

**Fourwinds, Ashen Lane,  
Stoke by Clare, Suffolk**

**Planning application: SE/11/1324**

**HER Ref: SBC 036**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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

(February 2012)

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

**Site details for HER**

Name: Fourwinds, Ashen Lane, Stoke by Clare, Suffolk CO10 8JA

Client: Mr & Mrs A Macciochi

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: SE/11/1324

Development: Erection of two dwellings following demolition of existing house

Date of fieldwork: 15 February 2012

HER Ref: SBC 036

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-119687

Grid ref: TL 7416 4335

Conservation area

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*Summary: Stoke by Clare, Fourwinds, Ashen Lane (SBC 036, TL 7416 4335) evaluation trenching at the site, adjacent to the parish church, of a small residential development did not reveal any archaeological features and very few stray finds save one small sherd of medieval pottery and occasional small fragments of Post medieval peg tile (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs A Macciochi).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Dean Jay Pearce Architectural Design & Planning on behalf of his clients, Mr & Mrs A Macciochi commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a small residential development of two dwellings on land at Fourwinds, Ashen Lane, Stoke by Clare; a 1950/60s house which is to be demolished. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application SE/11/1324, set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the footprints of the two planned dwellings and double garage. 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 Stoke by Clare is located on the River Stour, the county boundary between Essex and Suffolk, some 3 miles west of the small market town of Clare. The village has a largely linear settlement pattern along the main street, the A 1092 which forms the main road along the Stour valley, with the proposed development site being some 90m to the south on a minor road linking Stoke by Clare with Ashen (see Fig. 1). The site is 36m east of the parish church (HER SBC 014) with the associated garage structure for the planned dwellings being only 25m from the church in addition to being very close to the hedge forming the eastern boundary to the historic graveyard for the parish (see Fig. 2). While there is a suggestion (Scarfe, 1999) that the parish church of St John the Baptist at Stoke by Clare lies on the site of a mid-late Saxon minster (centre and 'mother church' for a larger surrounding area or *parochiae* later split up into the smaller parishes we know today) it has also been suggested that this minster was at the nearby market town of Clare (Wade, 1999). The site is flat and lies at c53m OD in an area where the local drift geology is largely made up of valley side sands and gravels interspersed with bands of silty sand and is partly occupied by the existing house or soft ground under grass to the front and rear.

1.3 Stoke College, formerly the site of Stoke Priory (HER SBC 012) which was an alien Benedictine house transferred from Clare in 1124 and from 1415 a college of secular canons, lies c140m south west of the planned development site. That this Benedictine house was originally at Clare until 1124 supports the suggestion that this small market town, and not the village of Stoke by Clare, was the location of the Saxon minster as noted in section 1.2 above. The boundary of the park land associated with Stoke Priory in this area is delineated by a substantial 18/19<sup>th</sup> century brick wall which also marks the southern edge of the garden surrounding Fourwinds. The area immediately to the south of the garden at Fourwinds within the park land around Stoke College (see Fig. 1- HER SBC 031) was evaluated to investigate its archaeological potential in 2003 (Meredith) and this trenching and related earthwork survey recorded one significant feature. This archaeological feature was a large ditch on a north-west/south-east orientation with an alignment running towards the south-western corner of the garden surrounding Fourwinds. The relevant evaluation report (ibid.) suggests that this 5m wide and 2m deep ditch marks the boundary to a possible deer park around Stoke Priory and a deer park is recorded within the parish in the period between 1400 and the very early 17<sup>th</sup> century (Hoppitt, 1999).

## 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed residential development and garage was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2) using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1.20m flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity. To achieve the required 20m of 1.80m wide trenches a T shaped trench with arms 7.5m long was opened over the area of plot 2 of the two planned dwellings in the back garden of Fourwinds with the remaining 5m of trench sampling the garage footprint. Plot 1 could not be examined as it largely coincides with the footprint of Fourwinds and its associated service runs but clearly it has already seen extensive disturbance since the 1950s. The total area of trench opened at 36m<sup>2</sup> representing a substantial sample of at least 25% of the combined footprints of plot 2 and the garage block.

