

**Erection of Conservatory, The Old Rising Sun,
7 Plough Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk**

Planning application: B/11/00590/FHA

HER Ref: SUY 108

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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Site details for HER

Name: The Old Rising Sun, 7 Plough Lane, Suffolk, CO10 2AU

Client: Mr T Crome & Ms P Hyndman

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/11/00590/FHA

Development: Erection of conservatory to rear of property

Date of fieldwork: 10 January, 2012

HER Ref: SUY 108

OASIS: johnnewm1-118939

Grid ref: TL 8700 4114

Conservation area

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Monitoring methodology
3. Results
4. The Finds
5. Conclusion

Table 1 Context list

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of conservatory to rear of property

Fig. 3 Plan of foundation trenches & section (Sue Holden)

List of appendices

Appendix I - Images of foundations

Appendix II - Brief & Specification

Appendix III - The Pottery (Sue Anderson)

Summary: Sudbury, The Old Rising Sun, 7 Plough Lane (SUY 108, TL 8700 4114) monitoring of foundation trenches for a small rear conservatory identified a large pit of possible medieval date in addition to a small group of unabraded pottery sherds of 11/12th to 13/14th century date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr T Crome & Ms P Hyndman).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Harcourt-Powell Chartered Surveyors on behalf of their clients, Mr T Crome & Ms P Hyndman, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application B/11/00590/FHA. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Mr K Wade of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). This development concerns the erection a rear conservatory to The Old Rising Sun, 7 Plough Lane, Sudbury (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Sudbury is a small town located on the River Stour and close to the county boundary with Essex in south Suffolk. The town has seen considerable expansion in the last 150 years with its historic core lying in a loop of the River Stour and as a settlement it has historic characteristics that indicate an urban status from the Late Saxon period which built on a Middle Saxon site of potentially high status centred on St Gregory's church. These urban characteristics including a market status recorded in the 11th century and the existence of a mint in the later Saxon and post-Conquest periods. Additionally the street pattern within the historic core of the town coupled with archaeological observations at various sites indicates a curved defence line of a large ditch and internal bank with Christopher Lane running along the inside of these defences and Friars Street on the outside. The Old Rising Sun, 7 Plough Lane, appears to be located immediately to the north of and within these defences though the exact line is unclear between the western end of Christopher Lane c50m to the east and the drop to the River Stour floodplain c150m to the west. The site is at c30m OD on what is generally an area of sand and gravels of glaciofluvial origin.

2. Monitoring methodology

2. A single visit was made to the site to observe the excavation of the foundations for the conservatory as they progressed using a small mini-digger equipped with a 500mm wide toothed bucket on a dry sunny day with good visibility. The foundation trenches were entered where possible to allow for closer inspection of the exposed soil profiles and hand cleaning of indistinct areas though most of the northern trench was too deep as outlined in section 3.1 below. Upcast spoil was stockpiled nearby allowing for a close inspection for stray finds before being removed from the site. The foundations were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 In total some 14m of 500mm wide foundation trench were examined along the northern, western and southern sides of the conservatory footprint with the eastern side planned to butt up against the rear of the house (see Fig. 2). The eastern and southern foundation trenches revealed the local glaciofluvial deposits at a depth of between 800/900mm and these proved to be a loose, yellow, sand with numerous small and medium flints as anticipated below 400mm of topsoil and 400-500mm of mid brown sandy subsoil. Apart from a modern pipe the only archaeological feature revealed in the monitoring was a large pit (0002) which covered much of the northern foundation trench (see Fig. 3). As noted above it was not possible to enter this trench and examine the upper and lower fills (0003 & 0004) due to the overall depth which

John Newman Archaeological Services

was 2m below the level of the garden of The Old Rising Sun and over 3m below the garden level of No 6 Plough Lane to the north. However no finds were visible in the section and all of the pottery sherds (0001) recovered from the upcast spoil came during the period when the northern foundation was being excavated.

