

**Wrentham Hall, Church Street,  
Wrentham, Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/12/0947 & 0948**

**HER Ref: WRE 025**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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

(February 2013)

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

**Site details for HER**

Name: Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham, Suffolk, NR34 7LX

Client: Mr & Mrs R Gurr

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/12/0947 & 0948

Development: Erection of extensions, detached coach house, pool, pool building, construction of tennis court & associated works (extensions to be monitored under a separate Brief & WSI)

Date of fieldwork: 11 & 12 February, 2013

HER Ref: WRE 025

LBS: 1352538 (Grade II- under the original name Wrentham Rectory)

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-144816

Grid ref: TM 48856 83016

## Contents

Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Evaluation methodology
3. Results

Table 1: Trench details

4. The Finds
5. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of evaluation trenches & proposed structures

Fig. 3 Trench 1 plan & sections (Sue Holden)

List of appendices

Appendix I- Selected images

Appendix II- Written scheme for evaluation

Appendix III- The Finds (Stephen Benfield)

Appendix IV- Context list

Appendix V- OASIS data collection form

*Summary: Wrentham, Wrentham Hall, Church Street (WRE 025, TM 4885 8301) evaluation trenching for a planned coach house, swimming pool and tennis court within the northern part of the grounds revealed evidence for Post medieval quarrying activity in one area to the north of the house in addition to a pair of pits of a similar date and a shallow, undated, ditch closer to the boundary shared with the churchyard to the north-east. A few sherds of Roman period pottery were also collected from the upcast spoil of the latter trench as was a fragment of Roman tile with another tile fragment being a residual find in Post medieval pit. However a thorough metal detector search in and around the three trenches recovered mainly non-ferrous finds of recent date plus a Nuremberg token from the early Post medieval period. The latter find is of moderate interest as it had been pierced and therefore may have been modified as a piece of jewellery (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs R Gurr).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 J Briggs Builders Ltd, on behalf of their clients Mr & Mrs R Gurr, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a planned coach house, swimming pool and tennis court at Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham (see Fig. 1) under planning applications DC/12/0947 & 0948 that have been recently been granted. Works for the construction of an extension to Wrentham Hall under the same applications over the area of those parts of the later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century structure which were demolished in the 1950s will be the subject of a separate monitoring brief. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the development areas for the coach house, pool and tennis court which are in the northern third of the overall site. A Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to gain a conditional discharge and allow the trenching to go ahead before any other ground works are undertaken.

1.2 Wrentham, a large village clustered around the A12 in north-east Suffolk, has changed and grown dramatically since the creation of the turnpike road along what is now the main route linking Ipswich with Lowestoft in 1785. Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk shows much of what was to become the modern village as Wrentham Common with the parish church, and adjacent rectory (now Wrentham Hall) on its western side, as somewhat isolated structures c1000m to the west. The original Wrentham Hall is shown c800m north-east of the church and rectory; this structure was built in c1550 and demolished in 1810. Topographically the present Wrentham Hall lies on flat ground at c13-14m OD in an area of glaciofluvial sands and gravel with the ground dropping gently to the north over a distance of c150m towards a small stream.

2.2 The Heritage Assessment (Bradley & Darwin, 2012) accompanying these planning applications describes in full detail the setting, grounds and structure at what is now Wrentham Hall, however it is useful to give a brief summary derived from this document. The earliest description of what was originally Wrentham Rectory comes in a terrier (a written survey or list of land & other property belonging to an estate) of 1706 which notes three larger rooms in addition to a number of minor rooms. A further terrier of 1716 mentions a new lodging and minor additions were made through the 18<sup>th</sup> century with the oldest part of the present building being the central five bays of the entrance facade on the eastern side of the structure. Major additions were then made to the Rectory between 1830 and the 1860s with the overall property of house and grounds making up a minor country house and reflecting a substantial church living. This standard could not be maintained after c1920 and the Rectory was drastically reduced in size in 1954 with ranges on the western and north-western sides being demolished as were various outbuildings.

2.3 At the time of the evaluation the site for the new coach house was largely soft ground, with some vestiges of a rammed stone surface surviving, while the site for the new tennis court appears previously to have been a grass court and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was part of the market garden for the Rectory. The site for the swimming pool however was largely covered by the concrete base for a now demolished range of stables with the relevant evaluation trench running along its southern edge in a

strip of rammed stone surfacing. All of these proposed development areas are flat ground with the coach house site being 10m west of the western boundary to the adjacent churchyard, the pool a further c30m to the west and the tennis court site being some 70m west of the churchyard (see Fig. 2).

### 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The footprint areas for the proposed development works to be evaluated in the overall scheme of works were trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2). Trench 1 was 15m long and aligned east-west over the footprint for the coach house, trench 2 was 12m long, again on an east-west alignment, along the southern edge of the swimming pool site while trench 3 ran north-south for 30m through the centre of the now redundant grass tennis court. The trenching was undertaken using a wheeled 180 machine equipped with a 1.50m wide flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity. All of the trenches were 1.80m wide and, in total and as specified, 57m of trench was opened giving a sample area of 102.6m<sup>2</sup> or nearly 10% of the c1100m<sup>2</sup> area that will be extensively disturbed for the construction of the coach house, pool and new tennis court.

2.2 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 with the few identified features sectioned by hand in order to exam their form and character and obtain dating evidence. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under generally cold though dry and sunny conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trenches was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the evaluation progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works. Grassed areas between and around the trenches were also scanned with a metal detector.

### 3. Results

3.1 In this case the results are most easily summarised as in the table below as relatively little of archaeological interest was revealed (see also Fig. 3, Section 4- The finds, Appendix I- Images & Appendix IV- Context list):

| Trench | Orientation | Length (m) | Topsoil depth (mm)             | Subsoil depth (mm)   | Drift geology   | Archaeological/ natural features & finds  |
|--------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1      | East-west   | 15         | 300                            | 800 of mid a clean, brown sandy subsoil with frequent root disturbance | Soft yellow sand with flints                                      | A modern pit (0002), tree root pit (0004), Pmed pit (0006) & undated small ditch (0008), few ?RB sherds in subsoil plus US Pmed finds |
| 2      | East-west   | 12         | 100 (under 150mm rammed stone) | E end 750mm, W end 350mm mid brown sandy subsoil                       | As trench 1   | 70% of trench base revealed extensive Pmed pitting, few Pmed cbm frags. & Cu alloy finds in subsoil                                   |
| 3      | North-south | 30         | 300                            | N end 700mm, S end 300mm mid brown clean sandy subsoil                 | Orange silty sand with occasional narrow bands of light grey clay | No features, few small Pmed cbm frags. in upper subsoil plus two ?date lead finds   |
| Total  |             | 57         |                                |  |   | By area 102.6m <sup>2</sup>   |

Table 1: Trench details (see also Fig. 3)

3.2 All of the trenches revealed a substantial depth of subsoil, which was up to 800mm thick in places, above the naturally occurring glaciofluvial deposits which proved to be a soft yellow sand with flints in trenches 1 and 2 and an orange silty sand with narrow bands of light grey clay further to the west in trench 3. It was also notable that the lower half of the subsoil deposits in the deeper trenches, such as trench 1 and the northern half of trench 3 was clean with very little evidence for even small, unstratified, finds of any date.