2.2 The glaciofluvial deposits exposed in the base of the trenches, as outlined in the table below, was a silty orange sand with numerous small and medium sized flints and occasional pockets of silty yellow sand with few flints. The upcast spoil from the trenches was examined visually and detected for any finds as the work progressed. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under dry and sunny conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trenches was 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 & north/south	15	400	400 pale to mid brown silty sand	Silty orange sand with numerous small & medium sized flints & occasional pockets of silty yellow sand with few flints	-
2	East/west	5	400	400/500	As T1 above	-

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As noted in section 2.2 above site visibility is considered to have been good, however no archaeological features were identified with the base of both trenches revealing consistent deposits of the local glaciofluvial drift deposits.

3.3 Throughout the evaluation very few stray finds were noted in the upcast spoil with the few seen small Post medieval brick/tile fragments plus a small and abraded sherd (5g) of medieval coarseware from the subsoil in the north/south orientated part of trench 1.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 With such negative results with regard to past activity at this site it can only be concluded that while it is close to the medieval parish church and to the site of Stoke Priory the area examined was peripheral to the main areas of past settlement activity in the village. In all likelihood the area of this site has only been in use as agricultural land or orchard 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- Historic Maps).

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out on the proposed development site at Fourwinds, Ashen Lane, Stoke by Clare.

**Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. SBC 036.**

***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 Abby Antrobus at Suffolk CC for providing information relating to previous archaeological work within the village and to the machine driver from Pryke Builders for his skilful machine operation)***

### *References:*

*Hoppitt, R 1999 'Deer Parks 1086-c1600 AD' in An Historical Atlas of Suffolk, eds. Dymond D & Martin E, (revised edition)*

*Meredith, J 2003 'Proposed Development Area, Stoke College, Stoke by Clare- A Report on an Archaeological Evaluation (SCCAS Report No. 2003/34)*

*Scarfe, N 1999 'Domesday Churches' in An Historical Atlas of Suffolk (as above)*

*Wade. K 1999 'The Later Anglo-Saxon Period' in An Historical Atlas of Suffolk (as above)*