Context	Type	Part of	Description	Spot date
0001	US	-	Unstratified finds from upcast spoil	med
0002	Pit	0002	Large pit in northern foundation trench, 3.80m wide & 2m deep (from top of glaciofluvial sand with flints)	?
0003	Fill	0002	Upper fill in 0002, mid brown sandy loam, no finds visible in section (recorded from ground level above)	
0004	Fill	0002	Lower fill in 0002, below 0003, mid brown sandy loam with lenses of dirty yellow sand with small flints, no finds visible in section	

Table 1: Context list

4. The Finds

4.1 A few pottery sherds were recovered from the upcast spoil as noted above; the full report by Sue Anderson on these finds is included as Appendix III below and the following summary can be given. In total four unabraded pottery sherds weighing 106g were recovered during the monitoring and all proved to be various types of common medieval coarse wares with an overall date range between the 11/12th and 13/14th century periods. The only other finds seen in the upcast spoil were small fragments of Post medieval tile or brick and occasional small 19th century glazed white and blue pottery sherds.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While due to the small scale of this conservatory development and limitations on detailed recording caused by the narrow and deep foundation trench through the one feature of interest some positive conclusions can be derived from this monitoring. The pit (0002) that was identified did not appear to be of recent date as what could be seen of the trench sections did not contain any visible Post medieval debris. In addition the four medieval pottery sherds recovered from the site came during the period when the trench with the pit was being excavated. Therefore it can be suggested that the single recorded feature was of medieval date as it can be associated with a small group of unabraded sherds of this date.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the limited nature of the monitored footings has had a minimal impact on the area of archaeological importance within the town though some useful, local topographic information has been recorded in addition to a feature of probable medieval date.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Mr T Crome & Ms P Hyndman and to everyone from Percy Brown Ltd for their close cooperation on site, to Sue Anderson for her specialist pottery report and to Sue Holden for her illustration work)

