

**Byfield Cottage, Chapel Road,
Blythburgh, Suffolk**

Planning application: C/12/0829

HER Ref: BLB 089

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(April 2013)

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

Site details for HER

Name: Byfield Cottage, Chapel Road, Blythburgh, Suffolk, IP19 9LW

Client: Mr & Mrs J Goold

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/12/0829

Development: Erection of extension

Date of fieldwork: 1& 20 March, 2013

HER Ref: BLB 089

OASIS: johnnewm1-148800

Grid ref: TM 4526 7514

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John Newman Archaeological Services

Summary: Blythburgh, Byfield Cottage, Chapel Road (BLB 089, TM 4526 7514) monitoring of foundation and services trenches for an extension close to the southern edge of the historic core of the village revealed a small area of flint cobbled yard or path and a few large, extraction type, pits of Post medieval date. Some evidence was also recorded for earlier Roman and medieval activity in the area in the form of a few pottery sherds from these periods being recovered from the upcast subsoil deposits (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs J Goold).



Frontispiece: extract from Blythburgh parish tithe map of 1841 (Suffolk RO ref. P461/31A)
(North to top, arrow to Byfield Cottage)

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr G Vale on behalf of his clients, Mr & Mrs J Goold, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application C/12/0829. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Ms S Poppy of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the erection of an extension to Byfield Cottage, Chapel Road, Blythburgh (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Located on the southern side of the River Blyth towards the upper limit of its tidal range some 3.5 miles west of the modern coastline Blythburgh is now a modest sized village well known for its imposing church. Historically however Blythburgh has played a significant role with clear evidence for having been a major Middle to Late Saxon settlement with almost certain minster, or central church, status. In addition a market is recorded here from at least 1324 and possibly from the mid 11th century Domesday Book period and a medieval Augustinian Abbey was established in all likelihood recalling the Saxon minster disrupted during the period of the Viking incursions. The medieval monastic house noted above being located in the area to the north-east of the parish church. Byfield Cottage is located towards the southern edge of the historic core of the settlement c270m south-east of the church at c10m OD in an area of generally good drainage on sands and gravels though heavier, clayey, deposits have been revealed closer to the church at Cherry Tree Cottage.

1.3 Byfield Cottage is an intriguing structure as its core is formed by a small brick and flint building that in all likelihood was constructed as an agricultural outbuilding such as a stable though two small, in-filled, brick arches low down on its western side may indicate a more specialist function. This building is clearly shown on the parish tithe map of 1841 within plot 316 (see frontispiece) with this plot being described in the relevant apportionment as being a 'cottage and garden' and owned by George Whincop who also owned at least two other properties in the village. Examination of the card index for the Ipswich Advertiser at the Suffolk Record Office confirms that George Whincop of Blythburgh lived between 1767 and 1847 and he is listed as a blacksmith.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was therefore generated by its location within the historic core of the village (HER BLB 025) and proximity to previously recorded evidence for medieval activity (HER BLB 011).

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 An initial, longer, visit was made to the site to observe the excavation of the foundations for the side extension as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 600mm wide toothed bucket on a bright, though cold, day with site visibility good at all times. A second and shorter visit was then made to exam the service trench which ran along the drive towards Chapel Road to the north. The trenches were entered to allow for closer inspection of the exposed soil profiles and hand cleaning of indistinct areas while the upcast spoil was stockpiled nearby allowing for a close inspection for stray finds. The foundations were recorded in

relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 In total nearly 18m of 600mm wide and 1200mm deep foundation trench were examined along the sides of the extension footprint (see Fig. 2) on the north-eastern side of the cottage. In addition some 26m of 500mm wide and 800mm to 1000mm deep service trench running from the front of the cottage along the narrow drive to the southern edge of Chapel Road were examined.

3.2 The extension footprint area proved to have a well developed 400mm deep layer of topsoil which lay over 500mm to 600mm of a mid brown sandy subsoil. Below the subsoil the locally occurring glaciofluvial deposits at the base of the trenches was silty orange sand with occasional pockets of light grey clay. At three points in the northern foundation trench clear evidence for previous pitting extending well below the base of the excavated trench could be seen (see Appendix I- Images). Each of these areas of disturbance were between 1300mm and 1600mm in diameter containing a mid brown sandy fill similar in character to the subsoil above and all were left in situ. However a clear indication for date could be seen for each feature as two contained small fragments of Post medieval tile or brick while the third also contained whiteware sherds of mid to late 19th century date.

3.3 Mid way along the eastern foundation trench a feature of more interest was revealed with a 1400mm wide area of rounded flints lain closely together at a depth of 500mm in the upper part of the subsoil deposit at the site (see Appendix I- Images). This area of flint cobbling was also associated with fragments of Post medieval peg tile and, with its somewhat irregular edges and rough surface, is interpreted as part of a yard surface or a path.