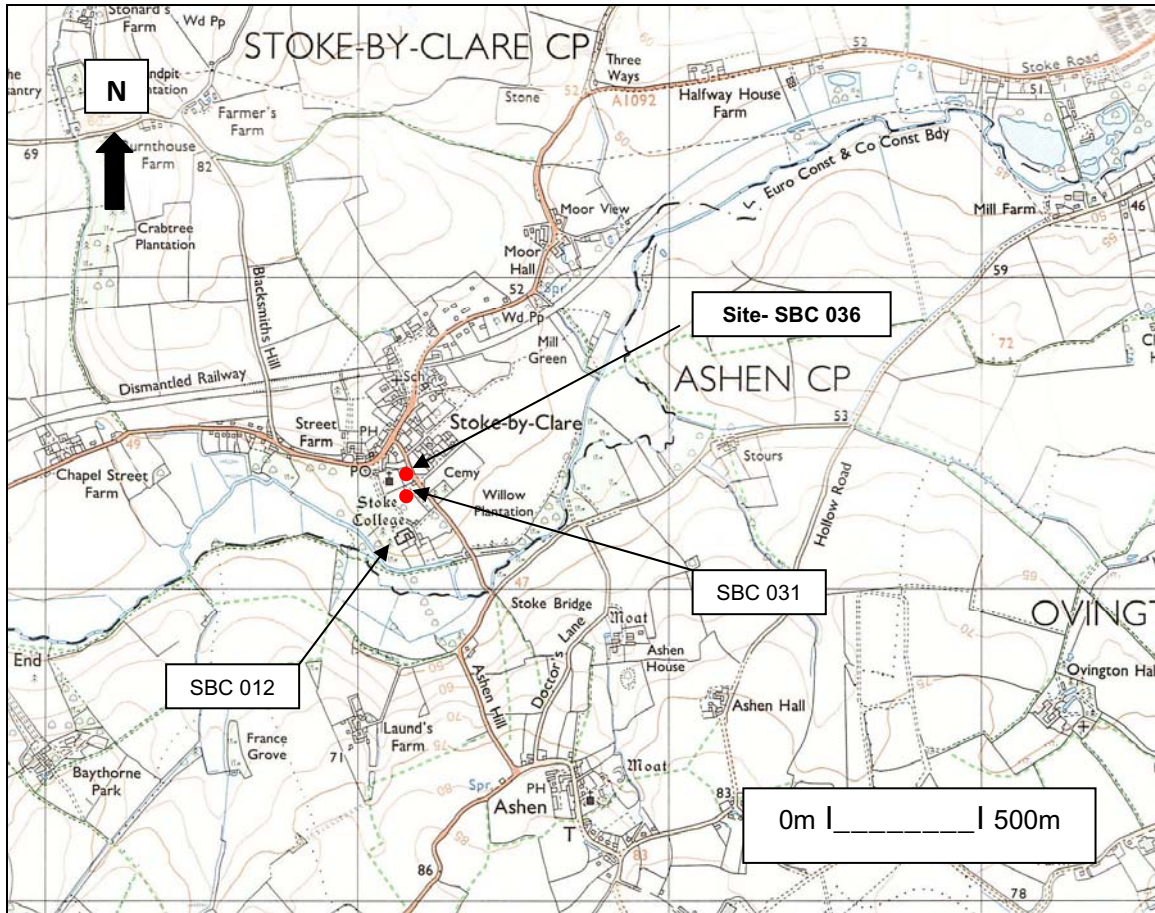


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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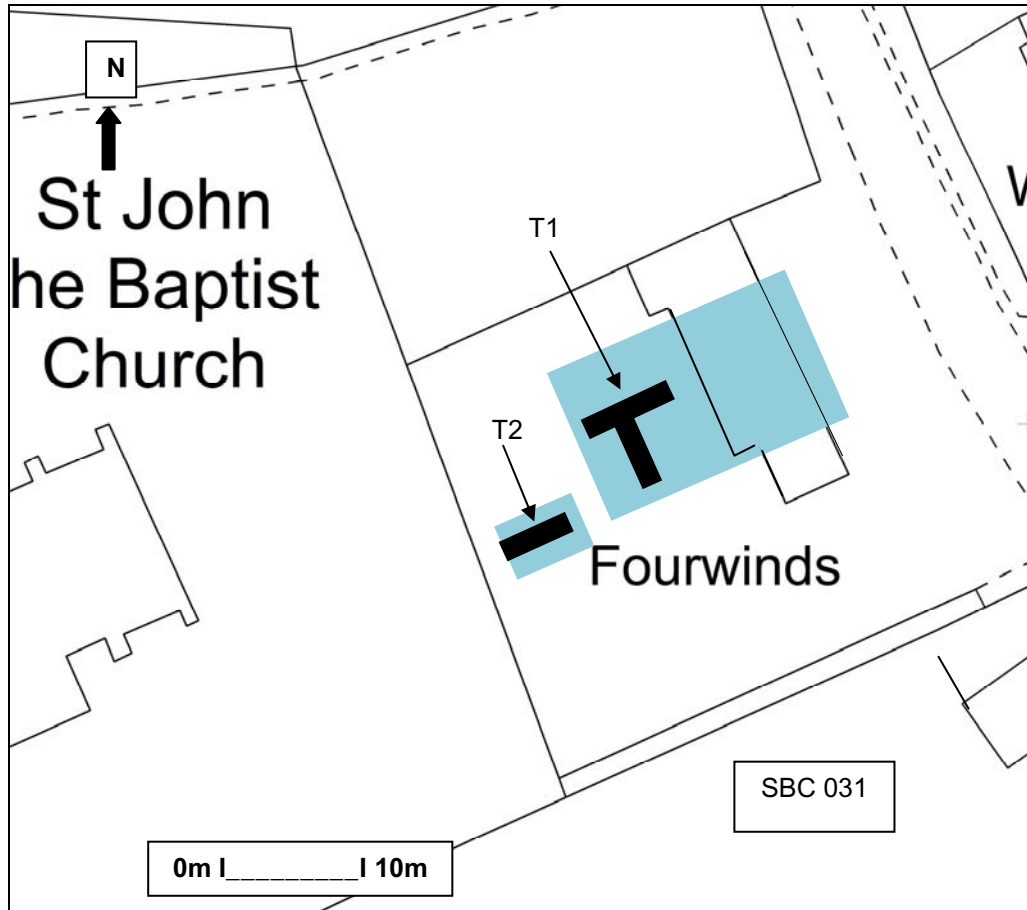


