand with small and medium flints (trench 1) and a firm, very pale, yellow sand with small flints (trench 2). The upcast spoil from the

trenches was examined for any finds as the work progressed and any indistinct areas or potential features were investigated by hand in trenches 1 and 2. However such investigation work was impossible in trench 3 as the deposits below the topsoil cover were very soft throughout the trench causing repeated collapse of the sides and excavation was stopped at a depth of 1.20m with no undisturbed glaciofluvial deposits being visible. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under very cold but dry and sunny conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trenches were plotted from nearby mapped features and as the evaluation progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works.

3. Results

3.1 In this case the results are most easily summarised as in the table below as very little of archaeological interest was revealed (see also Fig. 2):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/ natural features
1	East-west	10m	300	300 of a mid brown sandy subsoil	Orange sand with small & medium flints, only seen in the western half of the trench	Eastern 5m length of the trench revealed a very soft, dirty yellow sand with few stones going to a depth of 1300mm+ across the width of the trench- ?quarry pit back fill
2	North-south	5	400	400 mid brown sandy subsoil	Firm very pale yellow sand with small flints	_
3	North-east/south-west	5	300	_	No glaciofluvial deposits seen, trench stopped at 1.20m depth due to collapse of sides	Entire trench revealed a very soft, dirty yellow sand with few stones below the topsoil- ?quarry pit back fill

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 The only ground disturbance identified in the trenches proved to be the probable extraction or quarry pits in trenches 1 and 3 as outlined in Table 1 above. In the former instance the area of disturbance extended over the complete width and length of the eastern half of the trench while in the latter all of the 5m length of trench 3 was clearly within a large pit. In both cases the areas of disturbance in trenches 1 and 3 contained the characteristic soft, dirty sand typical of quarrying waste once the desired stone has been sieved out. Within the extraction pit in trench 1 occasional small fragments of Post medieval peg tile were noted as was a small fragment (5g) of 18/19th century clay tobacco pipe stem. One fragment of Post medieval peg tile was also seen in the spoil from trench 3 but due to the unstable nature of the excavated area and trench sides hand investigations were precluded on health and safety grounds. Trench 2 did not contain any features of any type.

3.3 Throughout the evaluation very few stray finds were noted in the upcast spoil with the few seen being modern or occasional small Post medieval brick/tile

fragments and one brown glazed red earthenware rim sherd (10g) of 18th century date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 With such negative results in relation to archaeological deposits of any significance, evidence for Post medieval quarrying and general lack of stray finds of any age it can only be concluded that this site was peripheral to the main areas of medieval settlement in the village to the south and west around the church and main street respectively. In all likelihood the area of this site at The Yellow House has only been in use as agricultural land or allotment until relatively recently as was the case at the time of the tithe map and early Ordnance Survey mapping of the area (see Appendix III).

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out on the proposed site at The Yellow House, Fishpond Lane, Holbrook.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. HBK 046.

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 Robert Allinson and family for their hospitality and to Jim Abbott for his skilful machine operation)**