3.3 As outlined in the table above only trench 1 contained any features of possible archaeological interest with one 1.60m wide and 800mm deep pit (0006) producing a few finds from its mid brown silty sand fill (0007). Towards the western end of trench 1 a shallow, north-west/south-east, aligned ditch (0008) was 500mm wide but only 180mm deep with no finds coming from the mid brown sandy fill (0009). While trench 1 did contain two other features one was clearly a pit (0002) of recent date which was not investigated while the other was a 2.90m wide shallow pit (0004) whose irregular edges and base plus fill (0005) containing lengths of decayed root point strongly to an origin as a tree root hole. The fill (0005) of this latter feature did not produce any finds. Finally it may be noted that the upcast spoil from trench 1 produced the only unstratified pottery sherds of any age from the evaluation.

3.4 Trench 2 proved to be within an area of extensive Post medieval pitting with only c30% of the base of the trench revealing undisturbed soft yellow sand with flints at a depth between 600mm and 1000mm. The remainder of the base of the trench was made up of a series of large pits (0010) with a mid brown sandy fill (0011) and a series of small, hand excavated sondages suggests an overall further depth varying between 500mm and 800mm with frequent small and occasional larger fragments of

Post medieval brick and tile. The upcast spoil contained further fragments of relatively recent brick and tile plus a token (0013) of later medieval/early Post medieval date plus items (0014 & 0015) of later date.

3.5 The final trench 3 across the tennis court area did not reveal any archaeological features and the number of unstratified finds from the upcast spoil was also very small with only two small sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century whiteware plus small fragments of recent brick/tile two undateable fragments of lead. Metal detecting of the grassed areas around the tennis court did recover a few relatively recent soft drink bottle tops, a reflection on its use as a grass court in recent times.

### 4. The Finds

4.1 A relatively small number of finds were recovered from the features revealed during the evaluation and the upcast spoil of the three trenches and the full report by Stephen Benfield is included as Appendix III below. In summary, and as outlined in section 3 above, the only features of potential archaeological interest were in trench 1 as the quarry type pits (0010) covering much of trench 2 proved to be of 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century date so could relate to the various construction phases of the rectory. While the pit (0002) at the eastern end of trench 1 was clearly of recent date and therefore not investigated the other originally hand excavated pit (0006) in this trench is of 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century with one sherd (44g) of Post medieval pottery in addition to a residual fragment (89g) of Roman tile. The third pit (0004) in trench 1 has been interpreted as a tree root pit of natural origin due to its irregular form and the fill (0005) did not produce any finds. With regard to trench 1 it should also be noted that the upcast spoil produced the only pottery of any age from the evaluation with 4 sherds (22g) of Roman date and one (6g) from the high medieval period in addition to slightly abraded tegula fragment (113g) of Roman date.

4.2 The metal detector search of the trenches and upcast spoil also produced a relatively number (9) of non-ferrous finds which were either of Post medieval date or fragments that could not be dated. The single most interesting metal find was a copper alloy Nuremberg jetton of late 16<sup>th</sup>/early 17<sup>th</sup> date that was pierced and therefore appears to have been re-used as an item of jewellery, this may have been lost at a later date. Other metal finds include a George III halfpenny of 1807 (0015), a copper alloy buckle fragment (0020) and a small terminal (0019) which could be from an item of furniture and a rowel spur fragment (0014).

### 5. Conclusion

4.1 Though adjacent to the parish church (HER WRE 010) and close to evidence for multi-period activity (HER WRE 011) to the north-east evaluation of these areas of planned development revealed relatively little indication of past land use of any intensity. Trench 3 across the tennis court was particularly quiet and it may be suggested that the quarry pits revealed in trench 2 could be related to the development of the Rectory in the 18<sup>th</sup> century perhaps before the surrounding grounds were established. Only trench 1 has any clear evidence for pre-18<sup>th</sup> century activity with a few stray pottery sherds of Roman date and a small and undateable ditch (0008) plus two pits (0002 & 0006) of more recent date. The development of the grounds around the house has also had an effect on the local area as the large tree pit (0004) evidences.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out for the swimming pool and new tennis court development. However it might be prudent to monitor the ground works for the coach house as this appears to be potentially peripheral to an area of Roman period activity.

*Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. WRE 025.*

*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 Jon Briggs for his close cooperation skilled machine work, to Jimmy Woodrow for carrying out the metal detector search, to Esther Newman for processing the finds, to Stephen Benfield for the finds report and to Sue Holden for Fig. 3).**

Ref.

