

**Farm Reservoir at Rushmere Hall,
Rushmere, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/11/0805/AGO
(Agricultural notification)

HER Ref: RMR 014

Archaeological Evaluation & Excavation Report

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(August 2012)

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Site details for HER

Name: Farm reservoir to north-west of Rushmere Hall, Rushmere, Suffolk, NR33 8ET

Client: Mr H Budgen

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/11/0805/AGO (agricultural notification)

Development: Farm reservoir

Date of fieldwork: 31 October–4 November, 2011 (eval.) & 12–14 March, 2012 (exc.)

HER Ref: RMR 014

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-132657

Grid ref: TM 4898 8762

Site area: 2.38ha

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Summary: Rushmere, site to north-west of Rushmere Hall (RMR 014, TM 4898 8762) evaluation trenching in 2011 at the site of a proposed agricultural reservoir close to a recorded scatter of Roman period pottery sherds recorded two small ditches dated by pottery finds to the earlier Roman period and a small complex of quarry pits which follow-up excavation work in 2012 confirmed as being of Post medieval date though containing residual Roman period finds. The area of the two ditches identified in the evaluation was also examined in more detail in 2012 with the stripping of an area of some 960m² allowing further investigation of these features though no more features were revealed. The pottery assemblage recovered from the site included a moderate number of samian sherds in addition to more locally produced wares, but no evidence of any Iron Age period activity and only two or three of the latter type hinting at 3rd or 4th century activity. However a metal detector search did recover two copper alloy coins of 4th century date from an area just to the south of the proposed reservoir site in addition to a copper alloy 'bell-stud' type terminal. Very few post Roman period finds were recovered from the site with the bulk of this group being of Post medieval date and indicative of the site being peripheral to any nearby areas of more intense medieval or later activity (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr H Budgen).



General view of site from north- trench 10 in foreground, Hundred River valley in background and Rushmere Hall to left

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr H Budgen commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a proposed farm reservoir on land to the north-west of Rushmere Hall, Rushmere (see Fig. 1) following consultation prior to an agricultural notification being submitted to the LPA for these works. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the c75% by area part of the proposed site not already in use as slurry lagoons. The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to inform further advice to the local planning authority with regard to this proposed reservoir development.

1.2 Following the evaluation trenching a final stage of archaeological works at the site was then deemed necessary prior to any other ground works commencing as two of the trenches, numbers 3 and 11 (see Fig. 2), revealed evidence of past activity of definite and probable Roman date respectively. A further Brief, in this case for a programme of 'Strip, Map and Sample' (SMS), was therefore issued by Dr A Antrobus targeting the relevant trenches noted above and a related WSI (see Appendix III) was submitted by JNAS before this second stage of archaeological site works was successfully completed enabling the proposed reservoir construction to go ahead following the subsequent harvesting of crop on the area concerned. This report covers both the evaluation phase and follow-up excavation (SMS) phase of the site works with the relevant detailed finds (Appendix IV) and environmental reports (Appendix V) fully integrating the results from both phases of fieldwork. In addition as part of the related metal detector survey related to both phases of the archaeological site works some coverage went beyond the southern limit to the proposed reservoir where previous monitoring works related to the existing slurry lagoons had identified a surface scatter of Roman period pottery sherds (HER RMR 009).

1.3 Rushmere is located in north-east Suffolk some 5 miles south-west of Lowestoft. The parish is sparsely populated with a dispersed settlement pattern characteristic of much of rural East Anglia with the Hundred River forming its southern boundary. The proposed reservoir site is c500m north-west of Rushmere Hall and 300m north of the Hundred River at c10m OD on an area with a gentle, north/north-westerly facing, aspect. As described by the *Soil Survey of England and Wales* the soils at the site area are 711r *Beccles 1 series* (fine loam over clay) and 551f *Newport 3 series* (sand and coarse loams) and test pitting for the proposed reservoir in general revealed 350mm of topsoil over 350m to 1500mm of 'light brown to grey clay subsoil with flints.' A few sandy pockets were also noted and information from the landowner confirms a largely clay area, and hence its suitability as a reservoir site, with some areas of lighter subsoils in the south-eastern quarter of the area concerned. At the time of the evaluation and SMS works the south-western quarter of the proposed 140m x 170m reservoir site was in use as an area of existing 72m x 78m slurry lagoons and bunds with the remainder being arable land (see Fig. 2, lagoons called 'reservoir' by OS). Information from the landowner also indicated the presence of a recently filled-in pond in the north-eastern quarter of the proposed site and the location of this large feature was confirmed during the evaluation trenching.

1.4 Archaeological interest in the area of the proposed reservoir was in part generated by the size of the development, which is 2.38 hectares of which c0.60 hectare has already been disturbed by the existing lagoons, and in part by its topographic location overlooking a major river valley where evidence for past activity might be anticipated. This perceived potential of the site is also supported by existing archaeological records for the area concerned as while no systematic survey work has been carried out as noted above a surface scatter of Roman period pottery sherds (HER RMR 009) has been identified close to the southern edge of the reservoir site. However monitoring of ground works for the lagoons did not reveal any finds or features though the stripped surface was recorded as being partially obscured by subsoil deposits. In the more general area of the proposed reservoir site past activity is further evidenced by sites of various periods recorded on aerial photographs including a ring ditch in the area of marks indicative of a past field system (HER RMR 002/3) to the east (see Fig. 1).

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed farm reservoir was trenched on a grid basis to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2). This trenching was undertaken using a large 360 machine equipped with a 1.80m wide flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity. As originally planned eight of the trenches were to be 50m long with trench 4 at 40m and the remaining two (trenches 9 & 10) being 30m in length giving a linear measure of 500m or 900m² (5% by area) of the 17800m² of the site excluding the lagoons. However due to the presence of the filled-in pond in the north-eastern quarter of the site trenches 5 and 6 were reduced in length once the northern, southern and eastern limits of this pond had been identified (see Fig. 2) while trench 2 encountered the western edge of the pond at its full, 50m, length. Finally trench 11 was lengthened by some 4m, to 54m, at its western end to clarify an area of features later identified as quarry pits. The total length of trench opened was therefore 433m or, by area, 779.4m² (or c 4.8% of the reservoir site not already disturbed by the lagoons or filled-in pond).

2.2 The glaciofluvial deposits exposed in the base of the trenches 1 to 8 at a depth of 350/500mm, as outlined in the table below, proved to be a stiff, pale grey to yellow clay with small and medium flints and small fragments of chalk typical of the East Anglian Till deposits. As anticipated from local knowledge regarding the site trenches 9, 10 and the eastern half of trench 11 revealed glaciofluvial deposits comprising a silty orange sand with flints while the western half of trench 11 ran back into the stiff clays seen across the northern half of the site.

2.3 The base of the trenches and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any finds as the work progressed and any indistinct areas or potential features were investigated by hand. In addition the area between the trenches and a c30/40m area to the south of trench 11 and the lagoons was visually scanned and searched for non-ferrous finds with the site as a whole being bare earth following the recent lifting of a sugar beet crop. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under generally dry and sunny conditions. All recording within the trenches was done at 1:50 in plan and 1:20 in section. The trench locations and absolute levels adjacent to archaeological features were secured using a GPS on

the Leica Smartnet system. Identified archaeological features were hand sectioned (1m length for linear features) and bulk samples taken. As the evaluation progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works.

3. Evaluation results

3.1 In this case the overall results are most easily summarised as in the table below as nine of the eleven trenches did not contain any features of archaeological interest (see also Fig. 2-5 & Appendix VI- context list):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/ natural features & finds
1	Northwest/ southeast	50	300	50 of a mid brown clay subsoil with flints	Stiff pale grey to yellow clay with small & medium flints & occasional pockets of yellow sandy clay	–
2	Northeast/ southwest	50	300	100 as T1	As T1	Eastern end revealed edge of filled-in pond
3	Northeast/ southwest	50	300	100 as T1	As T1	Small ditch 0002/0003, larger ditch 0004/0005 & natural feature 0006/0007
4	Northeast/ southwest	40	300	150 as T1	As T1	–
5N & 5S	North-south	4 & 16	300	150 as T1	As T1	Northern & southern edges of filled-in pond revealed
6	Northeast/ southwest	9	300	200 as T1	As T1	Eastern end of filled-in pond revealed
7	North-south	50	300	200 as T1	As T1	–
8	Northeast/ southwest	50	300	50 as T1	As T1	–
9	Northeast/ southwest	30	300	100 mid brown sandy clay	Silty orange sand with flints	–
10	North/south	30	300	100 as T9	As T9	–
11	Northeast/ southwest	54	300	100 as T9	As T9 for eastern half to pale grey clay in western half	Probable extraction pits 0010/0011 & 0012/0013
Total		433				By area 779.4m ²

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As outlined in table 1 above archaeological features were only revealed in trench 3, which was directly to the north of the existing lagoons, and trench 11 to the east of the lagoons. Ceramic and stoned field drains were noted in various trenches but these were all of recent date.