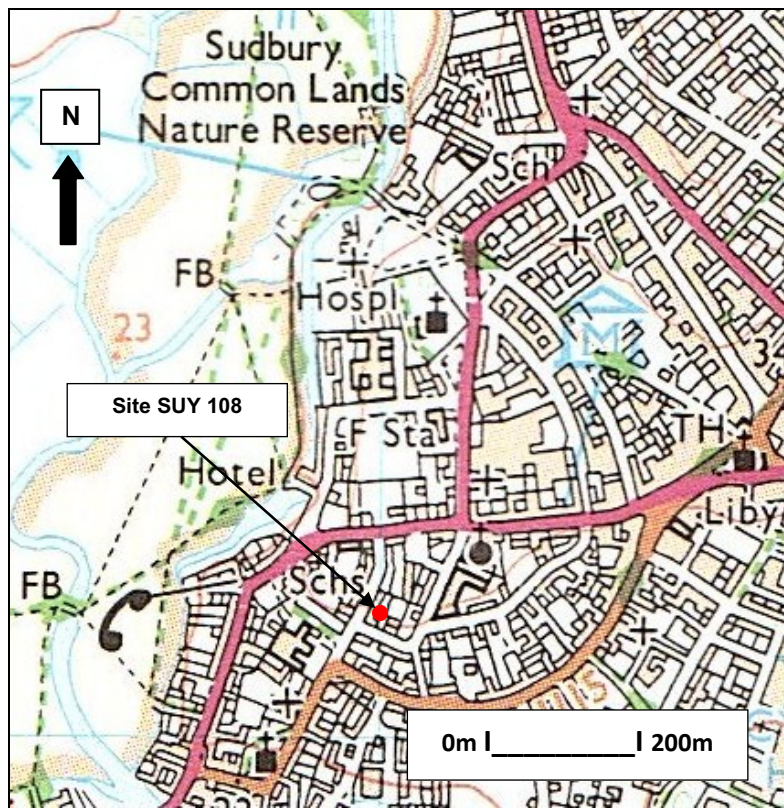


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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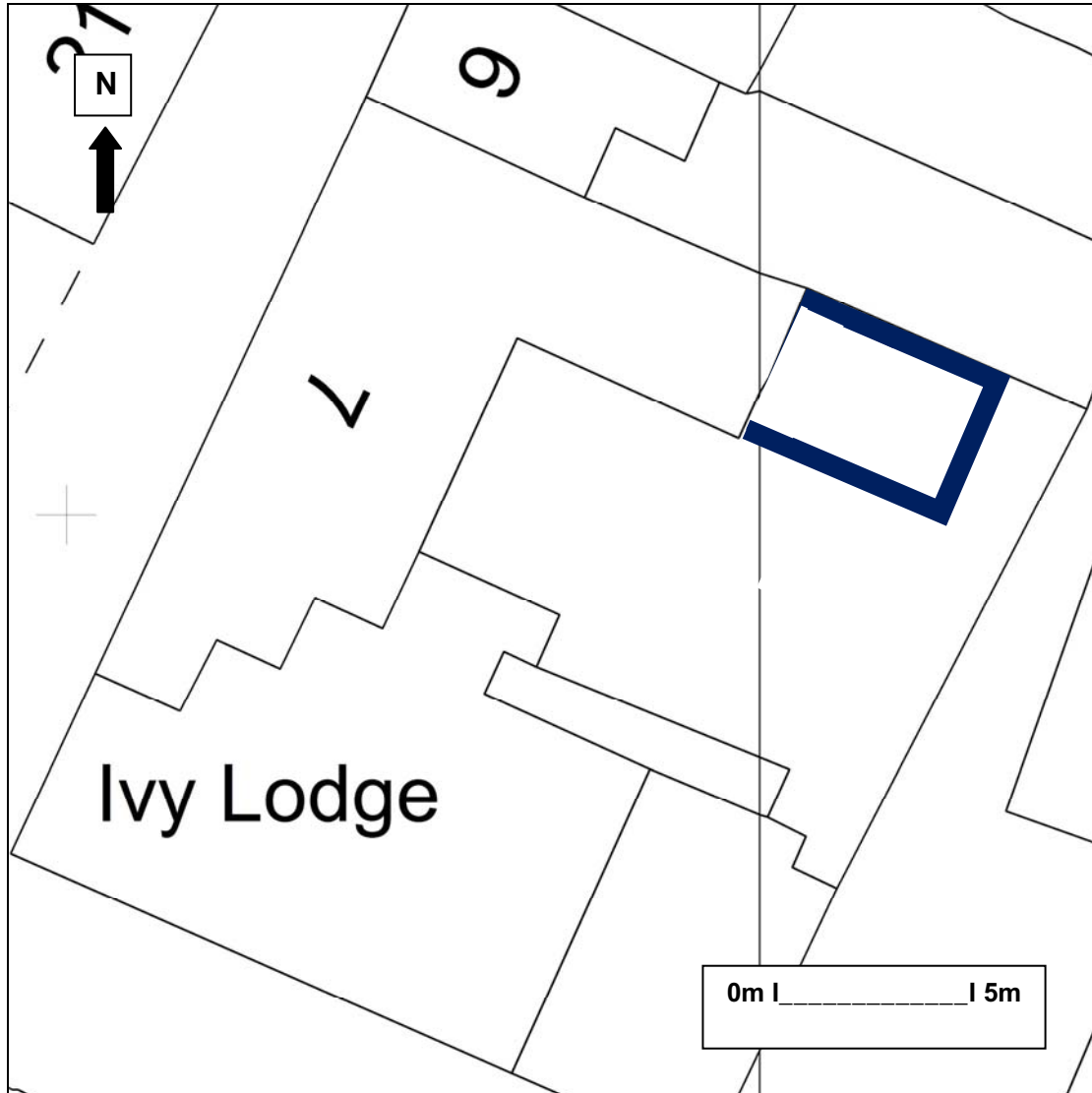


Fig. 2: Location of conservatory to rear of property
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2012 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