Bradely P A & 2012  
Darwin J

Heritage Assessment- Wrentham Hall, Church Corner, Wrentham, Suffolk



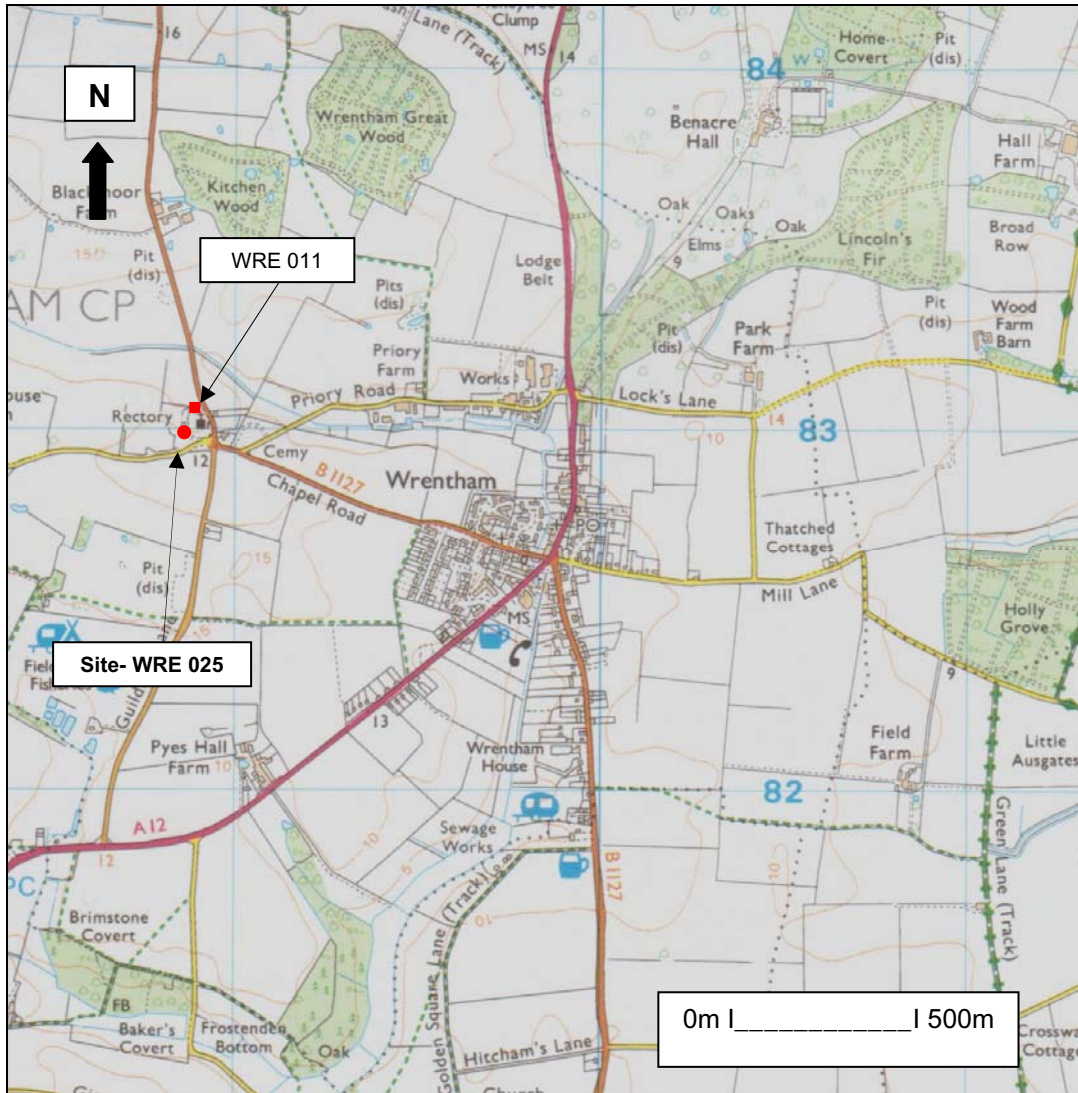


Fig. 1: Site location

(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

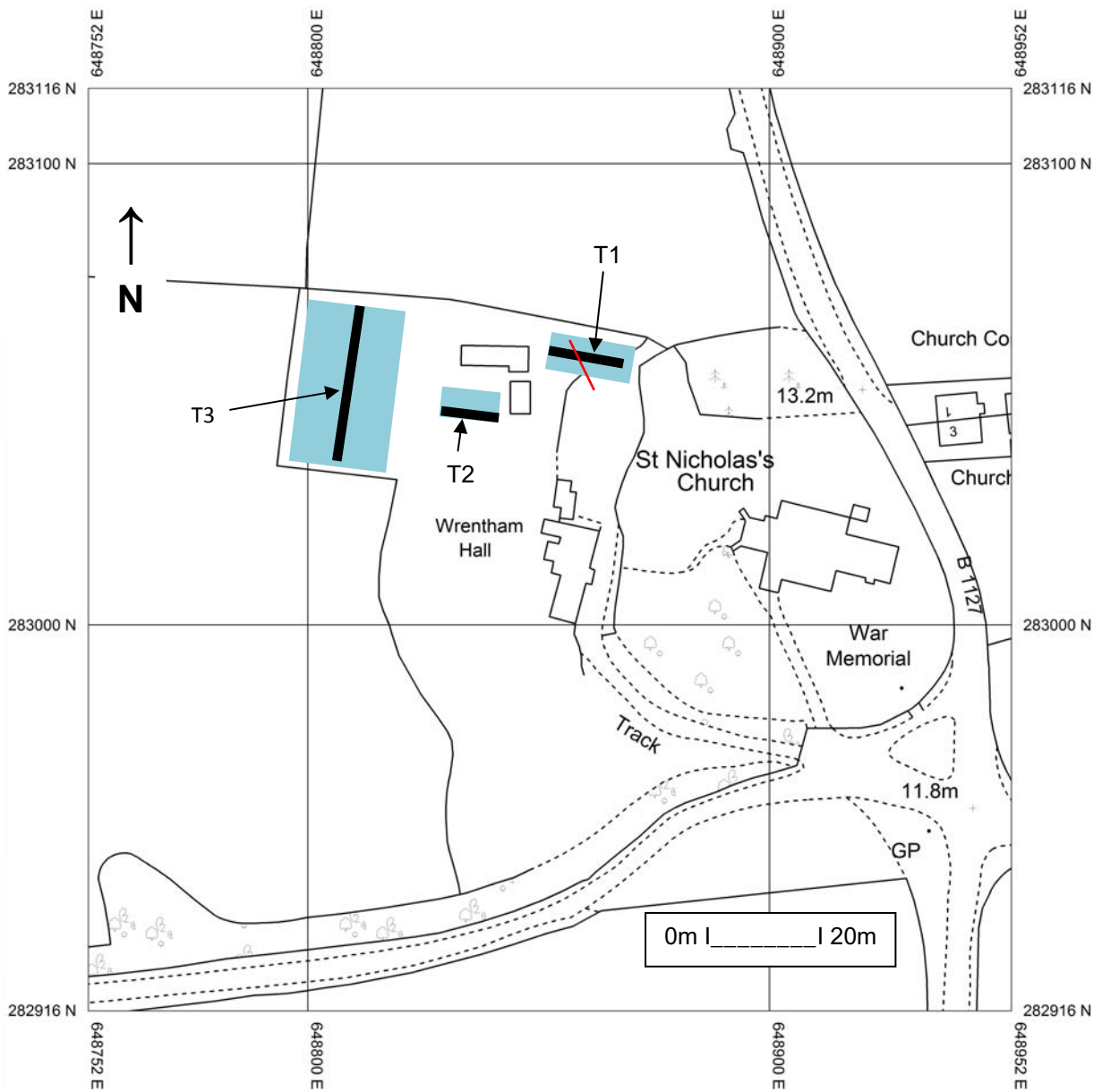


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches & proposed structures  
 (T1- Coach House, T2- Swimming pool & T3- Tennis court, red line- ditch 0008)  
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