3.3 The two ditches in trench 3 ran on approximately parallel alignments though were very different in character. While the southern ditch (0002) was only 300mm

wide and 100mm deep with a relatively charcoal rich fill (0003) the northern one (0004) was much larger at 700mm wide and 300mm deep and with a fill (0005) that appeared to be less productive with regard to charred remains. Though different in character it was immediately clear that both ditches dated to the Roman period. One other feature (0006) with a clean pale grey/brown silty fill (0007) was identified on the southern edge of trench 3; this feature was subsequently confirmed as being a frost wedge created naturally under peri-glacial conditions in the SMS phase of the site works.

3.4 As noted in section 2.1 above an area of pitting (0010/0011 & 0012/0013) was identified in the western half of trench 11 towards the southern edge of the site. Part of this area of pitting was only stripped of topsoil to avoid disturbance to field drains in case this reservoir did not go ahead however it was possible to define the eastern and western limits to these features and carry out some hand investigation to more fully characterise them and gain some dating material. Both pits (0010 & 0012) extended across the width of the trench and they were similar in depth at 1100mm including the 300mm of topsoil. The date of these features was not immediately clear as only a small quantity of partially abraded finds was recovered from either feature during this phase of the site works.

4. Excavation methodology

4.1 Following the evaluation a short and informal summary of the results was produced and based on this a second brief for a 'Strip, map and sample,' or excavation, exercise was issued as detailed in section 1.2 above. In summary the brief required the supervised soil stripping of areas around trenches 3 and 11 where positive archaeological results had been gained in the evaluation phase of works to a point where, in the former area, it could confidently be assessed that no more features were likely to be revealed and for the latter area the pitting could be more fully understood and dated. The relevant WSI for this excavation phase of works is included below as Appendix III.

4.2 Around trench 3 an area of some 960m² (see Fig. 3- area 1) was stripped to the level where archaeological features could be defined in a 70m x 12m area along the northern side of the lagoons with a small extension running south at its eastern end under continual supervision. Again any indistinct areas were hand cleaned and the two linear features already sampled in the evaluation were sectioned by hand at regular intervals with each section being 1m in length; sections were again recorded at a scale of 1:20 (see Fig. 5) and further digital images were taken (see Appendix I). Finds were collected from each section where present and further bulk samples were taken for charred remains. As during the evaluation phase of works the stripped area and upcast spoil was scanned with a metal detector.

4.3 In the area of the pitting defined in trench 11 a smaller area of some 190m² (see Fig. 4- area 2) was stripped and due to the large size of the exposed pits (0010 & 0012), which were in the size range of 12m to 14m across respectively, sectioning was in part machine excavated (0010/0031 & 0012/0033) followed by hand investigation. During this process Post medieval material was recovered from the features (0031 & 0033) so following consultation with Dr Antrobus archaeological work in this part of the site was curtailed.

5. Excavation results

5.1 In area 1 around evaluation trench 3 the soil stripping did not reveal any additional archaeological features and a re-examination of the probable frost wedge (0006) confirmed this identification in terms of both its clean and very pale silty fill (0007) and irregular form in plan. Of the two previously identified ditches, the smaller southern one (0002) was traced for some 36m on a north-westerly/south-easterly alignment within the stripped area before becoming shallower and fading away at each end. Three more sections (0025, 0026 & 0030) were excavated producing further ceramic finds and one (0025) was bulk sampled, in fact this ditch (0002) remained narrow and shallow (see Fig. 5). The more northerly and larger ditch (0004) as noted above ran on a nearly parallel alignment and a butt-end was identified in the eastern central part of the stripped area while to the west this ditch ran out of its north-western corner and therefore out of the area where ground levels will be lowered for the reservoir and into the area under the bund which will not be stripped. Three more 1m long sections (0027, 0028 & 0029) were hand excavated to further examine this ditch (0004) retrieving more finds in addition to another bulk sample (0027). Again the form of this feature remained similar to the initial section with a moderate increase in width from 700mm (0005) to 900mm (0028) to the west. As during the evaluation phase of works only Roman period pottery sherds and tile fragments were recovered from these two ditches (see Appendix IV- The finds).

5.2 As indicated in section 4.3 above a combination of mechanical and hand investigation was employed to investigate the large pits identified in trench 11 as area 2 was opened. More specifically once the edges of the two pits had been defined sections (0010/0033 & 0012/0031) were excavated by machine into the upper levels before hand investigation was employed to clean the side and sections. Both contained a mid brown clay fill and in addition to occasional and abraded Roman period sherds and tile fragments sherds of Post medieval date were recovered from each feature and at this point further examination was not considered necessary given the relatively recent date of the probable extraction pits.

6. The finds

6.1 The full finds report covering both the evaluation and follow-up excavation phases of work at the site, and including the results from the metal detector searches, by Stephen Benfield is included as Appendix IV below. In summary 67 sherds (982g) of predominantly (by number 65/c97%) Roman period date, 7 fragments of brick or tile (820g) of both Roman and Post medieval date and 8 copper alloy small finds, again of Roman (3) or Post medieval date (5), were recovered during the fieldwork.

6.2 The pottery sherds from this site proved to be predominantly of Roman, and more specifically late 1st to mid 2nd century, date with c80% by number coming from trench 3/area 1 while Roman period sherds from other parts of the site (trench 11/area 2 in particular) were in addition more abraded and proven to be residual finds in pits of Post medieval date (0010 & 0012). While two later 3rd/4th century sherds (18g) were recovered from the smaller ditch (0002) in area 1 the remaining 25 sherds were all of 1st-mid 2nd century date making this earlier period a more likely period for the phasing of this feature. Similarly the larger ditch (0004) produced one sherd which may be of later 3rd-4th century date while the other 14 sherds from this

feature are of 1st/2nd century date. A moderate quantity of fine ware for the Roman period is represented by a number of imported samian sherds (11% by count & 8% by weight) and the specialist report notes a degree of Romanisation at the site represented by the presence of mortaria sherds in addition to evidence for a cheese press showing a desire to exhibit Roman style culinary practices. The Roman coarseware sherds which form the greater part of the assemblage are, as might be anticipated, of more local origin in the nearby Waveney valley area if not closer assuming undiscovered production sites in the general area. Comment is made in the specialist report on the abraded nature of many of the pottery sherds and whether this is due to the age of the material on deposit or a harsh burial environment; it is this author's view that the latter reason is more likely given the lack of good drainage at the site on heavy Till deposits perhaps leading to detrimental acidic waterlogged burial conditions (see also section 7.2 below).

6.3 All of the 8 copper alloy finds were unstratified with 3 being of Roman date and the remainder Post medieval. The 3 Roman period finds comprise two 4th century copper alloy coins (0016 & 0032) and a 'bell-stud' (0017) with all 3 finds coming from the area to the south of the proposed reservoir and close to a pillbox marked by the Ordnance Survey (see Fig. 2). The lack of copper alloy coins in particular around area 1 also suggesting an earlier Roman period date for the two ditches as by the late 3rd/4th century coin use and therefore loss was much higher than in the earlier period. The Post medieval copper alloy finds are all common types quite likely lost during work in the fields at this time or spread with farm yard waste during manuring operations. No further work is recommended for this finds assemblage.

7. The environmental evidence

7.1 The full environmental report covering the assessment of the charred macro-fossil and other evidence collected in the bulk sampling of the two ditches (0002 & 0004) at the site by Val Fryer is included as Appendix V below. Two samples were taken from each feature (0002/0003 & 0025, 0004/0005 & 0027).

7.2 In summary all four assemblages are largely uniform and contain a predominance of charcoal with bone fragments and charred cereal grains indicative of a common origin as hearth waste with no evidence for specialist activities. That bone fragments only survived as small fragments within what is likely to be hearth waste is of some interest as hand investigation of the various feature sections did not recover any bone and this supports the suggestion in section 6.2 above that the burial environment has been detrimental as regard the good preservation of finds as it may be inferred that larger fragments of uncharred bone should be present but have been lost to presumably acidic waterlogged conditions which has also affected pottery sherds. No further work is recommended for the macro-fossils collected.