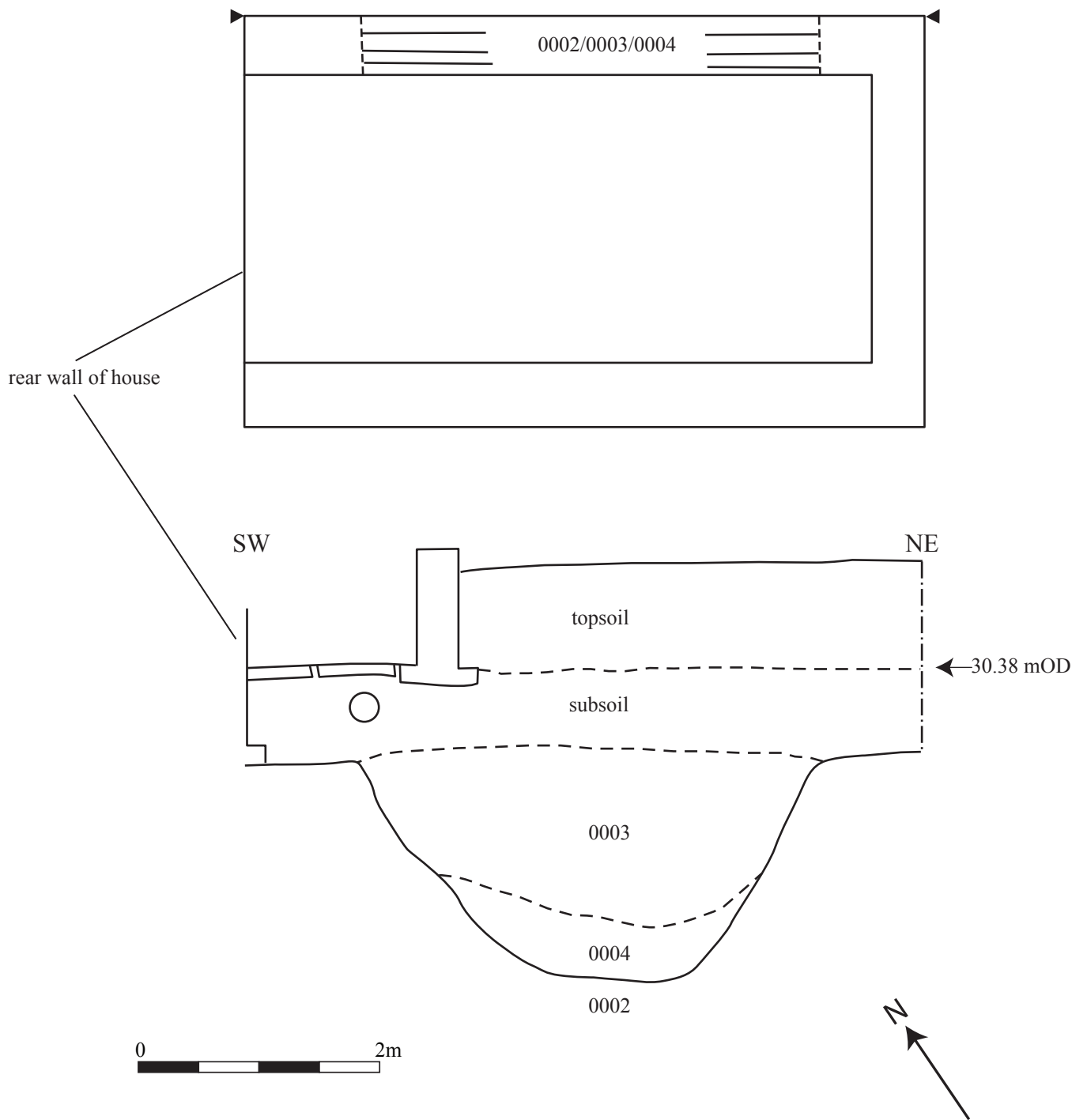


Fig. 3. Plan of foundation trenches and section.

Appendix I- Images



General view from south-east



Northern trench & pit 0002 from west



Northern trench & pit 0002 from south-west

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

Old Rising Sun, 7 Plough Lane, Sudbury

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a conservatory at the Old Rising Sun, 7 Plough Lane, Sudbury has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/11/00590/FHA). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of archaeological importance defined for medieval Sudbury in the *Babergh Local Plan* and will involve significant ground disturbance which could damage or destroy underlying heritage assets.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- 1.4 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

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

to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RX. Telephone: 01284 741227; Fax: 01284 741257) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. Specification

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

- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P L and Wiltshire, P E J, 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.8 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear

statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 If archaeological features or finds are found an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.6 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 29th July 2011

Reference: Old Rising Sun

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

Appendix III- The Pottery

The Old Rising Sun, 7 Plough Lane, Sudbury (SUY 108): the pottery

Sue Anderson, January 2012.

Four pottery sherds (106g) were recovered as unstratified finds (0001). The pottery quantification is shown in Table 1.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	EMW	1	16	base fragment, fine sandy with common mica, sooted	11th-12th c.
	MCWM	1	9	thickened everted rim of jar, possibly thumbled, 200mm diam, 5% complete, fine sandy greyware with abundant mica, slight abrasion,	12th-13th c.
	MCW	1	5	wedged rim of jar, 260mm diam, 5% complete, fine greyware with oxidised core, similar to Bury sandy fine ware,	13th-14th c.
	MCW	1	2	body sherd, medium sandy greyware with pimply texture to surface	12th-14th c.

Table 1. Pottery catalogue.

Key: EMW – early medieval ware; MCW – medieval coarseware; MCWM – medieval coarseware micaceous.

All sherds are of medieval date and are in fabrics and forms typical of south Suffolk. Unusually for a southern Suffolk site, neither of the rims is an Essex form, both being more similar to jar forms found in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. One sherd is highly micaceous but the form is not found in the Hedingham ware industry. Very few assemblages of medieval pottery from Sudbury have been studied in detail, but both Essex and Suffolk wares have been recovered from sites in the town, so it is likely that pottery was brought to the town from suppliers in north Essex as well as from markets elsewhere in Suffolk. Whether Sudbury had its own potteries has yet to be determined.

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.