Fig. 2: Location of trenches (footprints for two dwellings & garages- light blue)  
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## Appendix I- Images



General view from east towards the church with trench 1 in foreground



General view from north with wall along boundary with Stoke College in background



Trench 1 from south-west



Trench 2 from south-west

**Fourwinds, Ashen Lane, Stoke by Clare,  
Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment  
& Evaluation**

## **Site details**

Name: Fourwinds, Ashen Lane, Stoke by Clare, Suffolk, CO10 8JA

Client: Mr & Mrs A Macciochi

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: SE/11/1324

Proposed development: Erection of 2 dwellings following demolition of existing bungalow

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: 2011\_11\_10\_SCCAS\_Arch\_Eval-by\_Condition\_Fourwinds\_Stoke by Clare

Grid ref: TL 741 433

Conservation area

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1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Dean Jay Pearce Architectural Design & Planning on behalf of their clients, Mr & Mrs A Macciochi, 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 SE/11/1324 and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) and Evaluation set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). In this case the need and level of DBA required will be based on the results from the trenched evaluation which will form the first part of the archaeological works. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the construction of 2 dwellings on land adjoining Ashen Lane, Stoke by Clare following the demolition of Fourwinds, the existing bungalow.

1.2 The DBA and 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 Stoke by Clare is located on the River Stour, the county boundary between Essex and Suffolk, some 3 miles west of the small market town of Clare. The village has a largely linear settlement pattern along the main street, the A 1092 which forms the main road along the Stour valley, with the proposed development site (PDS) being c90m to the south on a minor road linking Stoke by Clare with Ashen. The PDS is also c40m east of the parish church with the associated garage structure for the planned dwellings being only 25m from the church and very close to its boundary wall. Stoke College, formerly the site of Stoke Priory which was an alien Benedictine transferred from Clare in 1124 and from 1415 a college of secular canons, lies c140m south west of the PDS with the boundary of its associated park land running very close to the southern edge of the garden behind Fourwinds. The PDS is flat and lies at c54m OD in an area where the local drift geology is likely to be largely valley side sands and gravels and is partly occupied by the existing bungalow or soft ground under grass to the front and rear.

### 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposal to build two dwellings to replace an existing dwelling affects an area of archaeological potential, immediately to the east of the medieval church (County Historic Environment Record SBC 014), with park land belonging to Stoke Priory (SBC 012) lying immediately to the south. The proposed development area is not very clearly separated from the churchyard on 18th-19th century maps, and fronts onto the road. There is some potential for medieval burials in the area and there is also high potential for evidence relating to early settlement in this core area.... 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 later Saxon, medieval and earlier Post medieval settlement and related activities may exist close to a church recorded in the Domesday Book. In particular, as noted in section 3.1 above, the PDS falls within an area adjacent to a church and fronting a historic road line where for example, related activities and settlement may have taken place. In addition the possibility of burials associated with the nearby church extending into the PDS cannot be excluded. 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. In this case it is proposed that all of the required trenching be undertaken to the rear of the existing bungalow as only a small portion of the proposed footprints extends from what is now standing to the front and this area has clear evidence for existing drain runs.

### 5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for 2 residential dwellings and a garage block on what is c60% soft ground 40% under the existing bungalow. As noted in section 1.1 above the need for and level of DBA will be dependent on the results from the evaluation trenching. The DBA may therefore range from an examination of the publicly available

historic cartographic sources to a search in addition of documentary sources in the County Record Office by a historian specialising in local research. The County HER would also be consulted in more detail.