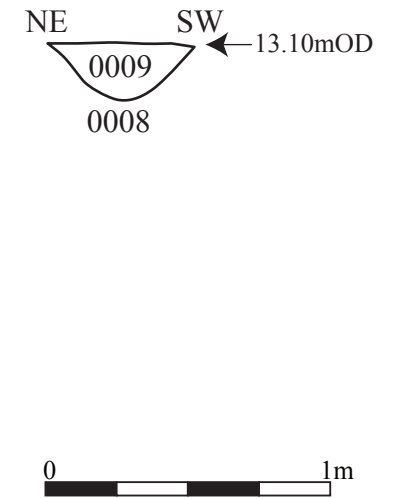
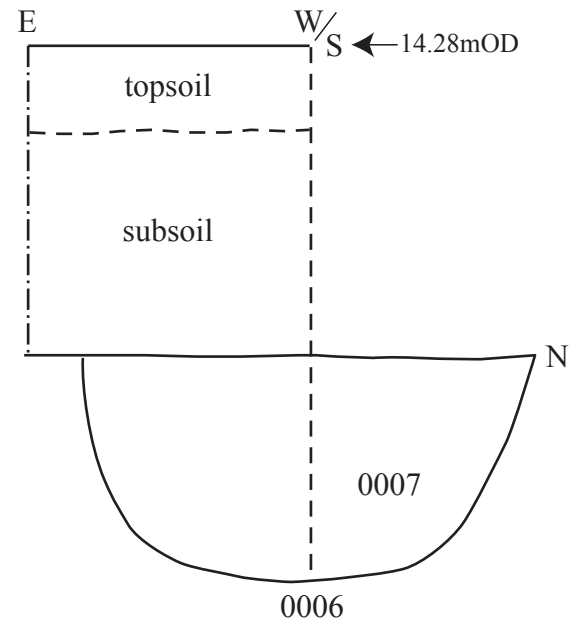
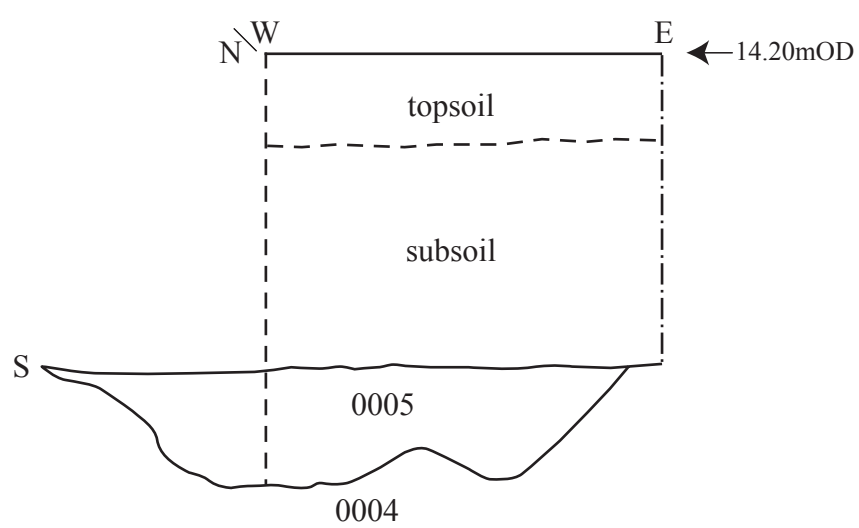
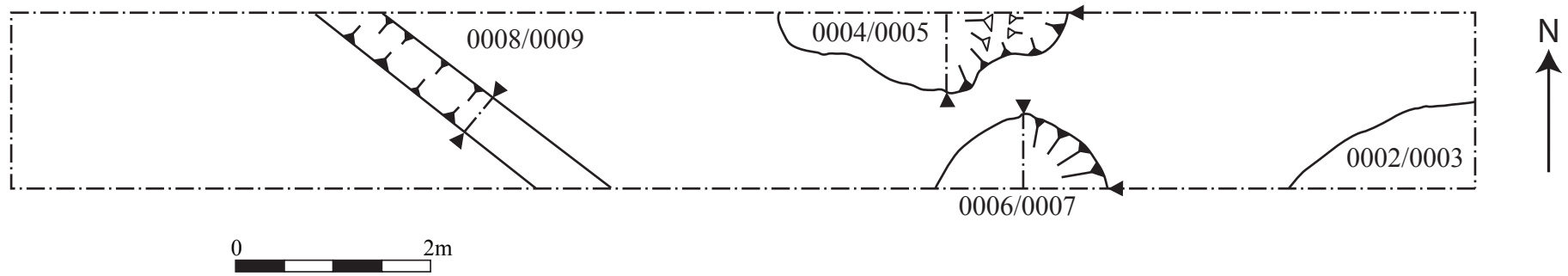


Fig. 3: Trench 1 - plan and sections.

## Appendix I- Images



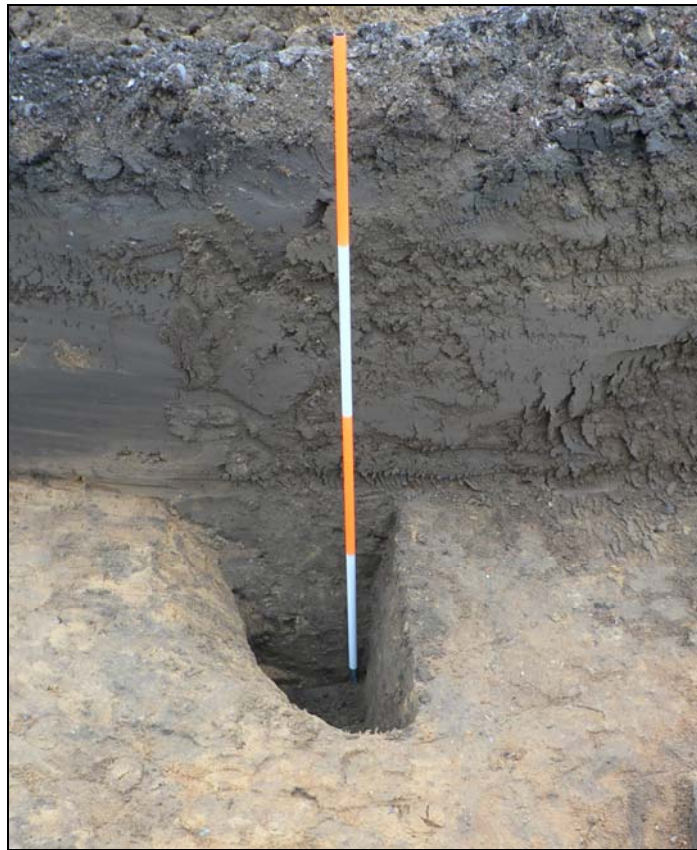
General view of from north-west



Trench 1 from west pre-excitation of features



Trench 1- probable tree root pit 0004 from south



Trench 1- pit 0006 from north



Trench 1- shallow ditch 0008 from north



Trench 2 from west showing quarry type pitting



Trench 3 from north

**Wrentham Hall, Church Street,  
Wrentham, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Evaluation**



## **Site details**

Name: Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham, Suffolk, NR34 7LX

Clients: J Briggs Builders Ltd (on behalf of their clients)

