

**Erection of Annexe Extension to Lavender Cottage,
The Street, Westhorpe, Suffolk**

Planning application: 3791/11

HER Ref: WTP 014

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(May 2012)

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Site details for HER

Name: Lavender Cottage, The Street, Westhorpe, Suffolk, IP14 4SU

Client: Mr M Shave

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 3791/11 (condition 4)

Development: Erection of rear annexe extension

Date of fieldwork: 22 March, 2012

HER Ref: WTP 014

Listed building ref: 1181342 (Grade II)

OASIS: johnnewm1-124950

Grid ref: TM 04739 69134

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Summary: Westhorpe, Lavender Cottage, The Street (WTP 014, TM 04739 69134) monitoring of foundation trenches for a rear annexe extension to a timber framed house of mid 16th date recorded one pit that was largely left in situ which is likely to be contemporary with the construction of the house and another, much larger, pit of recent date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr M Shave).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr L Andrews on behalf of his client, Mr M Shave, 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 3791/11. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and JNAS initially produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) to allow the ground works to go ahead. This development concerns the erection of a rear annexe extension to Lavender Cottage, The Street, Westhorpe (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Westhorpe parish is located some 8 miles north of Stowmarket on the gently rolling boulder clay Till plateau of north central Suffolk. Historically as mapped by Hodkinson in 1783 the village settlement pattern was of a linear type arranged along the main street between the parish church at the western end and The Green at the eastern end. Lavender Cottage, a Grade II listed, timber framed, building of mid 16th century date with alterations is located c380m east of the church and somewhat closer to The Green to the west. The ground drops gently away to the south-east with Lavender Cottage being at 52m OD in an area with no obvious natural water sources with past settlement probably relying on wells and small, local, springs. Soils in this part of mid Suffolk are typically heavy being derived from the underlying boulder clay Till deposits.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this site was generated by its relatively close proximity to a finds scatter of Roman, Saxon and medieval date indicative of multi-period settlement and related activities (HER WTP 006). As noted above Lavender Cottage is also a listed building of early Post medieval date with good potential for earlier, medieval period, occupation at the same site fronting onto The Street.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The excavation work for the foundations of the extension was observed over a single day as a mini-digger equipped with a 500mm bucket excavated the footing trenches. It was possible to enter all of the trenches as the ground works progressed and investigate any indistinct areas on what was a dry and sunny day. In addition the upcast spoil could be examined as it was placed directly into a trailer before being removed from the site. The area of the ground works was 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 The footprint for the rear annexe extension (see Fig. 2) covered an area of c64m² and a total of 33m of 500mm wide and 1100mm deep trench were excavated (see Fig. 3). Close to the rear wall of Lavender Cottage the deposit profile was made up of 400mm of topsoil containing variable amounts of Post medieval brick and tile debris and occasional 19th century, or later, pottery and glass sherds over 300/400mm of a mid brown clayey subsoil with the latter deposit also containing small fragments of Post medieval brick and tile though at a lower density. At a point some 4m north of the rear wall of Lavender Cottage the topsoil and subsoil deposits became markedly cleaner and contained only occasional, small fragments of Post

medieval brick and tile and both decreased in depth to 250mm and 200mm respectively. Throughout all of the footing trenches the exposed, naturally occurring Till deposits at the site proved to be a pale yellowish brown clay with flints and small chalk fragments at a depth of 800mm adjacent to Lavender Cottage and 450mm towards the northern edge of the extension footprint.

3.2 Two archaeological features were identified during the monitoring works (see Table 1 below and Figs. 3 & 4). The more interesting feature can be identified as a pit (0002) located 3m north of the rear wall of Lavender Cottage. This feature was 1500mm in diameter and approximately circular in plan and it lay under the top and subsoil deposits in the relevant part of the footing trench with its fill (0003) clearly continuing below the full depth of 1100mm within the trench. Therefore only some 300mm of this pit type feature was disturbed by the machine with the remainder being left in situ and the hand investigation of this feature was restricted to trowelling clean the trench sides and base which fortunately allowed one pottery sherd to be recovered. The second feature identified was what appeared to be a large pit (0004) which extended over the north-western quarter of the extension footprint and whose depth exceeded the 1100mm depth of the trenches. As the fill (0005) of this large pit type feature contained brick and tile fragments of later Post medieval date little further investigation work was carried out.