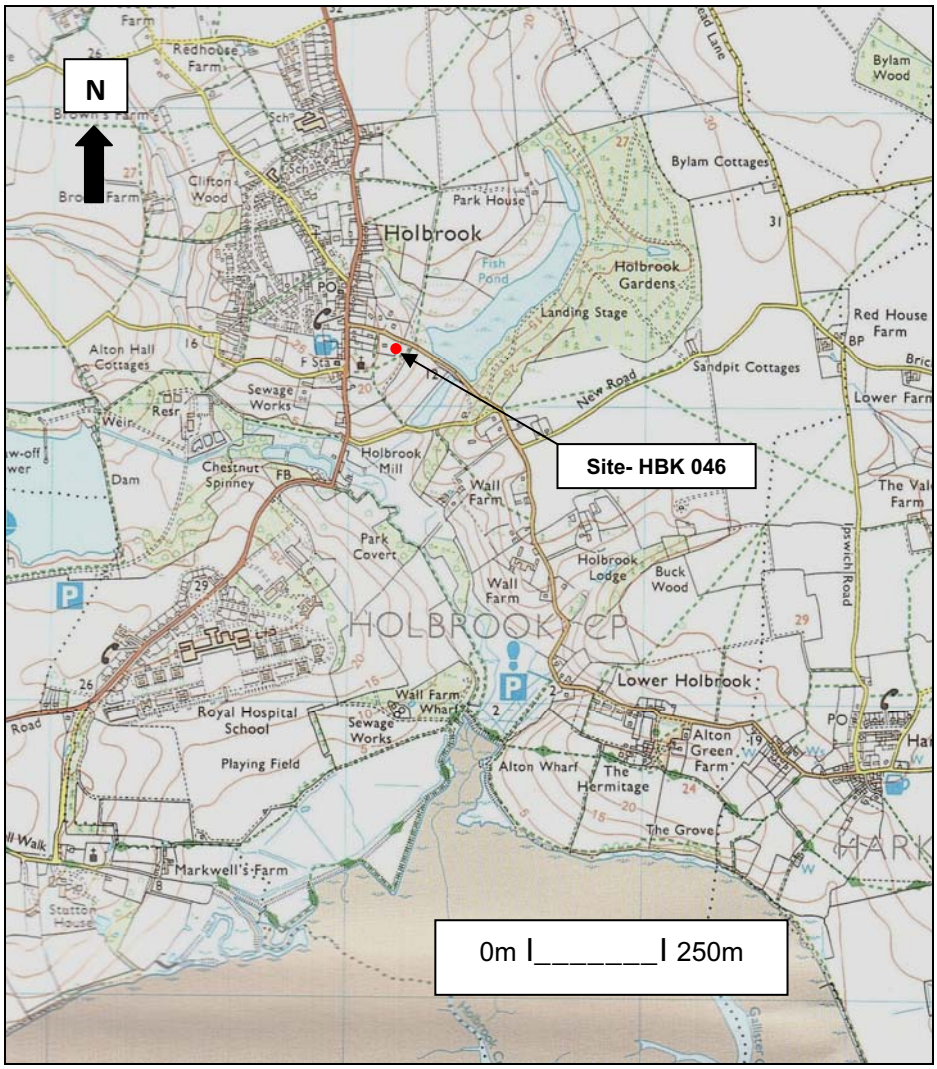

Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

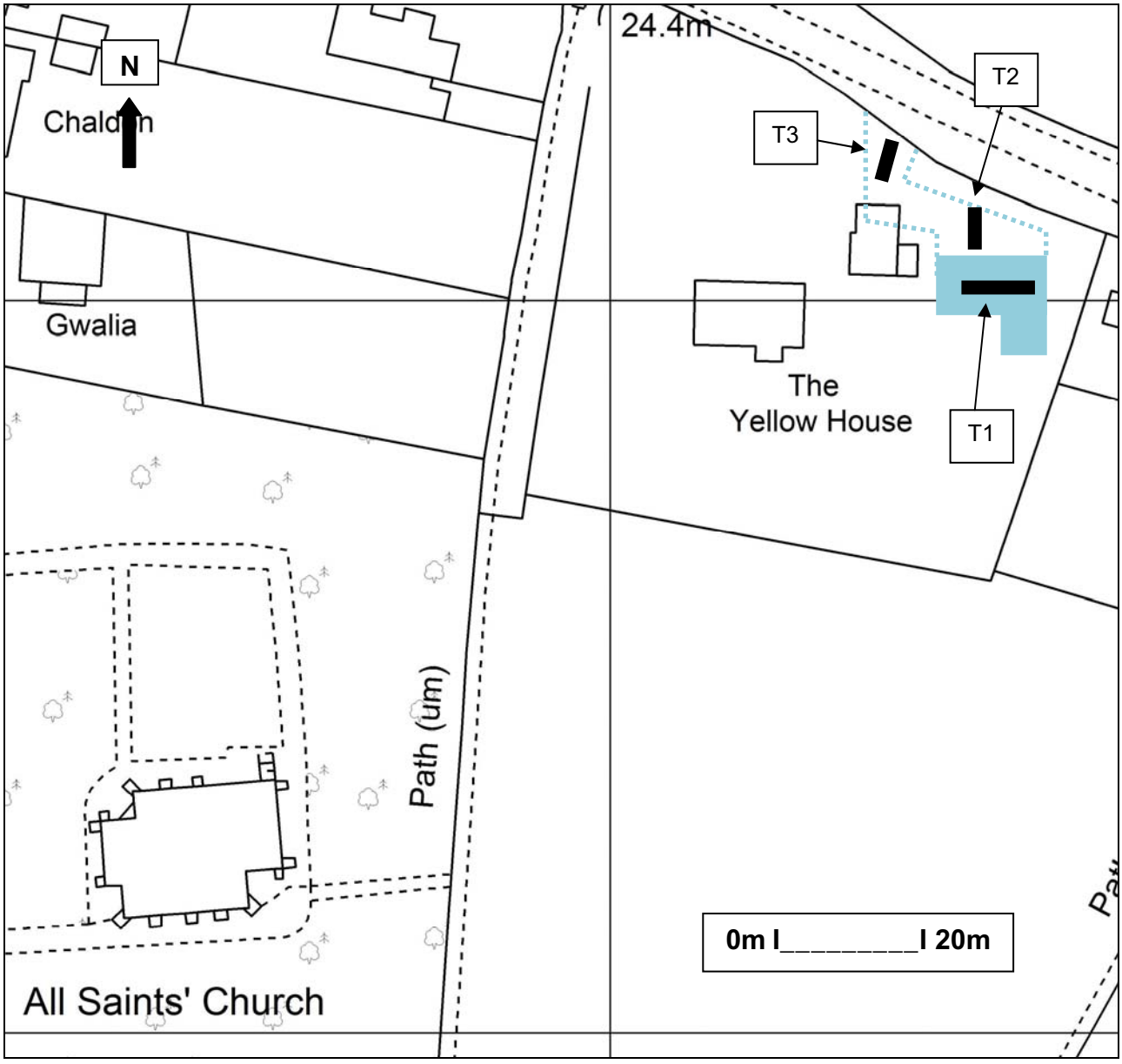

Fig. 2: Location of trenches (planned house footprint- blue, access/drive- dashed blue line)

Appendix I- Images

General view from north-west

Trench 1 from west

Trench 1- extraction pit at east end

Trench 2 from north

Trench 3 from south with collapsed side

The Yellow House, Fishpond Lane, Holbrook, Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for

Archaeological Evaluation

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

Site details

Name: Part garden, The Yellow House, Fishpond Lane, Holbrook, Suffolk, IP9 2QZ

Client: Mr & Mrs R Allinson

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/11/00979/FUL/LJB

Proposed development: Erection of detached dwelling & construction of vehicular access

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief: SCCAS_Trenched archaeological evaluation_Brief_The Yellow House, Holbrook

Grid ref: TM 171 361

Current land use: Garden

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr & Mrs R Allinson have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed small scale residential development. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition on planning application B/11/00979/FUL/LJB and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Ms R Monk 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 a single detached dwelling with associated vehicular access on the eastern part of the garden of The Yellow House, Fishpond Lane, Holbrook which is to be detached for this purpose.