8. Conclusion

8.1 While the greater part of the proposed reservoir site did not reveal any evidence of past activity of significance the earlier Roman features, and associated domestic type finds, investigated just to the north of the existing lagoons confirm settlement of this period in the area as had already been suggested by the previous find of pottery sherds close to the southern edge of the site. That two 4th century coins were also recovered from just south of the reservoir site also points to activity in the area

extending further into the Roman period perhaps with some 'settlement creep' from north to south over time with, in all probability, a 'living' area with further evidence for domestic type activity spread over a relatively large area which encompasses the south-western part of the site under study but with features at a low density.

8.2 Evidence for post-Roman activity from the site was sparse with a period of pit digging presumably to extract clay in the c18th period and a low level scatter of medieval and Post medieval stray finds pointing to the area being peripheral even in agricultural terms. With heavy soils and potentially poor drainage it seems likely the site may well have been in use as pasture for much of this more recent period until field drains were laid in the 20th century.

8.3 With regard to regional research frameworks the results from this site are small scale but can add data relating to the following areas of study for the Roman period highlighted in the most recent update (Medlycott, 2011, 47):

- The general character, distribution and chronology of rural settlement
- The degree of Romanisation exhibited through artefact groups

The results from the archaeological investigations at this site are also on too small a scale to merit further analysis or specialist publication as they can most successfully and economically be disseminated via the inclusion of a summary in the annual round-up in the county journal plus deposit of the full report and archive in the Suffolk CC HER. A pdf version of the full report will also be more widely available through the OASIS online report depository (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>).

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. RMR 014.

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 Jimmy Woodrow for the careful metal detector search at each stage, Esther Newman for processing the finds, Robert & Val Fryer for processing and studying the bulk samples, Stephen Benfield for his specialist finds report and Sue Holden for her specialist illustration work)

Refs:

Medlycott, M 2011 'Research & Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework For The East Of England.' *East Anglian Archaeology Occ. Paper 24*

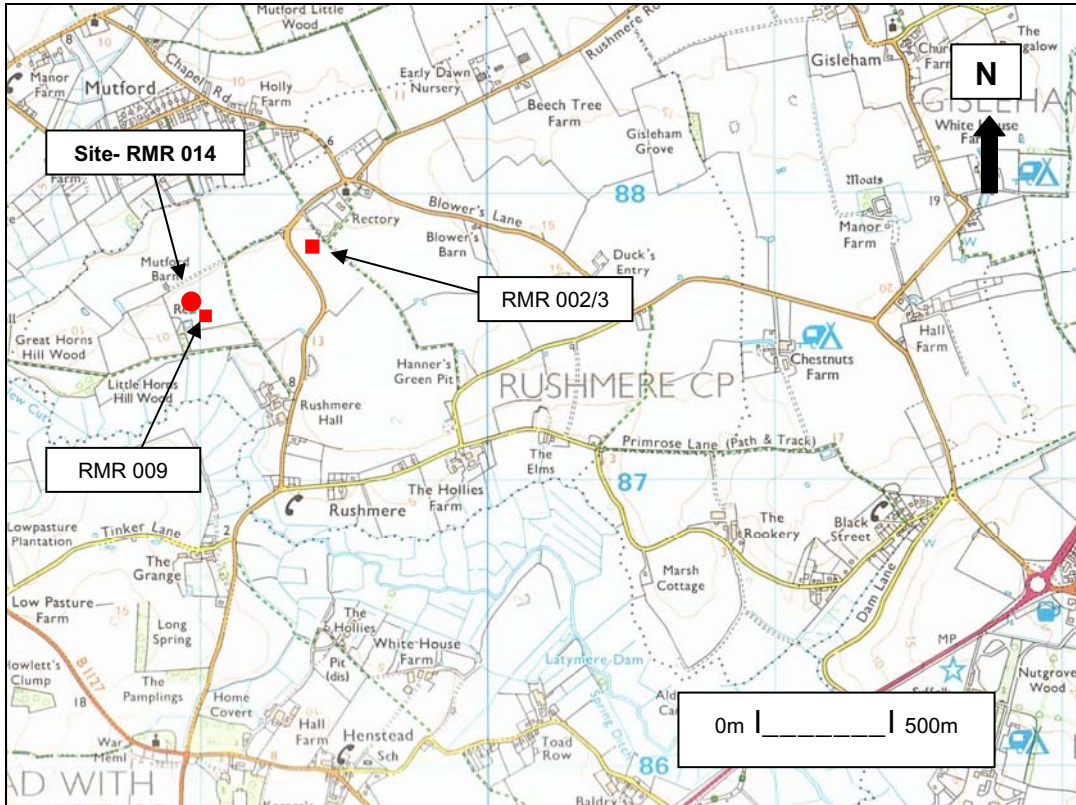


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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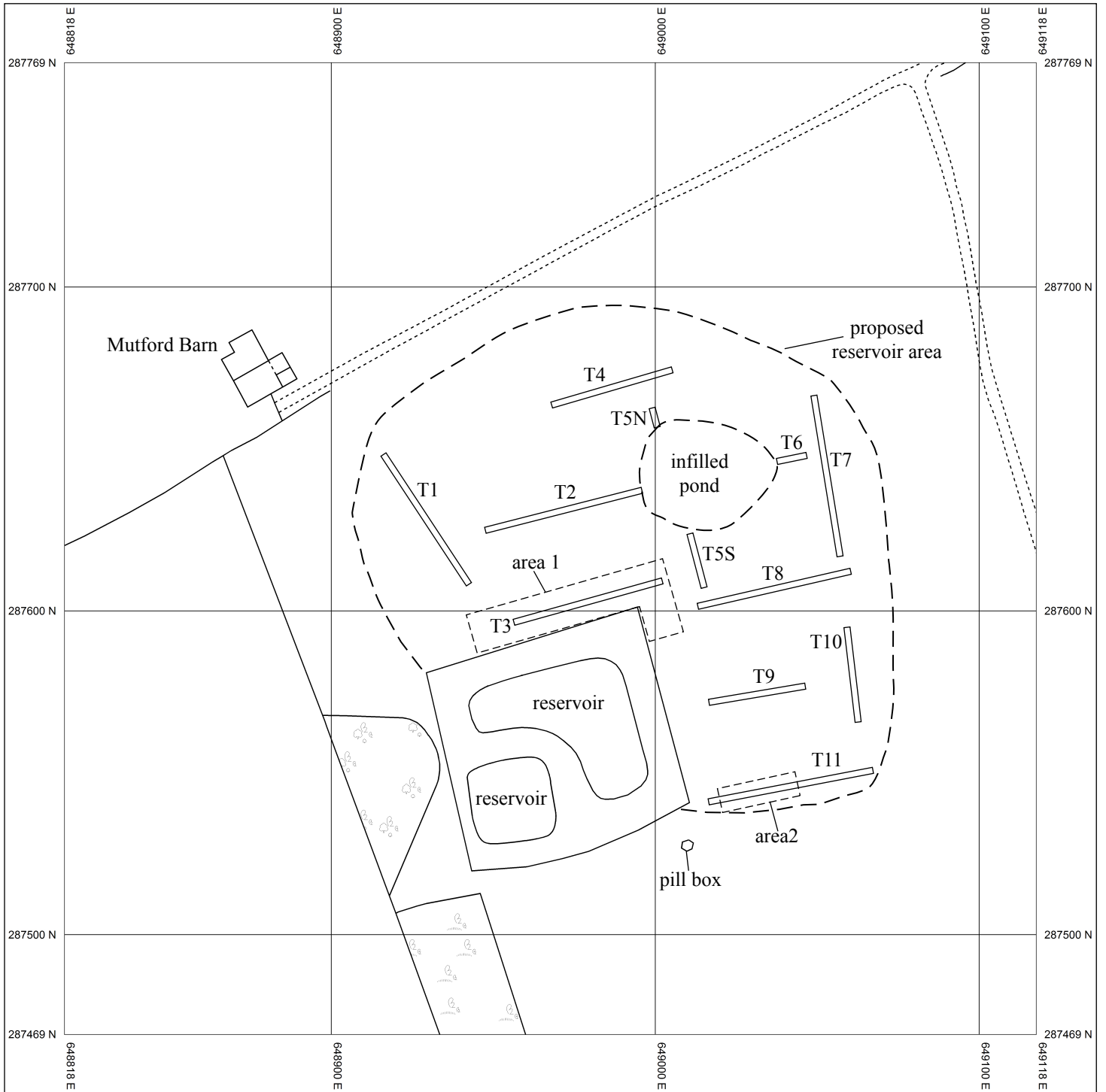