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/12/0947 & 0948

Proposed development: Erection of extensions, detached coach house, pool, pool building, construction of tennis court & associated works (extensions to be monitored under a separate Brief & WSI)

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc (early 2013)

Brief ref: 2012\_11\_15\_SCCAS\_TrenchedArchaeologicalEvaluation\_Brief\_Wrentham Hall

Grid ref: TM 48856 83016

LBS ref: 1352538, Grade II (listed as the rectory)

## **Contents**

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

Proposed location of trial trenches

## 1. Introduction

1.1 J Briggs Builders Ltd on behalf of their clients have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation of those elements requiring prior evaluation before ground works commence for a development that has recently received consent to go ahead. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological evaluation requirements for planning applications DC/12/0947 and 0948 and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. The proposed development elements requiring prior evaluation under these applications are the construction of a detached coach house, swimming pool and related building and the construction of a tennis court at Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham, Suffolk.

1.2 The evaluation will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003)*, locally in *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver. 1.1 (Suffolk CC)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Wrentham, a large village clustered around the A12 in north-east Suffolk, has changed and grown dramatically since the creation of the turnpike road along what is now the main route linking Ipswich with Lowestoft in 1785. Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk shows much of what was to become the modern village as Wrentham Common with the parish church, and adjacent rectory (now Wrentham Hall) on its western side, as somewhat isolated structures c1000m to the west. The original Wrentham Hall is shown c800m north-east of the church and rectory; this structure was built in c1550 and demolished in 1810. Topographically Wrentham Hall lies on flat ground at c12m OD in an area of glaciofluvial sands and gravel with the ground dropping gently to the north over a distance of c150m to the north towards a small stream.

2.2 At present the site for the new coach house is soft ground as is the site for the new tennis court which appears previously to have been a grass court. The site for the swimming pool however is largely covered by the concrete base for a now demolished range of stables though this is also surrounded by soft ground.

### 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The application is located within an area of archaeological interest, to the west of the medieval church and churchyard recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER no. WRE 010). Iron Age, Roman and medieval finds are recorded immediately to the north (WRE 011). There is potential for archaeological remains relating to early occupation to be present on this site. Ground works associated with the development have the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any archaeological deposits that exist.'

3.2 As noted above in section 2.1, and as the listing description notes, Wrentham Hall was built as the rectory and is described as being 'mid 18<sup>th</sup> century with later alterations; very extensive rear additions of 1842 together with some earlier work were demolished in 1953.' Whether an earlier rectory stood on or near the site is unknown. All of the planned developments requiring prior evaluation are to the north or north-west of the main hall structure with the coach house being c40m north-west of the church, the swimming pool c60m to the north-west and the tennis court more distant being 20m beyond the pool.

3.2 A site evaluation by trial trenching will therefore be required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost. The further recording of any archaeological deposits may involve excavation prior to ground works commencing or monitoring of the relevant ground works

### 4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the main archaeological potential relates to the site's location close to the parish church where evidence for medieval period settlement and related activities might be anticipated. In addition there is evidence for Iron Age and Roman period activity immediately to the north. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed development area with evaluation trenches under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed they can be sampled and characterised. With this information a strategy can then be formulated for their possible preservation in situ or, failing that, the systematic recording of these deposits and the associated working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

### 5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for a new coach house, swimming pool and pool building and tennis court at Wrentham Hall.

5.2 The Brief requires a 15m long trench across the footprint of the coach house, a 12m long trench across the pool area and a 30m trench across the tennis court area with all the trenches to 1.80m wide. The trenching plan below shows the trenches across the coach house and tennis court areas as being along the respective long axes, the pool site trench however is located immediately south of the planned location to avoid the concrete yard noted above. The trenches will be excavated using a 1.50m wide toothless ditching bucket on a wheeled 180 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 trench with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. No trenches will be backfilled until the relevant officer at SCCAS has been consulted and should any modification to the trench layout be required due to any unforeseen circumstances, such as local services, then SCCAS will be contacted immediately. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the evaluation. The up cast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site HER number obtained from the Suffolk CC HER beforehand. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record in monochrome film and high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before appropriate hand investigation and recording. Exposed archaeological features will be sampled at standard levels with care being taken to cause minimum disturbance to the site consistent with evaluation to a level adequate to properly form a subsequent mitigation strategy. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained (and during backfilling). Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%-possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCCAS Officer will be informed and the clear presumption must be to preserve such remains in situ with minimum disturbance during this evaluation stage. If this is not possible then a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on site recording (total 100% sampling if a cremation deposit) and removal of the remains followed by examination by the relevant specialist and possibly scientific dating. If human remains do have to be recorded, removed from site and reported on then these works will add an additional cost to the evaluation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial is assessed as being low at this location).

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 iron working (contributing to the fullest interpretation of the evaluation results and to aid the planning of any further field work- if any RC dates are required on features containing suitable material but no easily dateable finds then this will incur an additional cost.
- 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 of the site and a 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 deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.8 The evaluation report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 3.1 & Appendix 4.1) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly

to the aims of this WSI and section 4 above in particular. The report will give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. The report will include an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features in relation to both dated and undated features and in terms of patterning across the site.

5.9 Any interpretation of the evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results and the results will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site evaluation in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24; 1997, 2000 & 2011). There will be no further work on site until the evaluation results have been assessed and the SCCAS Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required if this application receives consent. The report may give an opinion regarding the necessity for further evaluation work as appropriate. A draft copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS following completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER with a digital version on disc. As required the site evaluation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up. A vector plan of the trench locations will be provided in .dxf format for inclusion in the County HER.

## 6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, and ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the machine operator for excavation of the trenches and examination of the up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Discussion with the client's contractor has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination. No overhead services impinge on the trench location and no underground services are anticipated. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any



## John Newman Archaeological Services

---

information on possible ground contamination revealed during the evaluation will be passed to finds and environmental specialists.