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 Holbrook is located some 7 miles south of Ipswich in the western part of the Shotley peninsula with the southern boundary of the parish being formed by the River Stour. The modern village covers a large area having seen a moderate amount of recent development but the historic core is located around the parish church and the main street with a subsidiary settlement at Lower Holbrook just over a mile to the south-east. The proposed development site (PDS) at The Yellow House is located at c25m OD some 100m north-east of the parish church and 100m east of the main village street on Fishpond Lane which links Holbrook with Lower Holbrook. The fishpond in question being c120m to the east having been formed by the damming of a small stream at some point prior to 1783 as it is shown on Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of that date. The glaciofluvial deposits in the area around the PDS are likely to be very silty 'loess/brickearth' type material over well drained sands and gravels.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant specification- 'This application lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The proposed development is situated 100m

north-east of the medieval church of All Saints (HER no. HBK 015). As a result, there is significant potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this location.... 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.'

3.2 The site is therefore seen as having high potential for archaeological deposits to be present and the proposed development works would cause significant ground disturbance. Therefore the LPA has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological works taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and allow the assessment and study of any heritage assets at the site before they are damaged or destroyed. The initial stage of this programme of works is the evaluation by trial trenching to an agreed layout of the PDS with two 10m x 1.80m trenches.

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the PDS relates to its location where evidence for medieval period activity might be present. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the site 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 and sampling of deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost before any other ground works commence following the issuing of an additional specification.

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for a single dwelling with access on what is soft ground (though an existing mains sewer does run under the western edge of the proposed house footprint).

5.2 The attached map extract shows the proposed trenching layout designed to sample the PDS with a 10m long trench across the house footprint and two 5m long trenches across the access and parking area to avoid the main sewer. With a minimum 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized 360 machine, operated by an experienced driver, this will give a sample size in excess of 5% of the proposed development area. 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 of high resolution digital images and monochrome film 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, road surfaces, kilns or ovens, 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 (this is assessed as being a low possibility on this site) 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.

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. 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 pottery production or 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 indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is very 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. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be for the County HER and for the client if requested. 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. A vector plan

in .dxf format will be provided of the trench locations for integration into the County HER Mapinfo base.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, 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 client has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the discovery of underground services is unlikely apart from the only known one being a mains sewer on the western edge of the house footprint which will be avoided. 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.

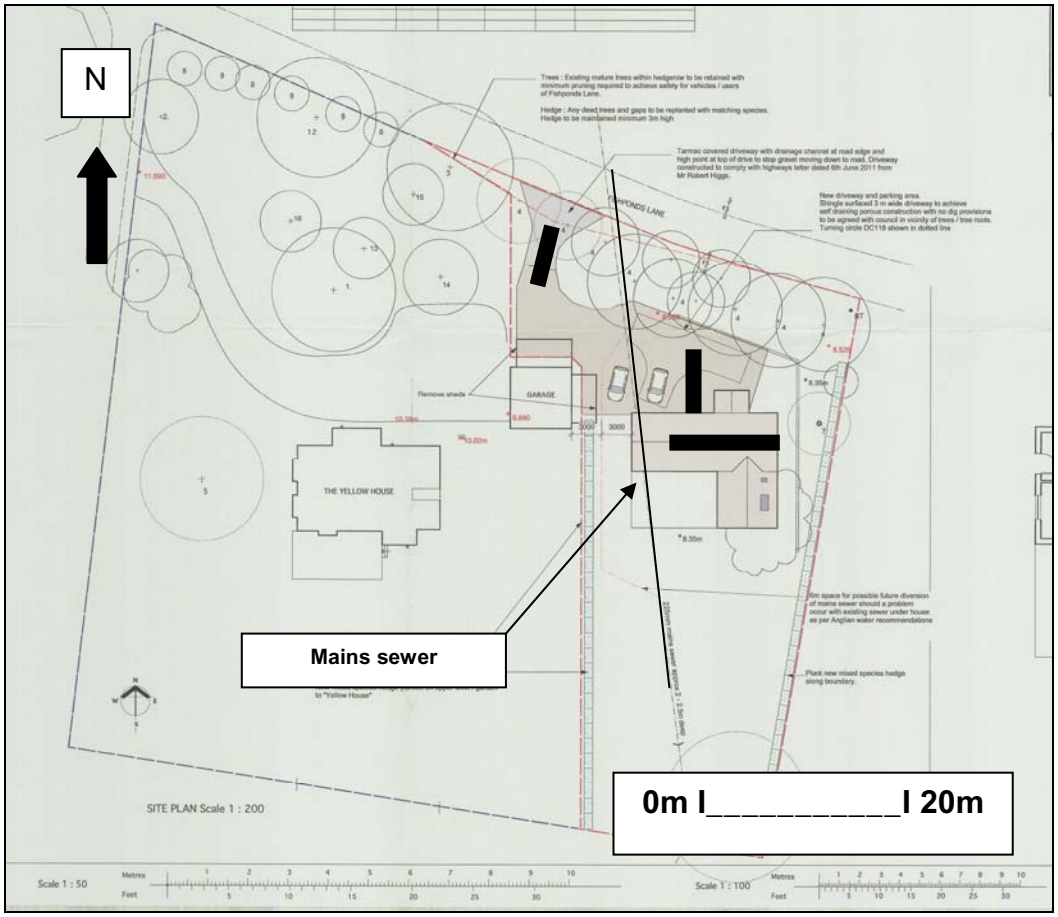
6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