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches and excavation areas.
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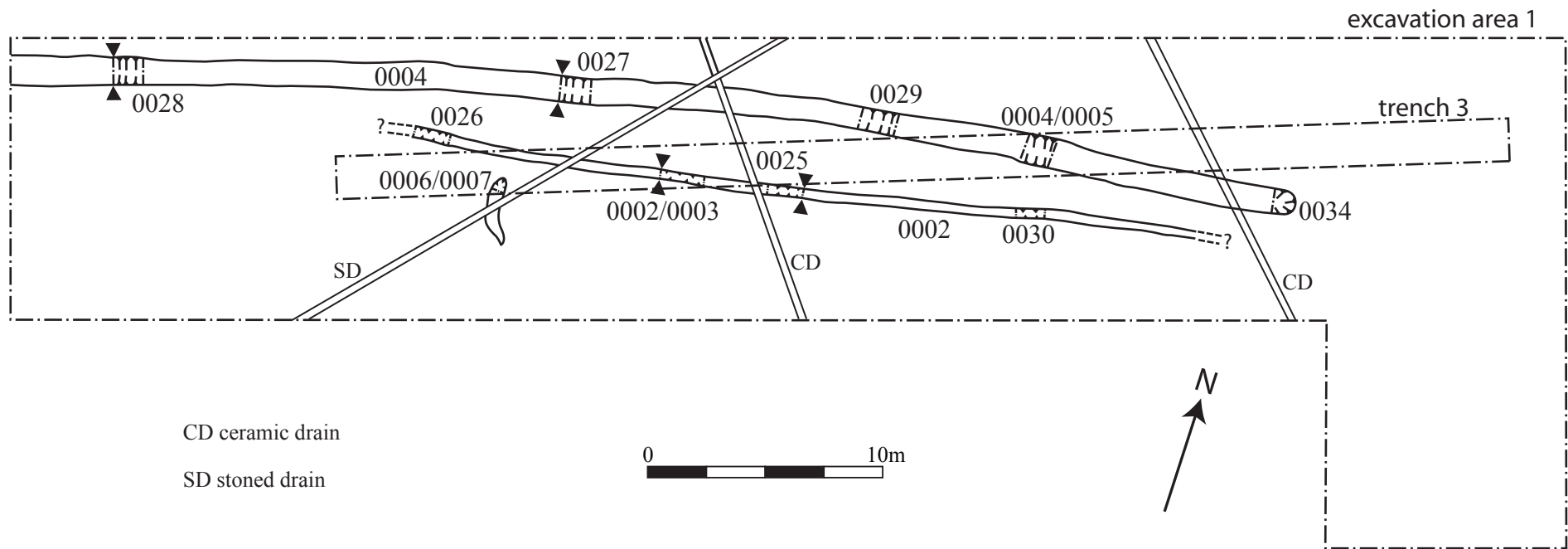


Fig. 3: Plan of trench 3, excavation area 1.

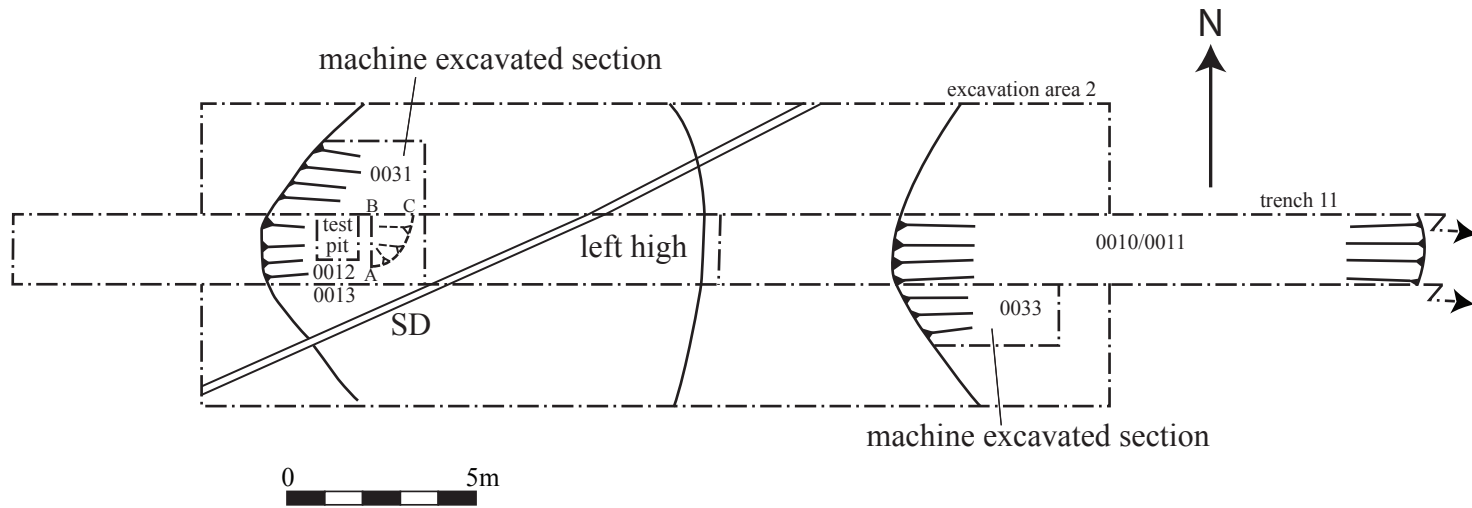


Fig. 4: Plan of trench11, excavation area2.

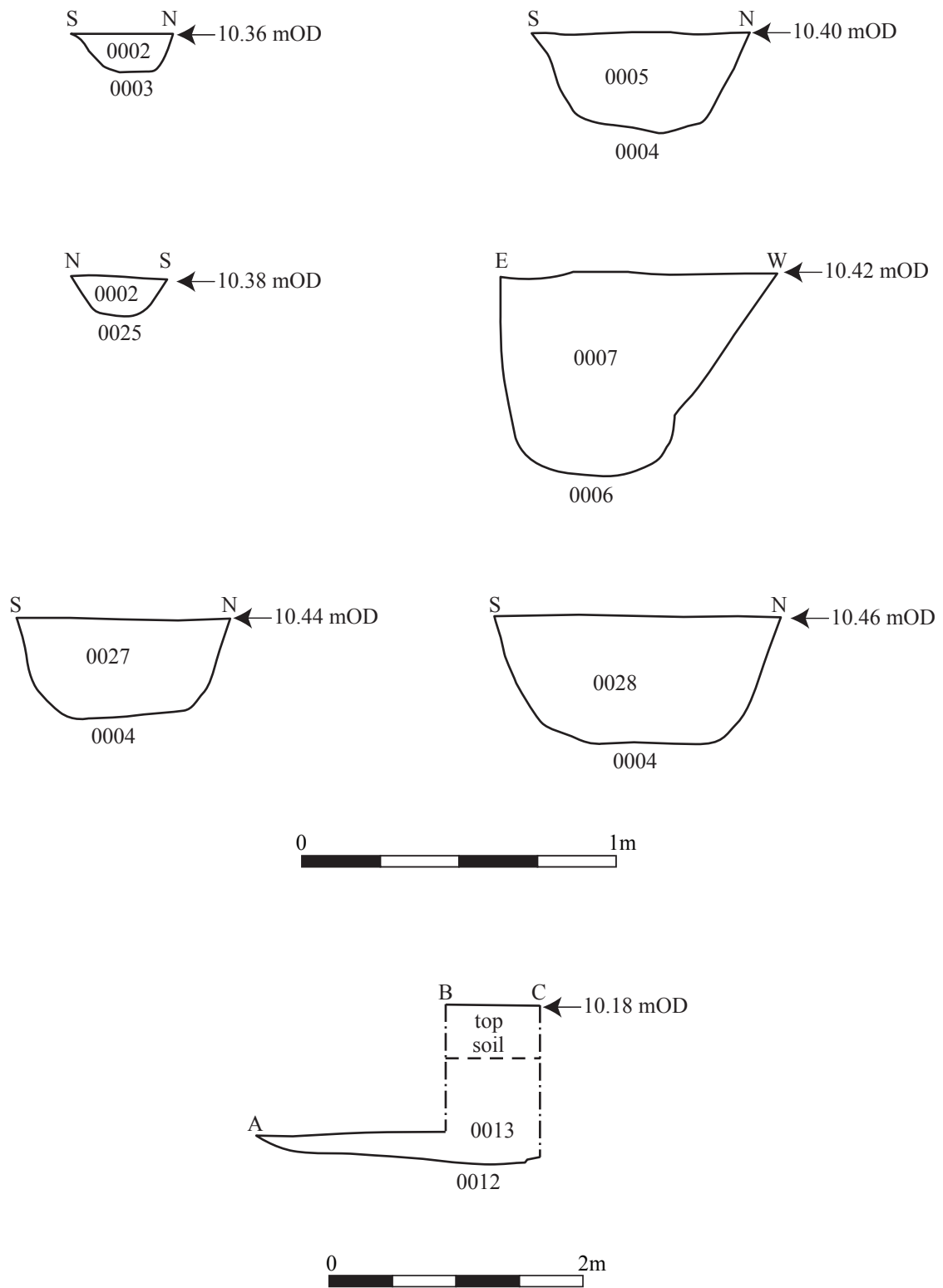


Fig. 5: Feature sections.