Context	Type	Part of	Finds (F)	Description	Finds/comments
0001	U/S	0001	F	Stray finds from upcast spoil	Later Pmed brick & tile frags, 19 th & 20 th century pottery & glass sherds (not retained)
0002	Pit	0002		Pit identified below top & subsoil 3m north of cottage, 1500mm diam. Bottom not seen in 1100mm deep trench	
0003	Fill	0002	F	Fill of 0002, mid grey/brown silty sand, seen in trench base & sides	Single base sherd LMT ware & a few small baked clay fragments, date 15/16 th C
0004	Pit	0004		Large pit type feature covering NE quarter of extension footprint, 1100mm+ deep	
0005	Fill	0005	F	Fill of 0004, mid to dark brown clayey loam	Contained brick & tile frags of late Pmed/20 th C date (not retained)

Table 1- Archaeological contexts identified (see Figs. 3 & 4)

4. The Finds

4.1 The only pottery sherd of significance from the site was recovered from the exposed fill (0003) of the pit (0002) identified in the base of the footing trench close to Lavender Cottage. This is a base sherd weighing 30g of late medieval and transitional ware (LMT) with a hard fired sandy fabric, oxidised exterior, reduced core and green glaze on the inside. Such LMT wares are dated to the mid 15th – late 16th century period (Jennings, 1981, 61). The only other finds from this pit fill (0003) were 4 small fragments of baked clay weighing 20g. The only other feature (0004)

identified at this site revealed only 19th- 20th century brick and tile fragments from its fill (0005).

4.2 A few finds were noted in the upcast spoil from the site consisting of a variety of later Post medieval and 20th century domestic debris and building debris of a similar date.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While the monitoring did not record any evidence for activity at this site in the medieval period one pit (0002) that is likely to be contemporary with the original construction of Lavender Cottage in the 16th century is of interest. It was also noteworthy that a large proportion of the northern part of the extension footprint had been disturbed in the recent past by the excavation of a large pit (0004).

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the construction of this extension while within an area with potential to contain heritage assets has caused little disturbance to significant archaeological deposits.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Mr M Shave for his close cooperation throughout the monitoring works and to Sue Holden for preparing Figs 3 & 4)

Reference

Jennings, S 1981 'Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich' (East Anglian Archaeology 13)