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 (Freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)

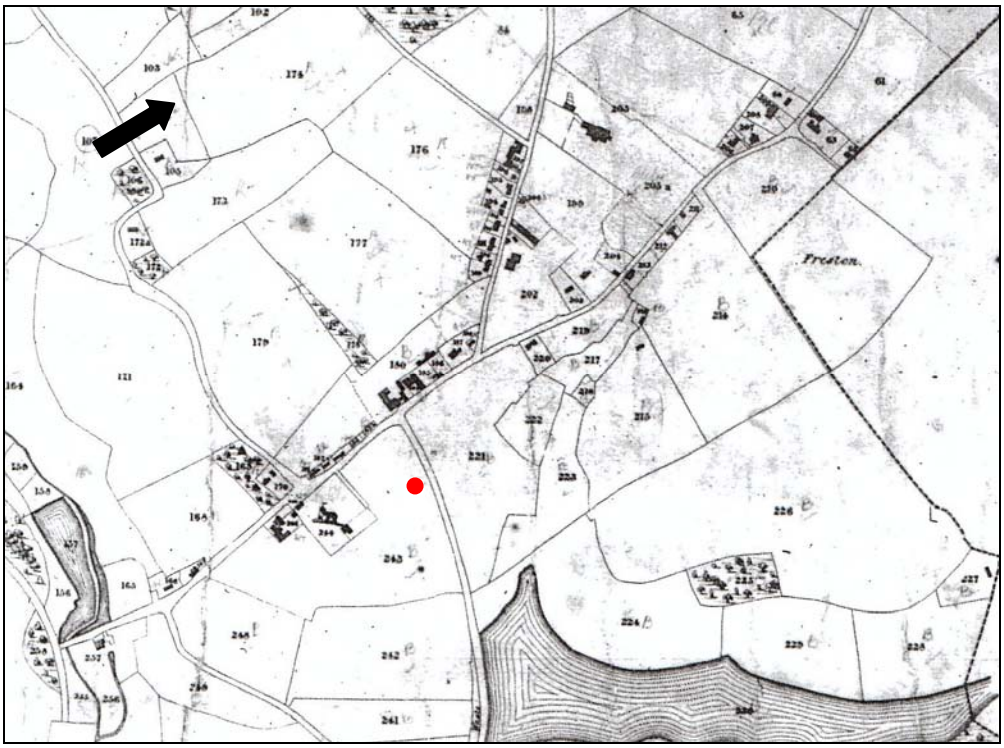
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Roman period small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Later IA & Roman period ceramics:	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



Proposed trial trenching

Appendix III- Historic Maps

(North as indicated, site- red dot)



Extract from Holbrook tithe map of 1840 (Suffolk RO ref. P461/132)