Appendix I- Images
(selected- see archive for full set)



Trench 3 from east



Trench 3- ditch 0002 from east



Area 1 from north-west- ditch 000444 in foreground



Trench 11 from east



Trench 11- pit 0012 from east



Trench 4 from east



Trench 9 from east

**Proposed Reservoir, Rushmere Hall,
The Street, Rushmere, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site details

Name: Land at Rushmere Hall, The Street, Rushmere, Suffolk, NR33 8ET

Client: Mr H Budgen

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/11/0805/AGO

Proposed development: Agricultural reservoir

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief&Specification:SCCAS_ArchSpecEval_Rushmere_reservoir-C11_0805

Grid ref: TM 489 875

Contents

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

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr J Bailey on behalf of his client, Mr H Budgen, has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed reservoir. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition on application DC/11/0805/AGO and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation set by Dr A Antrobus 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 an agricultural reservoir on land to the north-west of Rushmere Hall, The Street, Rushmere.

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)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Rushmere is located in north-east Suffolk some 5 miles south-west of Lowestoft. The parish is sparsely populated with a dispersed settlement pattern characteristic of much of rural East Anglia with the Hundred River forming its southern boundary. The proposed reservoir site is c500m north-west of Rushmere Hall and 300m north of the Hundred River at c10m OD on an area with a gentle, north/north-westerly facing, aspect. As described by the *Soil Survey of England and Wales* the soils at the site area are *711r Beccles 1 series* (fine loam over clay) and *551f Newport 3 series* (sand and coarse loams) and test pitting in general revealed 350mm of topsoil over 350m to 1500mm of 'light brown to grey clay subsoil with flints.' A few sandy pockets were also noted and information from the landowner confirms a largely clay area, and hence its suitability as a reservoir site, with some areas of lighter soil. At present the south-western quarter of the proposed 140m x 170m reservoir site is in use as an existing 72m x 78m slurry lagoon and bund with the remainder being arable land.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant specification- 'The proposed reservoir, 140x170m max dimensions, represents an expansion of an existing lagoon. The area of groundworks is greater than 1.6ha. The proposal affects an area of archaeological potential, in a location topographically

favourable for early occupation. It is situated overlooking the floodplain of the Hundred River, on a spur of land projecting into the river valley. Roman pottery was found on the field surface within the proposed development area, to the east of the existing reservoir (County Historic Environment Record RMR 009), and there are sites and findspots of different dates within a 500m radius of the proposal (ELO 008, ring ditch, RMR 008, Saxon find, RMR 002/3, ring ditch and field system). This demonstrates occupation of prehistoric and later date in the vicinity. The large size of the development, the landscape setting and the proximity to recorded sites all mean that there is potential for hitherto unknown important remains to exist on the site. These would be totally destroyed by the proposal. In 2005, construction groundworks on the lagoon were monitored (application W/19082, SCCAS report RMR 009, 12/05/2005). No archaeological features were defined, although it was noted that topsoil pockets obscured visibility over areas of the site.'

3.2 The area of the proposed reservoir therefore lies in an area of archaeological potential where significant heritage assets may be present which, if present, would require detailed investigation and recording if not preservation in situ. Under PPS 5 prior assessment of proposed development sites is emphasised as the proper course of action to give the information from a systematic evaluation survey to inform further decisions regarding the need to do any further work. In this case a standard 5% by trial trenching would give this information.

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential relates to the proposed reservoir site being in a landscape zone overlooking a major river valley containing prehistoric monuments such ring ditches in addition to being in an area with evidence of Roman period activity and possibly Saxon period activity. Past field systems recorded in the area on aerial photographs may also be of medieval or earlier date. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed reservoir area under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed, a strategy can be formulated for the possible preservation in situ or, failing that, systematic recording 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 As noted above the proposed reservoir site is 140m x 170m with the south-western quarter already in use as a slurry lagoon. Removing the lagoon area leaves an undisturbed area of 1.8ha giving a 5% sample target of 500m of 1.8m wide trial trench.

5. The attached plan shows the proposed trenching layout to cover the reservoir site. With a minimum 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized 180 or 360 machine, operated by an experienced driver, this will give a sample size of 5% of the currently undisturbed part 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

(examination of the topographic location and a site visit 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, 1997 & 2000). 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. 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. A vector plan in dxf format will be supplied of the trench locations for the Suffolk CC HER Mapinfo records.

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, the overhead power line to the east of the site will be avoided. 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

**Proposed Reservoir, Rushmere Hall, The
Street, Rushmere, Suffolk**

HER Ref. RMR 014

**Written Scheme of Investigation for Strip and Map
Archaeological Excavation**

Site details

Name: Land at Rushmere Hall, The Street, Rushmere, Suffolk, NR33 8ET

Client: Mr H Budgen

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/11/0805/AGO

Proposed development: Proposed farm reservoir

Proposed date for excavation: December, 2011

Brief&Specification: Rushmere/2011/0805

Grid ref: TM 489 875

HER ref: RMR 014

Contents

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

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr H Budgen has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the strip and map archaeological excavation works, following on the evaluation phase carried out by JNAS (Newman, J 2011), at the site of a proposed farm reservoir. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition on application DC/11/0805/AGO and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief and Specification for the Archaeological Strip and Map Excavation set by Dr A Antrobus 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 farm reservoir on land to the north-west of Rushmere Hall, The Street, Rushmere and the excavation will complete the programme of works at the site.

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)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 To repeat the background from the WSI for the evaluation of the site- Rushmere is located in north-east Suffolk some 5 miles south-west of Lowestoft. The parish is sparsely populated with a dispersed settlement pattern characteristic of much of rural East Anglia with the Hundred River forming its southern boundary. The proposed reservoir site is c500m north-west of Rushmere Hall and 300m north of the Hundred River at c10m OD on an area with a gentle, north/north-westerly facing, aspect. As described by the *Soil Survey of England and Wales* the soils at the site area are *711r Beccles 1 series* (fine loam over clay) and *551f Newport 3 series* (sand and coarse loams) and test pitting in general revealed 350mm of topsoil over 350mm to 1500mm of 'light brown to grey clay subsoil with flints.' A few sandy pockets were also noted and information from the landowner confirms a largely clay area, and hence its suitability as a reservoir site, with some areas of lighter soil. At present the south-western quarter of the proposed 140m x 170m reservoir site is in use as an existing.

2.2 The site evaluation carried out in early November 2011 confirmed the general depth of top and subsoil to where archaeological features could be identified if present as being 300/400mm with most of the site being on a light brown to grey clay running to a silty sand in the south-

eastern quarter. A large and recently filled in pond was identified covering much of the north-eastern quarter of the site.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The evaluation works undertaken by JNAS at the site in early November, 2011, revealed largely negative results with little evidence of past activity of any antiquity over the northern and eastern parts of the proposed reservoir. However two, with a possible third, features of archaeological interest, were revealed in trench 3 directly north of the existing lagoon. The two definite features were two ditches of probable earlier Roman date containing moderate quantities of pottery sherds. A metal detector of the spoil and of the reservoir site general produced three finds of Roman date though the total number of finds of all dates was low. Only one other trench, number 11 at the southern edge of the site, revealed any features of potential interest with two large pits producing few finds which have been interpreted as possible clay quarry pits.

3.2 Following on from the evaluation and the production of a short summary note Dr A Antrobus has therefore issued a further brief and specification outlining the requirements to carry out an archaeological strip, map and sample exercise to record the extent and character for the two areas noted above around trenches 3 and 11 of the evaluation. This exercise would clear the site for the construction of the proposed reservoir with the archaeological results from the two phases of site work forming the content of a single, overall, report thereby enabling savings to be made in the post excavation phase of work.

4. Aims of the Strip, Map & Sample Excavation

4.1 Roman period activity was attested in the area of the proposed reservoir before the evaluation phase of works but only poorly understood. The evaluation has clarified the area containing evidence of Roman period activity as being around the existing lagoon and to the south of the overall site. The main aim of the strip, map and sample works will therefore be to fully define and record the extent of Roman period activity to the north, and possibly to the north-east, of the lagoon and to better understand and define the possible clay quarry pits towards the southern edge of the site. These site works will enable the confirmation to the LPA that an agreed programme of work has been completed on site and resources agreed for the subsequent reporting. This will put the proposed reservoir project in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE12.3) 'to record and

advance the understanding of the significance of any heritage assets before they are damaged or destroyed.’