5.2 The Brief requires 20m of 1.8m wide trenching to sample the PDS and a proposed trenching plan is attached below. This will be undertaken using a 1m/1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver (due to restricted access to the site it is only possible to use a small 360 mini-digger). 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 to medium at this location as while the PDS is adjacent to the churchyard it is unusual for grave yards to shrink over time as they more normally expand).

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 be 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 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 and a dxf vector plan will be supplied of the trench locations.

### 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 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.

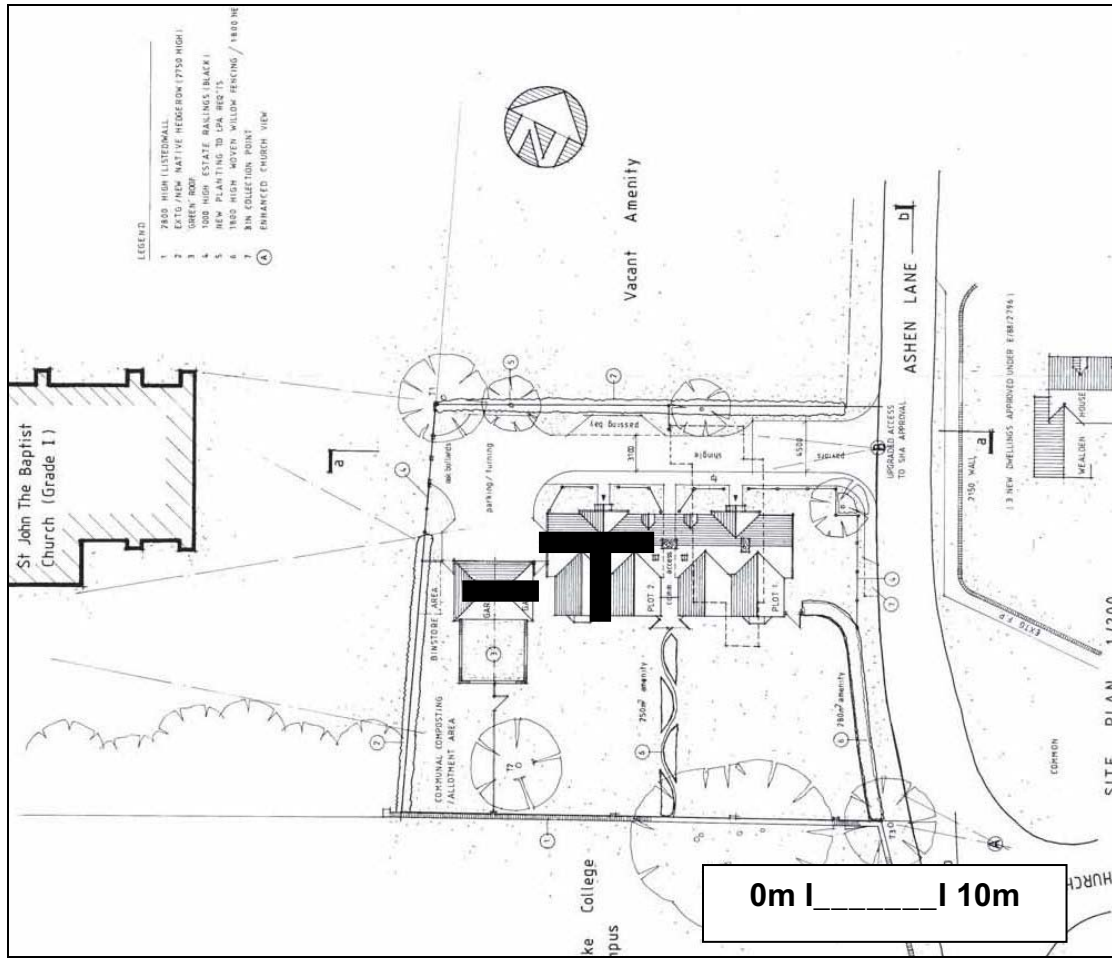
6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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### 7. Specialists