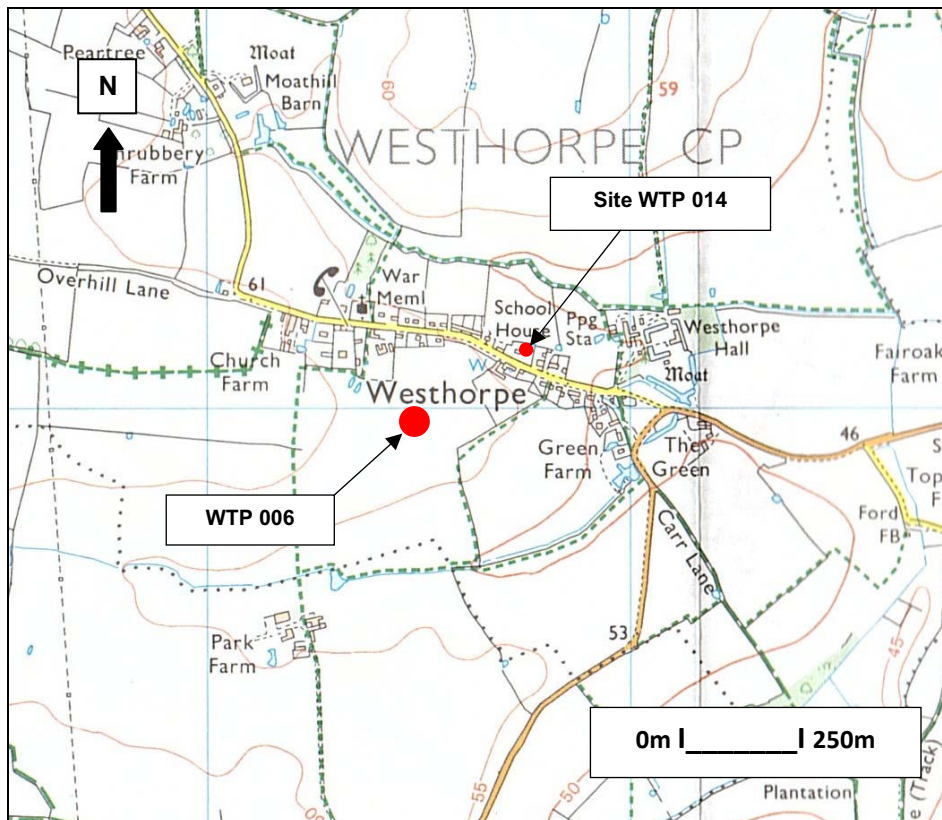


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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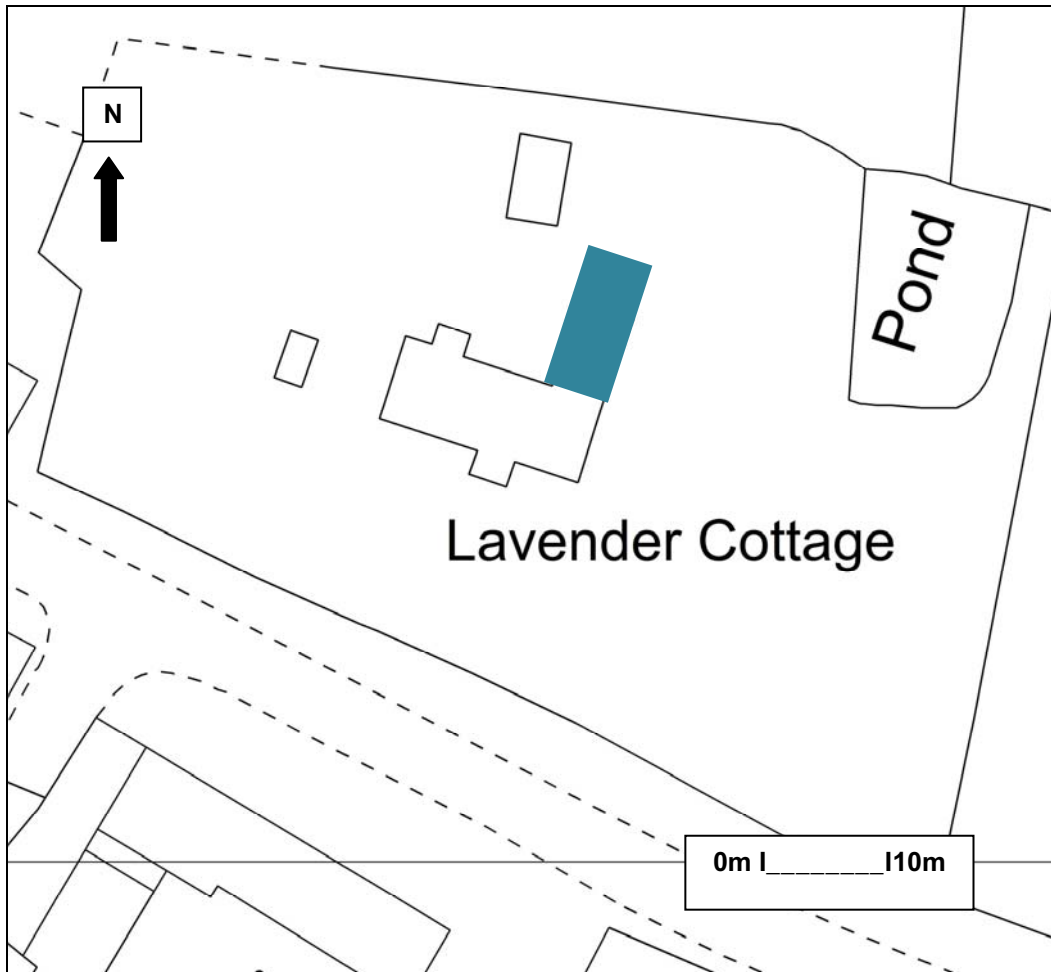