4.2 The primary aim of the investigation is to fully investigate, sample and record any archaeological features in the specified area prior to their likely disturbance by the proposed development works at the site.

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for proposed farm reservoir with the relevant specification calling for a soil strip around trenches 3 and 11, the following minimum areas for stripping are proposed with any additional stripping to be dependent on the initial results:

- Soil stripping to extend from the northern edge of the existing lagoon, across the area of trench 3 and north towards trench until a 5m strip is clear of archaeological features. The soil strip also to extend 10m to the east of the north-eastern corner of the lagoon and at least 10m south of this corner and until a 5m wide clear area of archaeological features is revealed
- In the area adjacent to the possible clay quarry pits in trench 11 soil stripping to extend initially 3m in each direction to more fully define and characterise these features before consulting with SCCAS with regard to the results and possible need for further stripping

5.2 The soil strip will be undertaken using a minimum 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized 360 machine, operated by an experienced driver. 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 area with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. The area will only be backfilled after the relevant officer at SCCAS has been consulted and they will also be informed of the results from the initial area as soon as this has been ascertained on site. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the excavation. 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 the overall site HER number already obtained from the Suffolk CC HER with feature numbering following on from the evaluation phase. 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 structural archaeological features will be fully excavated and sampled, contained features at least 50% section excavated (with the possibility that large quarry type pits may be part machine and part hand excavated in consultation with SCCAS) and linear features sampled at a rate of at least 10% with 1m wide sections. If human burial evidence is revealed (this is assessed as being a low possibility on this site) the SCCAS Officer will be informed and 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 excavation 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 results to date from this site have demonstrated that it is dry.

- 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). Not applicable in this case as trenching has revealed 400mm of top and subsoil in the area of the specified excavation.

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 combined evaluation and excavation 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 excavation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the site works and its results and the conclusions 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 excavation 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, 1997 & 2000). 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. As required the evaluation and excavation has been 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. Investigation areas will be supplied in .dxf format vector plans for inclusion in 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 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 and previous site works has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the discovery of underground services is unlikely, the only known one being water mains on along the southern boundary. No overhead services impinge on the excavation area. 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.

John Newman Archaeological Services

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 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 Townergate 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 Woodrow (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

Appendix IV- The Finds

Finds Report- Rushmere Hall, RMR 014, Stephen Benfield (Colchester Archaeological Trust)

Introduction

The bulk finds types recovered are listed in table 1, in addition there eight, small found metal detected objects (including two coins) which are listed separately. The finds were recovered from an evaluation (contexts 0001-0022) and excavation (contexts 0025-0032).

Finds type	no.	wt (g)
Pottery	67	982
Ceramic building material	7	820

Table 1: Type and quantities of finds

Pottery

Introduction

In total there are sixty-seven sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 982g. The pottery can be dated to the Roman, late medieval and post-medieval periods. It was recovered from two ditches 0002 & 0004, three pits 0010, 0012 & 0031 and a small quantity is unstratified surface finds (0014, 0022). Most was recovered from the two ditches, especially ditch 0002.

The pottery was recorded using the Suffolk fabric types series for Roman (Pakenham) and post-Roman pottery fabrics (unpublished). The Roman vessel forms refer to the Suffolk (Pakenham) type series (unpublished) and the samian forms refer to Webster (1996). The fabrics recorded are listed in table 2 & table 3 and all of the pottery is listed by context in table 4. A spot date is provided for each of the fabrics and form types recorded for each context.

Fabric name	Code	No	No %	Wt(g)	Wt %	broad date range
Roman fabrics:						
South Gaulish samian	SASG	2	3	32	3	M1-L1C
Les Martres-de-Veyre samian	SAMDV	2	3	21	2	E2C
Central Gaulish samian	SACG	3	5	25	3	
Black-surface wares	BSW	2	3	27	3	Roman
Miscellaneous buff wares	BUF	2	3	21	2	Rom (1-2/3C)
Miscellaneous buff ware mortaria	BUFM	3	5	201	22	Rom (1-3C)
Grey micaceous wares (black-surfaced)	GMB	12	19	214	23	Roman
Grey micaceous wares (grey-surfaced)	GMG	14	22	165	18	Roman
Grog-tempered wares	GROG	1	2	5	1	Late Iron Age-early Rom
Miscellaneous sandy grey wares	GX	21	34	211	23	Roman
<i>Total</i>		62	99	922	100	

Table 2: Roman pottery fabric quantities

Fabric name	Code	No	Wt(g)	broad date range
Post-Roman fabrics:				
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	3	48	16/17-18C
Medieval coarse ware	MCW	2	12	Late medieval
<i>Total</i>		5	60	

Table 3: Post-Roman pottery fabric quantities

Ctxt	Ctxt type	Fabric	No	Wt(g)	Eve	Abr.	Form	Notes	Spot date
0003	ditch fill (0002)	GMB	8	147	0.40	(*)	bowl 5.3	Poss. all part of SV, some surfaces abraded (see 0014)	M1-E2C
		GMB	2	18	0.15	*	bowl 6.17	SV, join, traces of balck surface on top of flange	L3-4C

Ctxt	Ctxt type	Fabric	No	Wt(g)	Eve	Abr.	Form	Notes	Spot date
		GX	1	5		*			Rom
0005	ditch fill (0004)	GMG	11	129	0.15	*	bowl 5.2	SV?, abraded rim, neck & body, prob. same pot, 2 sherds join	M1-2/3C
		GMG	1	3		*			Rom
		GX	1	3		*		rim	Rom
0011	pit fill (0010)	GMG	1	9		*			Rom
		BSW	1	11			bowl?	base, some external sooting	Rom 1-2C?
		GROG	1	5		*		thin sherd, sandy fabric with red and pale grog, oxidised surface but quite abraded	Rom?
0013	pit fill (0012)	SASG	1	16		*	Dr 27		M-L1C
		GX	2	11				SV, recent break, sandy fabric	Rom
		GX	1	14				sherd with part of decorated carination(?)	Rom
		BUFM	1	47			mortarium	buff mortarium with flint gritting, internal edge of flange with end of block name stamp with decorated border, part of letter C.. poss. C, D or O	2C?
0014	US	SACG	2	22	0.10		Dr 27		E-M2C
		GMB	1	34	0.14	*	bowl 5.3	rim, part of bowl from 0003	M1-E2C
		GMG	1	24		*	press 9.3	cheese press, ridged, perforated base sherd	M1-2C
		GX	1	10	0.12	*	jar	rim	Rom
		BUF	1	20		*			M1-3C?
0022	US	GX	1	5	0.04		jar/bowl	rim	Rom
		GX	1	7		*			Rom
		MCW	2	12				base sherd + one other	late med
0025	ditch fill (0002)	SAMDV	1	10	0.10		Dr 18/31	top of rim abraded (use wear?)	E2C
		SAMDV	1	11			Dr 27	base with part name stamp (abraded), appears to end with a retrograde N	E2C
		BUFM	1	16			mortarium	joins with 0026,	M1-2/3C
		BSW	1	16	0.07		bowl 6.15	sandy fabric	M1-E2C
		GX	2	52		*	jar/bowl	base sherds from two pots	Rom
0026	ditch fill (0002)	SASG	1	16	0.12		Dr 36?	barbotine leaves & stems, edge of rim? abraded, very curved and possibly a flange (Curle 11)	M-L1C
		BUFM	1	138			mortarium	joins with 0025, quartz grits	M1-2/3C
		GX	1	27	0.05	*	bowl	plain, slightly thickened flat (faintly everted) rim from an open bowl	
		GX	1	5	0.05		bowl	plain, faintly everted rim from an open bowl	
		GX	1	18			jar/bowl	base	Rom
		GMB	1	15			jar/bowl	base	Rom
0027	ditch (0004)	GX	1	18		*		sandy fabric, similar to Late Roman Hadham oxidised ware (HAX)	Rom (L3-4C?)
		GX	1	10	0.06	*	jar/bowl	rim	2-4C?
		GX	1	4					Rom
0030	ditch fill (0002)	SACG	1	3		*	Dr 27	rim, slip almost completely abraded off	E-M2C
		GX	2	6		*		SV?	Rom
		GX	2	10	0.03		bowl	plain, rim probably from a bowl	Rom M1-2C?
		BUF	1	1	0.05	*	bowl?	very abraded rim, prob. from a small bowl	M1-2C?
0031	pit fill (0012)	GX	1	6		*			Rom
		GRE	1	31				yellow-brown glaze, abraded	16-18C
0033	(0010)	GRE	2	17				dark glaze surfaces	16-18C

Table 4: Pottery by context

Discussion

Almost all of the pottery recovered is Roman (62 sherds, 922g) (table 2). Much is abraded suggesting that it may have been old when it entered the contexts from which it was recovered; although the average sherd weight is moderately good at 15g indicating that some of the abrasion possibly reflects detrimental soil conditions eroding the fabric and surfaces. The closely dated pottery is of mid/late 1st to mid second century date, although two-three sherds can be dated to the late 3rd-4th century.