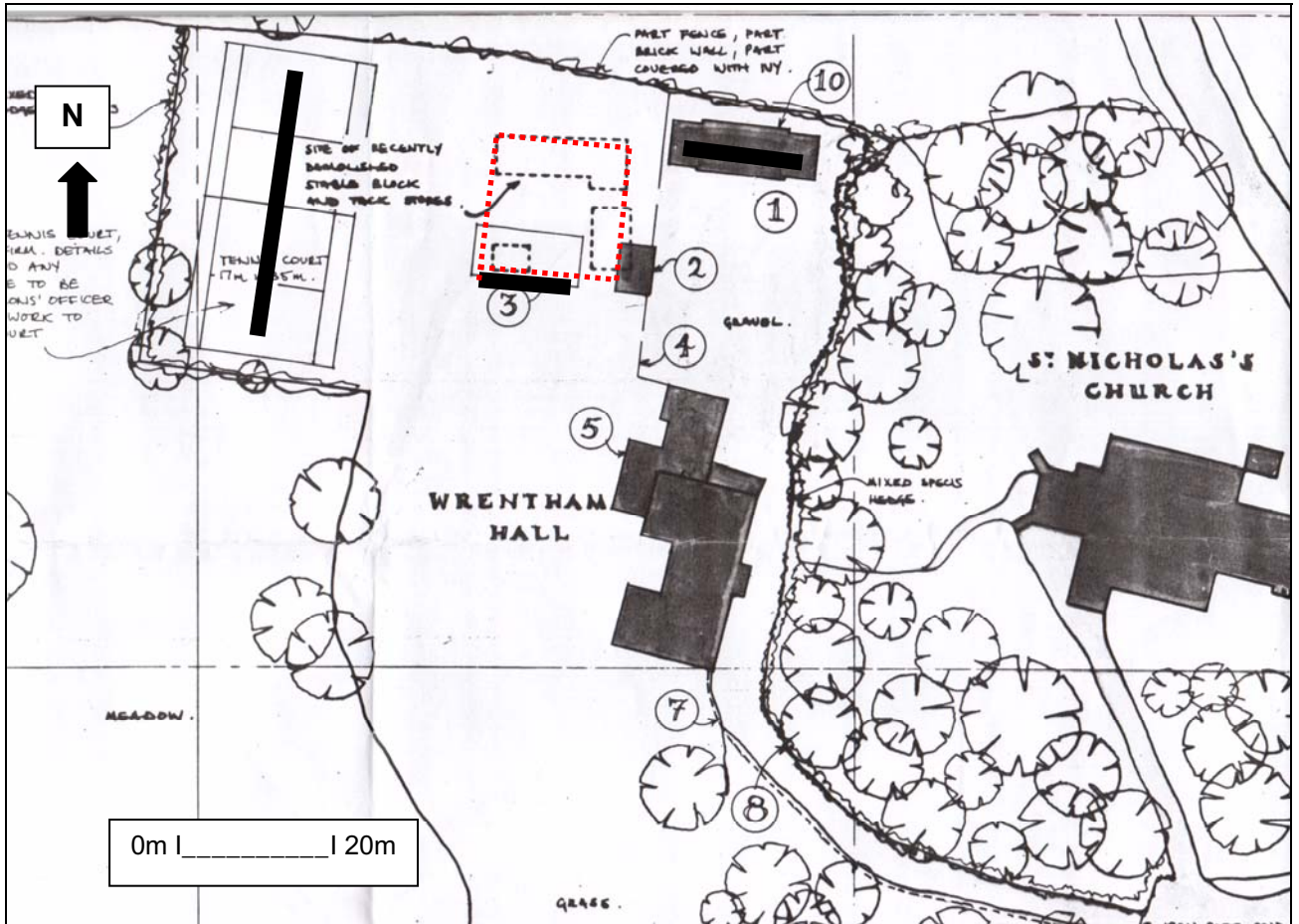
6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

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

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

### 7. Specialists

|                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Conservation:                | Conservation Services           |
| Faunal remains:              | J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)   |
| Human remains:               | S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)    |
| Metal detecting:             | J Armes (experienced freelance) |
| Palaeoenvironmental samples: | V Fryer (Freelance)             |
| Soils specialist             | R Macphail (UCL)                |
| Pre-historic flint:          | S Bates (Freelance)             |
| Pre-historic pottery:        | S Percival (Freelance)          |
| Post Roman ceramics & CBM:   | S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)    |
| Roman period small finds:    | N Crummy (Freelance)            |
| Roman period ceramics:       | S Benfield (CAT)                |
| Medieval coins:              | M Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum)    |
| Post Roman small finds:      | JNAS                            |



Proposed location of trial trenches (3- swimming, 10- coach house, red outline- existing concrete base)

## Appendix III- The Finds

### Finds Report Wrentham Hall (WRE 025)

Stephen Benfield, Colchester Archaeological Trust

#### Introduction

The bulk finds types are listed in table 1 below. These were recovered as stratified finds from two contexts (0007 & 0011) and as unstratified finds (0001) in two trenches (Trench 1 & Trench 2). In addition there are nine unstratified metal detected objects (small finds) which are individually numbered and were recovered from three trenches (Trench 1, Trench 2 & Trench 3). The finds can be dated to the Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern period.

| Finds type                | no. | wt (g) |
|---------------------------|-----|--------|
| Pottery                   | 7   | 78     |
| Ceramic building material | 4   | 270    |

Table 1: Type and quantities of finds

#### Pottery

##### Introduction

In total there are seven sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 78g. The pottery is of Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern date. It was recovered the fill of two pits, 0006 (0007) & 0010 (0011) and as unstratified finds (0001).