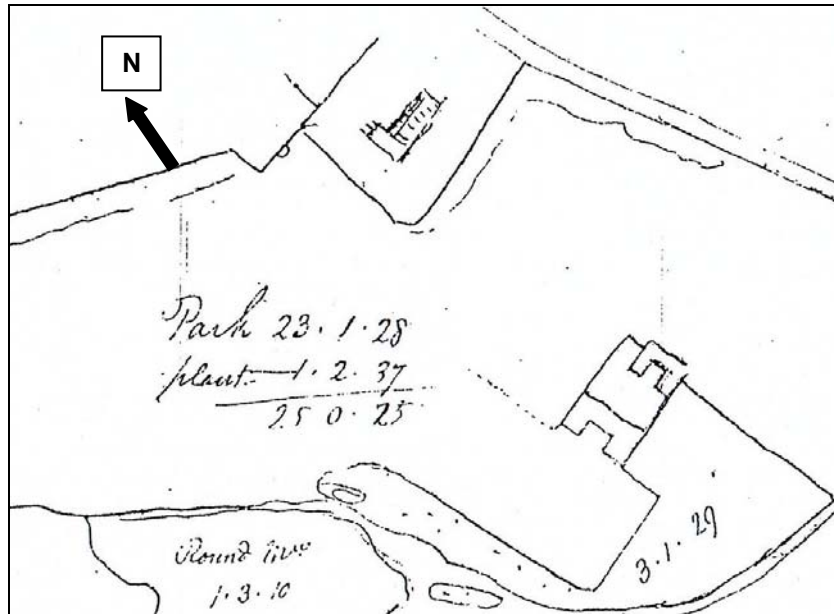
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Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Record Office research	A M Breen (Freelance)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	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



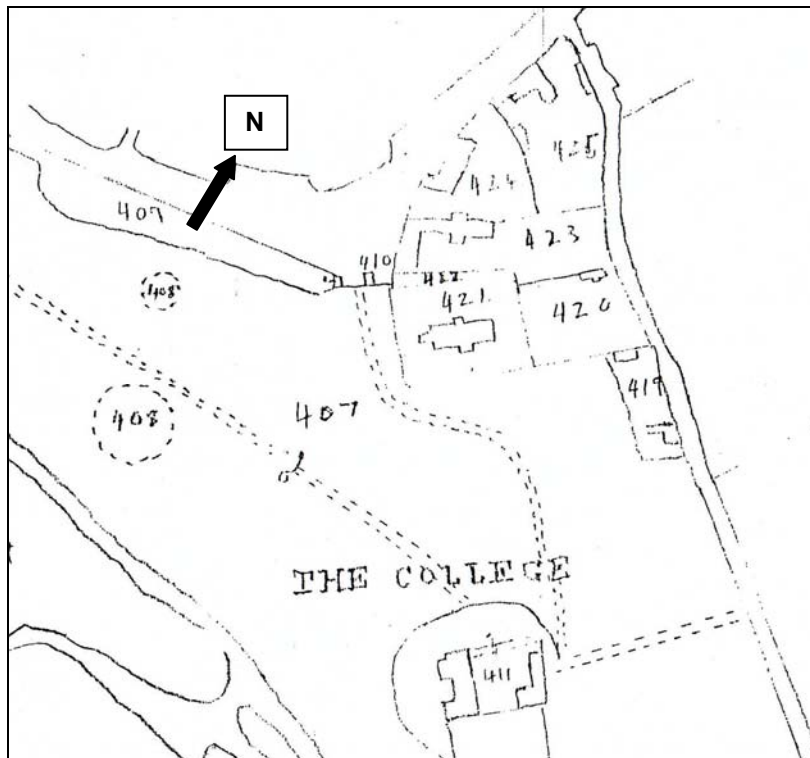
Proposed location of trial trenches

### Appendix III- Historic Maps

(Fourwinds to east of church)



Extract from 'Sketch of Church & College showing River Stour,' Isaac Johnson Collection, n.d.  
(Suffolk RO ref. HD11 475/498)



Extract from Stoke by Clare tithe map of 1840, site- plot 420  
(Suffolk RO ref. T144/1)