Fig. 2: Location of monitored ground works (extension footprint- blue)
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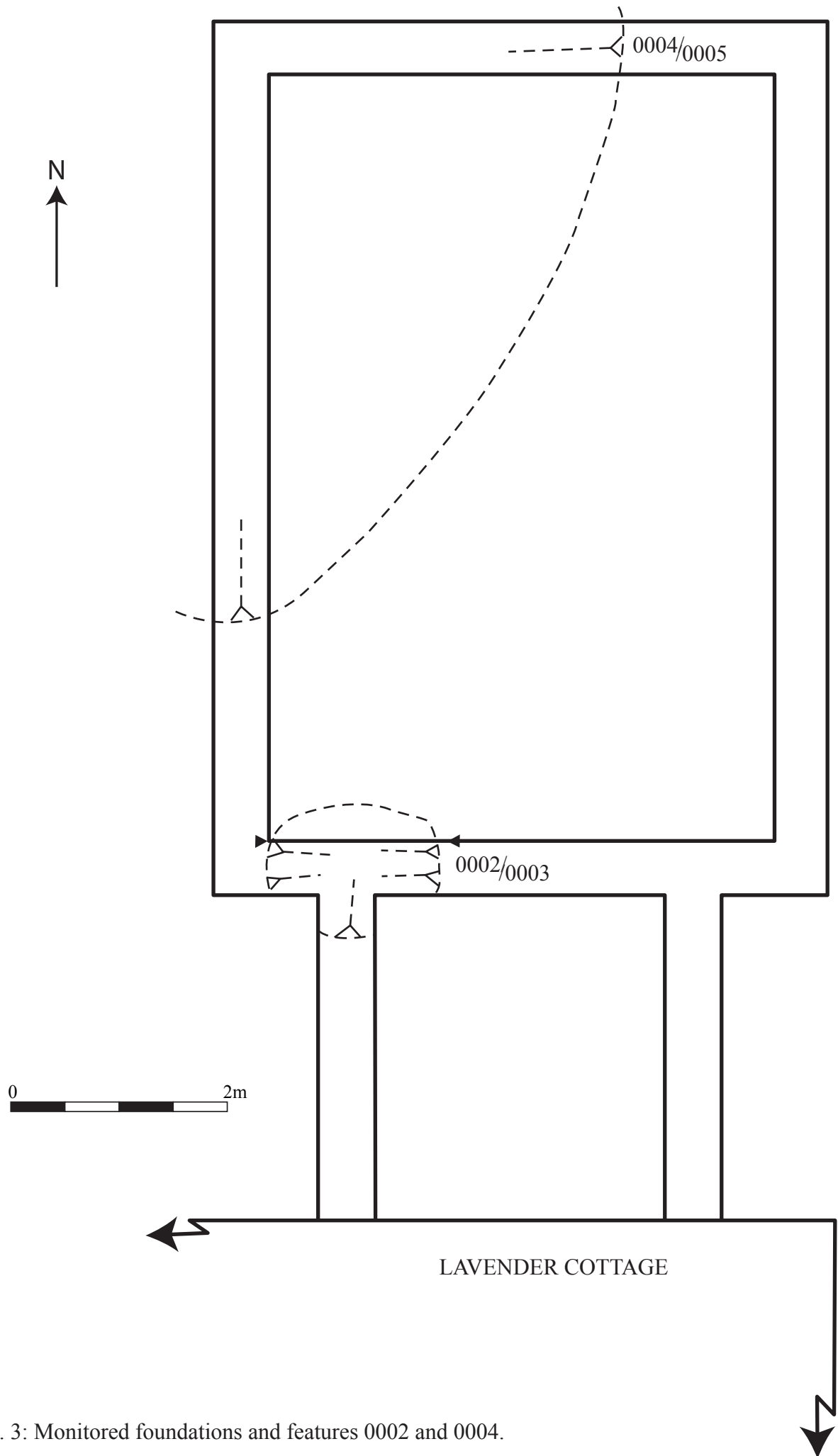


Fig. 3: Monitored foundations and features 0002 and 0004.

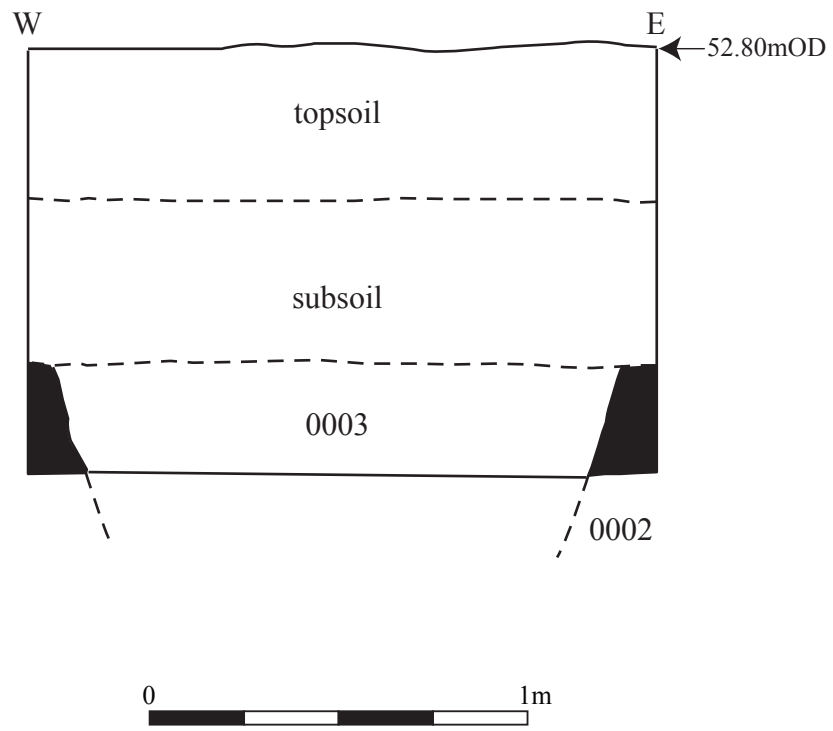


Fig. 4. Section of foundation trench and feature 0002 (shading - natural clay).