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). The fabrics recorded are listed in table 2 and 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 forms recorded for each context.

| Fabric name                          | Code | No | Wt(g) | EVE  | broad date range |
|--------------------------------------|------|----|-------|------|------------------|
| <b>Roman fabrics:</b>                |      |    |       |      |                  |
| Black burnished ware Type 1          | BB1  | 1  | 6     | 0.05 | 2-4C             |
| Grey micaceous wares (grey-surfaced) | GMG  | 3  | 16    |      | Roman            |
| <i>Total</i>                         |      | 4  | 22    | 0.05 |                  |

Table 2: Roman pottery fabric quantities

| Fabric name                | Code | No | Wt(g) | broad date range |
|----------------------------|------|----|-------|------------------|
| <b>Post-Roman fabrics:</b> |      |    |       |                  |
| Medieval coarse ware       | MCW  | 1  | 6     | 12/13-14C        |
| Refined white earthenwares | REFW | 1  | 6     | L18-20C          |
| Speckle glazed ware        | SPEC | 1  | 44    | L17-18C          |
| <i>Total</i>               |      | 3  | 56    |                  |

Table 3: Post-Roman pottery fabric quantities

| Ctxt | Ctxt type | Trench | Fabric | No | Wt(g) | Eve  | Abr. | Form               | Notes   | Spot date |
|------|-----------|--------|--------|----|-------|------|------|--------------------|---|-----------|
| 0001 | US        | 1      | BB1    | 1  | 6     | 0.05 |      | Plain bowl<br>6.19 | Soft sandy fabric with black surface, thin burnished band below slightly expanded rim | M2-4C     |
|      |           |        | GMG    | 2  | 7     |      | *    |                    | Slightly abraded, fine silver mica  | Rom       |
|      |           |        | GMG    | 1  | 9     |      | *    | Plain bowl<br>6.18 | Bowl with small bead rim, slightly abraded, fine silver mica                          | Rom       |
|      |           |        | MCW    | 1  | 6     |      |      |                    | Black surface, sandy fabric with fine silver mica                                     | 12/13-14C |
| 0007 | Pit fill  | 1      | SPEC   | 1  | 44    |      |      |                    | Orange-brown glaze with black speckles on internal and external surfaces              | 16-18C    |
| 0011 | Pit fill  | 2      | REFW   | 1  | 6     |      |      |                    | Glazed yellow exterior, pale blue interior  | L18-20C   |

Table 4: Pottery by context

#### Discussion

All of the Roman pottery is unstratified from Trench 1 and consists of coarse wares. One sherd is from a Dorset Black burnished ware dish (Fabric BB1) of mid 2nd-4th century date. The other sherds are not closely dated, other than as Roman, but contain common fine silver mica which is typical of Roman pottery fabrics in east Anglia.

There is one unstratified medieval coarse ware sherd (Fabric MCW), also from Trench 1, which can be dated to the 12/13th-14th century. The remaining two sherds are of post-medieval and modern date. One, from pit 0006 (0007) in Trench 1 is a speckled glaze ware (Fabric SPEC) which is datable to the 16th-18th century. The other, from pit 0010 (0011) in Trench 2, is modern, dating to the period of the L18th-20th century.

#### Ceramic building material (CBM)

Four pieces of CBM were recovered with a total weight of 270g, these are listed in table 5.

| Ctxt | Trench | CBM type      | No. | Wt (g) | Thick (mm) | Fabric  | Notes                           | Spot date |
|------|--------|---------------|-----|--------|------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 0001 | 1      | <i>tegula</i> | 1   | 113    | 18         | orange, fine sand (slightly silty) with few inclusions, flanged tile                            | Slightly abraded                | Rom       |
| 0007 | 1      | tile          | 1   | 89     | 17+        | orange, fine sand (slightly silty) with few inclusions, some pale clay, smooth, curving surface | Thick piece, upper surface only | Rom?      |
| 0011 | 2      | Pan tile      | 2   | 68     | 12         | Orange to red-brown, fine sand, dark underside, one curving edge piece                          |                                 | L17C-mod  |

Table 5: Ceramic building material (CBM) by context

One piece from Trench 1 (0001) is from the flanged edge of a Roman *tegula* roof tile. Another piece (0007), also from Trench 1, is quite thick (17mm+) suggesting a possible Roman date. If so this would be part of curved *imbrex* roof tile. However, the surface is quite smooth and the fabric quite refined so that a post-medieval or modern date may be possible. Two pieces of post-medieval roof tile were recovered from Trench 2 (0011). One piece is clearly part of a pan tile and the other almost certainly so. Pan tiles are in use from the late 17th century onward, commonly on the roofs of out-buildings or lean-to extensions.

#### Small finds

Nine metal items (0012-0020) were recovered by metal detection and are listed and described in table 6 below. These are unstratified and were recovered from Trench 1, Trench 2 & Trench 3. All appear to be of post-medieval or modern date. The most closely dated are a halfpenny of George III (minted 1807) (0015) and a late 16th-early 17th century Nuremburg jetton (reckoning counter) (0013). The jetton is unusual in that it may have been adapted for reuse as a piece of jewellery. Other recognisable objects, but not closely dated, are part of a rowel spur, buckle frame and a keyhole surround.

| Number | Trench | Material     | Type             | Description   | Spot date              |
|--------|--------|--------------|------------------|---|------------------------|
| 0012   | 1      | Copper-alloy | Keyhole surround | Domed keyhole surround with hole for key and short rectangular fixing projections top and bottom. Key hole damaged (length 40 mm, weight 8 g)   | Post-med/mod, prob mod |
| 0013   | 2      | Copper-alloy | jetton           | Post-Medieval Nuremberg jetton (dia. 23-24 mm) probably of Hans Krauwinckel II (master 1586-1635) of rose / orb type (well preserved image), with three crowns alternating with three fleur-de-lis on other face (very worn). Appears to have been folded close to one edge as there is a crease line, but is now flat. Also there is a neat, small (2 mm) circular piercing close to the edge (in the legend lettering) and the edge here has been slightly indented on each side of the piercing. Possibly reused as a piece of jewellery. (weight 1.5 g) | L16-E17C (1586-1635)   |
| 0014   | 2      | Copper-alloy | spur             | Rowel spur with short neck. The neck and pierced mountings for rowel are near complete but one side of the spur neck is slightly bent, rowel missing. Rounded back with only a part of each arm of the spur surviving. Neither the neck or arms of the spur are curved and are all in one plane. (12 g). Similar examples dated post-medieval (Brown 2006, 53 Nos. 110-117)   | Post-med               |
| 0015   | 2      | Copper-alloy | coin             | George III halfpenny dated 1807 on obv. below image, unbroken BRITANNIA legend on rev. (weight 8.6 g, dia. 28 mm)   | 1807                   |
| 0016   | 3      | lead         |                  | Rectangular, plain lead tag with clipped corners and a fixing hole on the mid line close to one end (indentation from fixing around piercing), slightly buckled (length 63 mm, width 36 mm, weight 40 g)  | Post-med/mod           |
| 0017   | 3      | lead         |                  | Small, ovoid flan of lead with irregular surfaces and edges (length 22 mm, weight 7.6 g)  |                        |
| 0018   | 2      | Copper-alloy | bracket          | Small bracket, one end (flange) bent through 45 degrees with in turned lip on edge, slightly wider 'top' with two small ribbed nails surviving in the fixing holes  | mod                    |

| Number | Trench | Material     | Type         | Description   | Spot date         |
|--------|--------|--------------|--------------|---|-------------------|
| 0019   | 1      | Copper-alloy | terminal     | (length of to 24 mm, width of top 20 mm, with of flange 16 mm, weight 7 g)<br>Small, solid, ovoid knob/terminal with circular base and small part of corroded iron attachment below. Terminal decorated with vertical incised lines on sides, top slightly flattened and plain.<br>(height 20 mm, width 15 mm, weight 27 g) | Prob post-med/mod |
| 0020   | 3      | Copper-alloy | Buckle frame | Corner, probably from a large rectangular buckle frame, decorated with a pair of incised lines close to the outside edge of the plate and running parallel to it (4 g)  | Prob L17/18C-E19C |

Table 6: List of small finds

### Significance of the finds

The earliest of the finds are a few pieces of unstratified Roman pottery and roof tile. They indicate Roman occupation or activity on or close to the site, certainly from the mid 2nd century or later but otherwise are not closely dated within the Roman period.