The Roman pottery includes a moderate quantity of fine ware, represented entirely by imported samian (11% by count & 8% by weight). Some of the samian is South Gaulish, broadly dating to the period of the mid-late 1st/early 2nd century AD. There is a flange sherd from a bowl of form Curle 11 decorated with barbotine leaves and stems which, unusually, have been applied as groups of three across the flange. Also in this fabric are sherds representing from a cup of form Dr 27 (0013 & 0030). Sherds from another Dr 27 cup are in a micaceous fabric and are probably Central Gaulish (0014 & 0030) dating to the early-mid 2nd century; the rounded rim and absence of any internal grooves indicate that it is of late 1st or 2nd century date. Another sherd from the base of a cup of this form, from the ditch 0002 (0025) appears to be a Les-Martres product (Fabric SAMDV) of early 2nd century date (c. AD 100-120). It can be noted that the base lacks the footring groove seen on many 1st century vessels. It carries a potters name stamp which is (unfortunately) not identified as it is partly abraded leaving only a few indistinct letters visible, although it appears probably to end with the letter N in retrograde. The fabrics suggest that three different vessels of form Dr 27 are present in the assemblage; although it may be possible that fabric variation between some of the sherds is misleading and only two cups are present, one from South Gaul, the other from Central Gaul. One sherd from a dish of form Dr 18/31 is certainly from Les Martres-de-Veyre and can be dated to the early 2nd century. It can be noted that none of the samian vessel forms recovered is current after the mid or mid-late 2nd century (c. AD 150-160).

The Roman coarsewares are dominated by sherds in micaceous fabrics, Fabric GMB & GMG, which are possibly products from the Waveny Valley pottery industries, although miscellaneous sandy grey wares (Fabric GX) of uncertain, but probably of local or regional origin, are also strongly represented. The other fabrics, including buff wares and buff fabric mortaria, each make up less than 5% of the assemblage by count and by weight (except for mortaria which are heavy vessels).

Only a few of the coarsewares could be identified to specific numbered vessels forms. The bowl form 5.2 is recorded from ditch 0004 (0005) and the bowl forms 5.3 and 6.15 from ditch 0002 (0003). All of these date to the early Roman period of the mid 1st-early 2nd or mid 2nd century. Of interest is a dish/bowl cheese press (form 9.3) in a reduced fabric (Fabric GMG).

This is an unstratified find (0014) but can be dated to the mid 1st-2nd century. Also of interest are sherds from two buff fabric mortaria, two from ditch 0002 (0025, 0026) the other from pit 0012 (0013). Neither mortarium could not be closely identified to form. There is part of an abraded potters name stamp on the sherd from the pit, but only one letter, or part of one letter survives and the stamp is not identified. The flange of the vessel appears to be broad with a low bead level with the flange suggesting a possible late 1st-early 2nd century date.

One sherd can be dated to the late Roman period (late 3rd-4th century). This is a flanged bowl of form 6.17 from ditch 0002 (0003). Other pottery of possible mid-late Roman date consists of a jar rim from 0014 (unstratified), possibly of form 4.5 which dates from the mid 2nd century-4th century and the fabric of one sherd from ditch 0004 (0027) appears to be late Hadham (oxidised) ware, dated to the late 3rd-4th century. Also, the significant proportion of Sandy greywares in the assemblage and the limited quantities of Black-surface wares might indicate that at least some of the undiagnostic and broadly dated sherds are of mid-late Roman date.

In addition to the Roman pottery there are a few post-Roman pottery sherds (table 3). There are two sherds of medieval grey ware. Both are unstratified (0022). One is from the base of a cooking pot, the other appears to be part of the same vessel. Also three sherds of post-medieval Glazed red earthenware (Fabric GRE) were recovered from the pits 0010 & 0012.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Introduction

Seven pieces of CBM were recovered with a total weight of 820g. These are listed in table 5:

Ctxt	CBM type	No.	Wt (g)	Thick (mm)	Fabric	Notes	Spot date
0011	Roman brick/tile	1	24		orange, fine sand (silty) with some pale clay	abraded	
0013	Roman brick/tile	1	275	24	pale orange, medium-coarse sand,	signature marks on surface	Rom
	Roman brick/tile	1	120	15	red, medium-coarse		
0028	Roman <i>imbrex</i>	1	125		orange, fine sand (silty) with some pale clay	abraded	Rom
0029	Roman <i>imbrex</i>	1	157		red, fine sand with some pale clay	abraded	Rom
0031	tile	1	80	14	red, fine sand	slightly curving piece, possibly a pan-tile	L17C-mod
	brick/tile	1	39		orange, medium sand with some pale clay		

Table 5: Ceramic building material (CBM) by context

Discussion

The small quantity of CBM consists almost entirely of pieces from Roman tiles, two of which, from ditch 0004 (0028, 0029), can be identified as abraded pieces from *imbrex* roof tiles. Two other pieces of flat Roman tile from pit 0012 (0013) at 15mm & 24mm thick and are probably

parts of *tegula* roof tiles. There is one piece of post-medieval or modern tile from the pit 0031 which is possibly part of a pan-tile of post-medieval or modern date (late 17th century+).

Small finds

Eight metal items were metal detected from the site (0015-0021 & 0032) and are listed and described below. These include two late Roman (4th century) copper-alloy coins (0016 & 0032) and a Roman copper-alloy stud (0017).

0015 Copper-alloy disc, dia 27mm weight 8.3g. Pitted, very rough uneven surface, especially one face.

0016 Roman copper-alloy coin. Nummus. Obv. faint traces of head with crested helmet facing left, rev. obscured by corrosion. 4th century.

0017 Roman copper-alloy 'bell-stud' terminal, height 14mm, dia. 15mm, weight 14.5g. Dished head with small, central, circular projection rising to level with edge of stud, remains of corroded central iron fixing in base. Objects of this type are distinctively Roman. They are probably fittings from boxes, possibly small knob handles and appear to have a military association (*CAR 10* 219). There are a number of examples of similar 'studs' at South Shields fort (Miket & Allason-Jones 1984, nos. 3.899-3.913); also examples from Colchester (*CAR 2*, fig 203 no. 4640 & fig 204 no. 4650; *CAR 6* fig 6.15 no. 157).

0018 Copper alloy ?silvered mount, weight 7.3g. Part of a mount decorated with incised pattern or scene on upper surface; small fixing hole possibly placed central to top and a hook attachment on rear. Probably post-medieval-modern.

0019 Copper-alloy disk, dia. 17mm, weight 5.8g. Moderately thick disc. Possibly a coin or weight, but surfaces worn? smooth and corroded, with two irregular(?) small depressions on one face. Possibly post-medieval to modern.

0020. Copper or copper-alloy disc, dia. 28mm weight 3.4g. Thin metal disc, one side partly folded and buckled, number **25** impressed just below centre of disc. Modern.

0021 Copper-alloy mount approximately 18mm square, weight 4.7g. Plain(?), corroded surface, protruding, small, circular central stud on rear, one edge bent over, possibly broken.

0035 Roman copper-alloy coin. Nummus. Obv. URBS ROMA, head with crested helmet facing left, rev. wolf and twins below two stars, Trier (TRP) mint, AD 330-335.

Significance of the finds

The finds indicate Roman occupation on or immediately adjacent to the site in the late 1st-mid 2nd century. There is little evidence from the more closely dated finds for any activity in the mid Roman period (mid 2nd-3rd century), but a few finds can be closely dated to the late Roman period of the 4th century. There is no indication of any native (Iron Age) background to the site and the pottery reflects a desire, or requirement for Roman style ceramics including

imported table wares, culinary specialist vessels such as mortaria and a cheese press. While some of the metal objects are not closely identified or closely dated, there is little suggestion of significant wealth among the Roman finds, although this might reflect that the area was relatively marginal to the main Roman occupation with no significant direct loss of small metal items onto the ground here. However, of interest is a 'bell-stud', probably a type of small knob handle fitting from a box, which as a type appears to be commonly associated with the Roman military. There are also two late Roman (4th century) copper-alloy coins. The small amount of Roman ceramic building material recovered (CBM), consisting entirely of pieces from roof tiles, could either indicate a building with a tiled roof located away from the immediate site area, or an opportunistic use of salvaged tile for packing or as general construction rubble.