Appendix I- Images



The rear of Lavender Cottage from north-east



Footing trench showing house foundations



View along western trench through pit 0004

**Erection of Annexe Extension to Lavender
Cottage, The Street, Westhorpe, Suffolk**

Planning application: 3791/11

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Monitoring**

Site details

Name: Lavender Cottage, The Street, Westhorpe, Suffolk, IP14 4SU

Client: Mr Shave

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 3791/11

Proposed development: Erection of annexe extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief & Specification ref: 2012_03_14_SCCAS_Archaeological Monitoring
Brief_Lavender Cottage

Grid ref: TM 04739 69134

Listed building ref: 1181342

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Monitoring
5. Methodology
6. Risk Assessment
7. Specialists

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr L Andrews on behalf of his client, Mr Shave, has 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 3792/11. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of an annexe extension to Lavender Cottage, The Street, Westhorpe.

1.2 The monitoring 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)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Westhorpe parish is located some 8 miles north of Stowmarket on the gently rolling boulder clay Till plateau of north central Suffolk. Historically as mapped by Hodskinson in 1783 the village settlement pattern was of a linear type arranged along the main street between the parish church at the western end and The Green at the eastern end. Lavender Cottage, a Grade II listed, timber framed, building of mid 16th century date with alterations lies c380m east of the church and somewhat closer to The Green to the west. The ground drops gently away to the south-east with Lavender Cottage being at c55m OD in an area with no obvious natural water sources and past settlement probably relying on wells and small, local, springs. Soils in this part of mid Suffolk are typically heavy being derived from the underlying Till deposits.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief:

‘This application, for the erection of an annex extension, lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds scatters are recorded immediately to the south of the site (HER no. WTP 006). There is high potential for encountering medieval, and earlier, occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works

would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.'

3.2 The Brief then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording as ground works progress by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential where evidence for Roman, Saxon and medieval period deposits in particular might be found and continuous monitoring of ground works as they progress can best record what may be revealed. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to depth of overburden and evidence, character and date of any past activity that is revealed with the primary aim of gaining more information relating to past activity in this location within the historic settlement area of the village and close to a multi-period artefact scatter indicative of Roman, Saxon and medieval period activity.

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be strip foundations. The excavation of the strip foundations will be observed as they are excavated and any up cast spoil examined for finds. Notice of ground works starting and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to hand clean sections as necessary and investigate any possible archaeological deposits within the foundation trenches.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of 'observable phenomena' (OPs) under an overall site HER number supplied by Suffolk CC. 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 with the monitored footings shown. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the

constraints of the trench foundations with sections recorded related to the trench sides, if possible, and with levels OD. Even if no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land use and topography in the town. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains which would incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (the potential of this site to contain burials is assessed as being low).

5.4 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological 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 SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

5.5 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2) and particularly Appendix 3 and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. As necessary the site digital archive will deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.6 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 4) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring

and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 2 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). An unbound draft copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided plus another for the County HER, a copy will be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project 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 dxf type vector plan of the area examined will be supplied for inclusion into the County HER map 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 contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and 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 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and any ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

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

6.5 Deep holes/trenches going below c1.30m will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

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

7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Roman period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-124950

Project details

Project name	Lavender Cottage, The Street, Westhorpe, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Westhorpe, Lavender Cottage, The Street (WTP 014, TM 04739 69134) monitoring of foundation trenches for a rear annexe extension to a timber framed house of mid 16th date recorded one pit that was largely left in situ which is likely to be contemporary with the construction of the house and another, much larger, pit of recent date.
Project dates	Start: 22-03-2012 End: 22-03-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WTP 014 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	1181342 - LBS No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK WESTHORPE Lavender Cottage, The Street
Postcode	IP14 4SU
Study area	64.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TM 04739 69134 52.2816599288 1.001850355140 52 16 53 N 001 00 06 E
Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 52.00m Max: 53.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation John Newman Archaeological Services

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator John Newman

Project director/manager John Newman

Project supervisor John Newman

Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Landowner

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service

Digital Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service

Paper Contents 'Ceramics'

Paper Media available 'Plan','Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Lavender Cottage, The Street, Westhorpe, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Newman, J

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher John Newman Archaeological Services

Place of issue or publication Henley, Suffolk

Description Loose bound client report

Entered by John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Entered on 14 May 2012

OASIS:

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