A single sherd of medieval pottery suggests medieval occupation in the area, but the absence of other finds of this period could indicate a stray piece lost away from settlement in the wider agricultural landscape.

The majority of the finds are of post-medieval and modern date, the more closely dated being of late 16th-early 17th century date and later. These consist of a few sherds of pottery and tile pieces, with the majority being unstratified metal detected finds most of which are not closely dated. Although there is a low level of finds other than metal objects, the range of finds is indicative of occupation on or around the area. The earliest of the more closely dated finds is a Nuremburg jetton of c. 1586-1635. However, it should be noted that this has a neat, circular piercing close to the edge, with some possibly decorative modification (indentations) made to the edges on either side of it. Although some jettons are pierced or marked by incomplete piercing, this appears likely to be a suspension hole and it may have been reused as a piece of jewellery. This raises the possibility that it may have arrived on the site as an old item, or was a treasured curio of some age when lost or discarded. An example of a similar, pierced Nuremburg jetton, which is considered to represent a reuse of the object, is recorded from Hampshire (Portable Antiquities Scheme: HAMP-6491E3), while a pierced jetton from Northamptonshire is thought possibly to have been reused as jewellery (Portable Antiquities Scheme: NARC-2A68F3).

Ref.

Brown, N., 2006, *A medieval moated manor by the Thames estuary: excavations at Southchurch Hall, Southend, Essex*, EAA 115

## Appendix IV- Context List

### WRE 025

| Context | Trench | Finds | Type          | Part of | Description   | Spotdate      |
|---------|--------|-------|---------------|---------|---|---------------|
| 0001    | T1     | F     | U/S           | 0001    | Unstratified finds from spoil of T1   |               |
| 0002    | T1     |       | Pit           | 0002    | Modern pit in SE corner of T1   |               |
| 0003    | T1     |       | Fill          | 0002    | Dark brown sandy fill of 0002 containing L19/E20C pottery sherds, glass bottles & iron debris | Early/mid 20C |
| 0004    | T1     |       | Tree root pit | 0004    | Tree root pit, irregular base & sides   |               |
| 0005    | T1     |       | Fill          | 0004    | Mid brown silty fill of tree root pit containing decayed root debris                          | ?Mid 20C      |
| 0006    | T1     |       | Pit           | 0006    | Pit on south side of T1, 1.60m wide at trench edge, 800mm deep                                |               |
| 0007    | T1     | F     | Fill          | 0006    | Mid brown silty sand fill to pit 0006   |               |
| 0008    | T1     |       | Ditch         | 0008    | Shallow, NW/SE orientated ditch, 500mm wide x 180mm deep                                      |               |
| 0009    | T1     |       | Fill          | 0008    | Fill of ditch 0008, dark brown silty sand, no finds   |               |
| 0010    | T2     |       | Pits          | 0010    | Series of large quarry type pits making up c75% of T2   |               |
| 0011    | T2     | F     | Fill          | 0010    | Mid brown silty sand fill to series of quarry type pits                                       |               |
| 0012    | T1     | F     | MD F          | US      | Cu alloy ?lock cover  |               |
| 0013    | T2     | F     | MD F          | US      | Nurenborg token   |               |
| 0014    | T2     | F     | MD F          | US      | Cu alloy spur frag  |               |
| 0015    | T2     | F     | MD F          | US      | Cu alloy coin (?GIII halfpenny)   |               |
| 0016    | T3     | F     | MD F          | US      | Lead strip  |               |
| 0017    | T3     | F     | MD F          | US      | Lead frag   |               |
| 0018    | T2     | F     | MD F          | US      | Cu alloy bracket  |               |
| 0019    | T1     | F     | MD F          | US      | Small Cu alloy terminal   |               |
| 0020    | T3     | F     | MD F          | US      | Cu alloy buckle frag  |               |

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-144816**

### Project details

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project name                           | Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report  |
| Short description of the project       | Wrentham, Wrentham Hall, Church Street (WRE 025, TM 4885 8301) evaluation trenching for a planned coach house, swimming pool and tennis court within the northern part of the grounds revealed evidence for Post medieval quarrying activity in one area to the north of the house in addition to a pair of pits of a similar date and a shallow, undated, ditch closer to the boundary shared with the churchyard to the north-east. A few sherds of Roman period pottery were also collected from the upcast spoil of the latter trench as was a fragment of Roman tile with another tile fragment being a residual find in Post medieval pit. However a thorough metal detector search in and around the three trenches recovered mainly non-ferrous finds of recent date plus a Nuremberg token from the early Post medieval period. The latter find is of moderate interest as it had been pierced and therefore may have may have been modified as a piece of jewellery. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 11-02-2013 End: 12-02-2013  |
| Previous/future work                   | Yes / Yes  |
| Any associated project reference codes | WRE 025 - HER event no.  |
| Any associated project reference codes | 1352538 - LBS No.  |
| Type of project                        | Field evaluation   |
| Site status                            | None   |
| Current Land use                       | Other 5 - Garden   |
| Monument type                          | PIT Post Medieval  |
| Monument type                          | DITCH Uncertain  |
| Monument type                          | TREE ROOT PIT Post Medieval  |
| Monument type                          | QUARRY PIT Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Roman  |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Post Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | TILE Post Medieval   |



Significant Finds JETTON Medieval

Significant Finds TILE Roman

### Project location

Country England

Site location SUFFOLK WAVENEY WRENTHAM WRENTHAM HALL, CHURCH STREET

Postcode NR34 7LX

Study area 1200.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TM 48856 83016 52 1 52 23 16 N 001 39 27 E Point

Height OD /  
Depth Min: 13.00m Max: 14.00m

### 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", "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 "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Date                          | 2013                                     |
| 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                    | 3 March 2013                             |

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page