A few sherd of pottery can be dated to the medieval and post-medieval period, and a number of the metal finds are, or are likely to be of post-medieval or modern date. However, there is little indication from the finds of any significant occupation in the post-Roman period.

Ref:

CAR 2, 1983, Crummy, N., *The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester Archaeological Report 2

CAR 6, 1992, Crummy, N., 'The Roman small finds from the Gilbert School site' in Crummy, P., *Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School and other sites in Colchester 1971-85*, Colchester Archaeological Report 6

Miket, R., & Allason-Jones, L., 1984, *The catalogue of finds from South Shields Roman fort*

Webster, P., 1996, *Roman samian pottery in Britain*, CBA Practical handbook in archaeology 13

Appendix V- The environmental evidence

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM A FARM RESERVOIR AT RUSHMERE, NEAR LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK (RMR 014)

Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF
May 2012

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Rushmere, undertaken by JNAS, recorded a limited number of features of Roman and post-medieval date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within two ditches of earlier Roman date (features [0002] and [0004]), and four were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots were recorded within all four assemblages.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

All four assemblages are small (<0.1 litres in volume) and limited in composition, being largely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments. However, cereal grains, including specimens of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.), are recorded along with small pieces of charred root or stem and an indeterminate bud. Other remains are also scarce, although it is probably of note that all four assemblages contain fragments of bone, some of which are burnt, and small pellets of burnt or fired clay are recorded within all but sample 0005. The assemblage from sample 0027 contains a very high density of mineralised soil concretions, possibly suggesting that at some point, ditch [0004] was wet or water filled.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, as all four assemblages are reasonably uniform in composition, it is considered most likely that all have a common source. The predominance of charcoal, along with the presence of bone fragments and cereal grains, may indicate that the remains are largely derived from hearth waste, which was either deliberately dumped within the ditch fills or accidentally accumulated in the form of scattered or wind-dispersed detritus.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this report should be included within any synthesis of data from the site.

Reference

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press

Context No.	0003	0025	0005	0027
Feature No.	0002	0002	0004	0004
Plant macrofossils				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain)		x		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)	x			
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	x	
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx	xxx	x	xxx
Charcoal >5mm	x	x		xx
Charcoal >10mm	x			
Charred root/stem			x	x
Indet.bud			x	
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material		x		
Bone	x xb	xx xb	x	x xb
Burnt/fired clay	xx	x		x
Mineralised soil concretions				xxxx
Small coal frags.				x
Vitreous material	x			
Sample volume (litres)	14	14	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
b = burnt

Appendix VI- Context list- RMR 014

Evaluation phase F- find(s) S- Sample

Context	Type	Trench	Pt of	F/S	Description	Spot date
0001				F	Unstratified finds from field surface just to south of reservoir	
0002	Ditch	T3	0002		Small ditch with NW-SE alignment, width 300mm, depth 100mm	
0003	Fill	T3	0002	F/S	Fill of ditch 0002, mid grey/brown clay with charcoal flecks and two small areas in fill with greater conc. of charcoal	(earlier) Roman
0004	Ditch	T3	0004		Ditch with NW-SE alignment, width 700mm, depth 300mm	
0005	Fill	T3	0004	F/S	Fill of ditch 0004, light to mid grey firm clay with iron staining	(earlier) Roman
0006	?Ditch butt-end	T3	0006		Possible ditch butt-end on southern edge of T3 but could be the end of a frost wedge owing to type of fill and irregular sides (confirmed as natural feature in SMS)	Natural feature
0007	Fill	T3	0006	-	Fill of ditch butt-end/frost wedge, pale grey/brown silty sand with no finds or any charcoal flecks	Natural feature
0008					Not used	
0009					Not used	
0010	Extraction pit	T11	0010		Relatively shallow clay extraction pit near centre of T11, running across width of trench, 15m across and 1100mm deep from field surface, excavated mechanically as seen at first as deep subsoil but proved to have gently sloping sides	Pmed
0011	Fill	T11	0010	F	Fill of extraction pit 0010, very firm mid brown clay with few small flints & chalk frags, few charcoal flecks and few, mainly abraded, Roman period sherds & 1 ?med sherd (30g pottery)	Pmed

0012	Extraction pit	T11	0012		Similar extraction pit to 0010 and few metres to west, the eastern edge of feature not revealed as modern field drain was to be left in situ, width therefore uncertain but at least c8/9m, similar depth to 0010 at 1100mm from field surface and with irregular base, lower 300mm excavated by hand	Pmed
0013	Fill	T11	0012	F	Similar very firm mid brown clay with occasional small flints as 0011, only finds 2 ?Roman period tile frags & 2 Roman period sherds	Pmed
0014	US finds	T3	0014	F	Unstratified sherds from upcast spoil of trench 3	
0015	MD find		0015	F	Large, very worn Cu alloy disc from field surface just to east of lagoon between trenches 9 & 11	?Pmed
0016	MD find		0016	F	Small copper alloy coin from surface of field to west of pill box just outside reservoir area, 4 th century type	Roman 4th C
0017	MD find		0017	F	Small, round, copper alloy handle with frag of iron shank in centre from surface of field close to pill box just outside reservoir area, of Roman period type	Roman
0018	MD find		0018	F	Fragment of copper alloy ?belt fitting from spoil of trench 7, of med/EPmed type	Pmed
0019	MD find		0019	F	Copper alloy disc type weight, from spoil of trench 10, Pmed type	Pmed
0020	MD find		0020	F	Copper alloy disc, worn, from spoil of trench 8, probable Pmed button	Pmed
0021	MD find		0021	F	Fragment of copper alloy, plain, ?belt fitting of likely Pmed type	?Pmed
0022	US finds		0022	F	Unstratified finds from field surface south of T11	
Excavation phase						
0025	Fill	Area of T3	0002	F/S	Section of ditch 0002, mid grey brown clay with charcoal flecks, ditch 320mm wide x 150mm deep	(earlier) Roman

0026	Fill	Area of T3	0002	F	Section of ditch 0002, mid grey brown clay	(earlier) Roman
0027	Fill	Area of T3	0004	F/S	Section of ditch 0004, pale grey brown very silty sand with few charcoal flecks, 700mm wide x 300mm deep	(earlier) Roman
0028	Fill	Area of T3	0004	F	Section of ditch 0004, similar to 0027, 700mm wide x 400mm deep	(earlier) Roman
0029	Fill	Area of T3	0004	F	Section of ditch 0004, similar to 0027, 900 mm wide x 400mm deep	(earlier) Roman
0030	Fill	Area of T3	0002	F	Section of ditch 0002, mid to dark brown clay, few charcoal flecks	(earlier) Roman
0031	Section of feature	Area of T11	0012	F	Machine cut section to east of lagoon, mid brown clay fill with few abraded Roman sherds & tile frags & Pmed sherds & peg tile frags	Pmed
0032	MD find		0032	F	Copper alloy coin from area south of lagoon	Roman 4 th C
0033	Section of feature		0010	F	Machine cut section, few Pmed finds	Pmed
0034	Section of feature		0004		Butt-end at eastern end of ditch 0004	

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-132657

Project details

Project name	Farm Reservoir at Rushmere Hall, Rushmere, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation Report
Short description of the project	Rushmere, site to north-west of Rushmere Hall (RMR 014, TM 4898 8762) evaluation trenching in 2011 at the site of a proposed agricultural reservoir close to a recorded scatter of Roman period pottery sherds recorded two small ditches dated by pottery finds to the earlier Roman period and a small complex of quarry pits which follow-up excavation work in 2012 confirmed as being of Post medieval date though containing residual Roman period finds. The area of the two ditches identified in the evaluation was also examined in more detail in 2012 with the stripping of an area of some 960m2 allowing further investigation of these features though no more features were revealed. The pottery assemblage recovered from the site included a moderate number of samian sherds in addition to more locally produced wares, but no evidence of any Iron Age period activity and only two or three of the latter type hinting at 3rd or 4th century activity. However a metal detector search did recover two copper alloy coins of 4th century date from an area just to the south of the proposed reservoir site in addition to a copper alloy 'bell-stud' type terminal. Very few post Roman period finds were recovered from the site with the bulk of this group being of Post medieval date and indicative of the site being peripheral to any nearby areas of more intense medieval or later activity.
Project dates	Start: 31-10-2011 End: 14-03-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RMR 014 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Roman

Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	Agricultural notification
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY RUSHMERE Rushmere Hall
Postcode	NR33 8ET
Study area	23800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4898 8762 52 1 52 25 44 N 001 39 46 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.00m Max: 10.00m

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	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Farm Reservoir at Rushmere Hall, Rushmere, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation 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	28 August 2012

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