3.4 The service trench along the drive revealed natural orange sands at a depth of 600mm next to Chapel Road and at 900mm close to the cottage under 250mm of drive make-up and 350mm to 650mm of mid brown sandy subsoil. The only features recorded were two or three pits of later 19th/early 20th century date at the southern end of the drive.

3.5 Throughout the monitoring a close examination was maintained of the upcast spoil and in this process a small number of pottery sherds were recovered though in general the subsoil was clean with few indicators of past activity of any great age.

4. The Finds

4.1 In total 9 sherds (221g) of pottery were recovered as unstratified finds during the monitoring of the extension foundation trenches and the full report and catalogue by Stephen Benfield is included as Appendix III below. In summary evidence for earlier activity in the area of this site is suggested by one small sherd of Roman period coarseware while the medieval period is better represented with single sherds of 12th-14th and 15th-16th century date, the latter being a large (74g) rim sherd. Some continuity regarding activity at the site can then be suggested by sherds of 16th-18th and 19th-early 20th century date.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While this site lies within the historic core of the village its location towards the southern edge of this area of archaeological interest is indicated by the low level of evidence for pre 18th/19th century activity that was recorded during the monitoring. The small number of pre 18th century pottery sherds recovered from this site being, in all probability, evidence for the scattering of domestic waste on land within agricultural use. More intensive land use can only be identified from the 18th/19th century period with the erection of the earliest part of what is now Byfield Cottage as an agricultural outbuilding before 1841, apparently with an associated yard or path made up of flint cobbles, and the excavation of a series of probable quarry pits.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the extent of the monitored strip foundations and service trench have had little impact on archaeological deposits of any significance at this site.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Steve Everitt and everyone on site for their close cooperation in relation to this site monitoring)

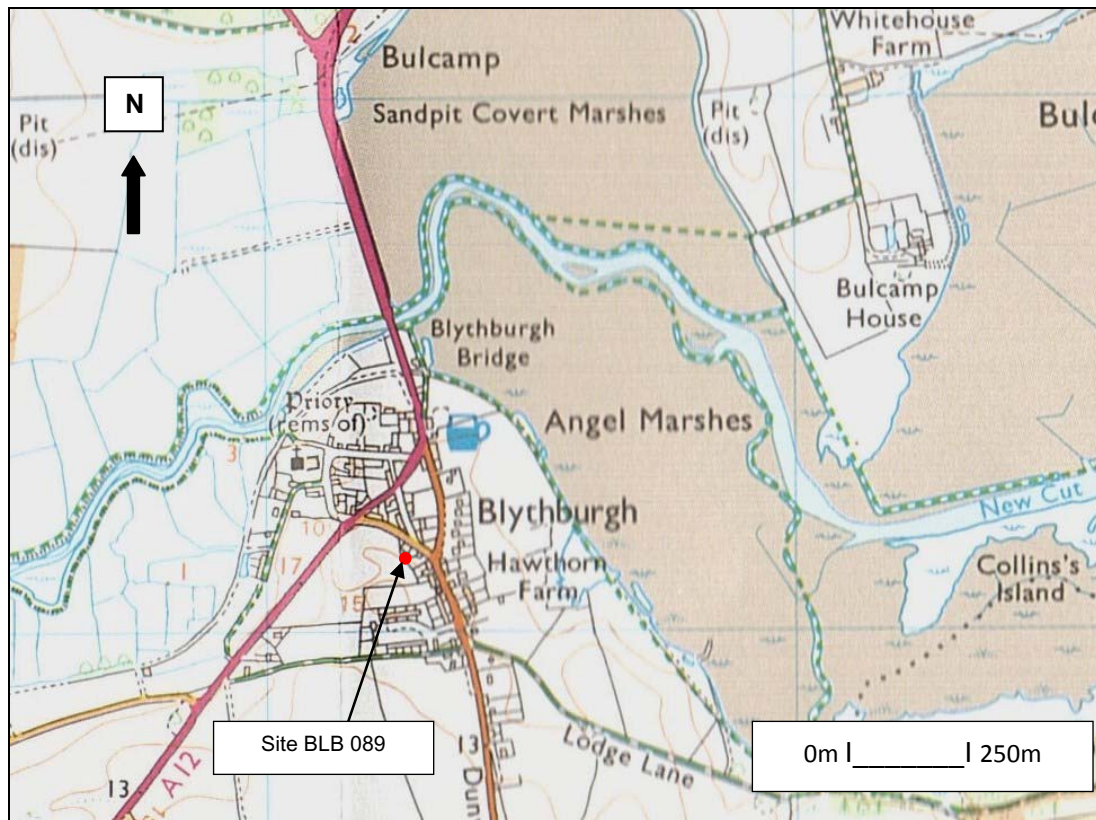


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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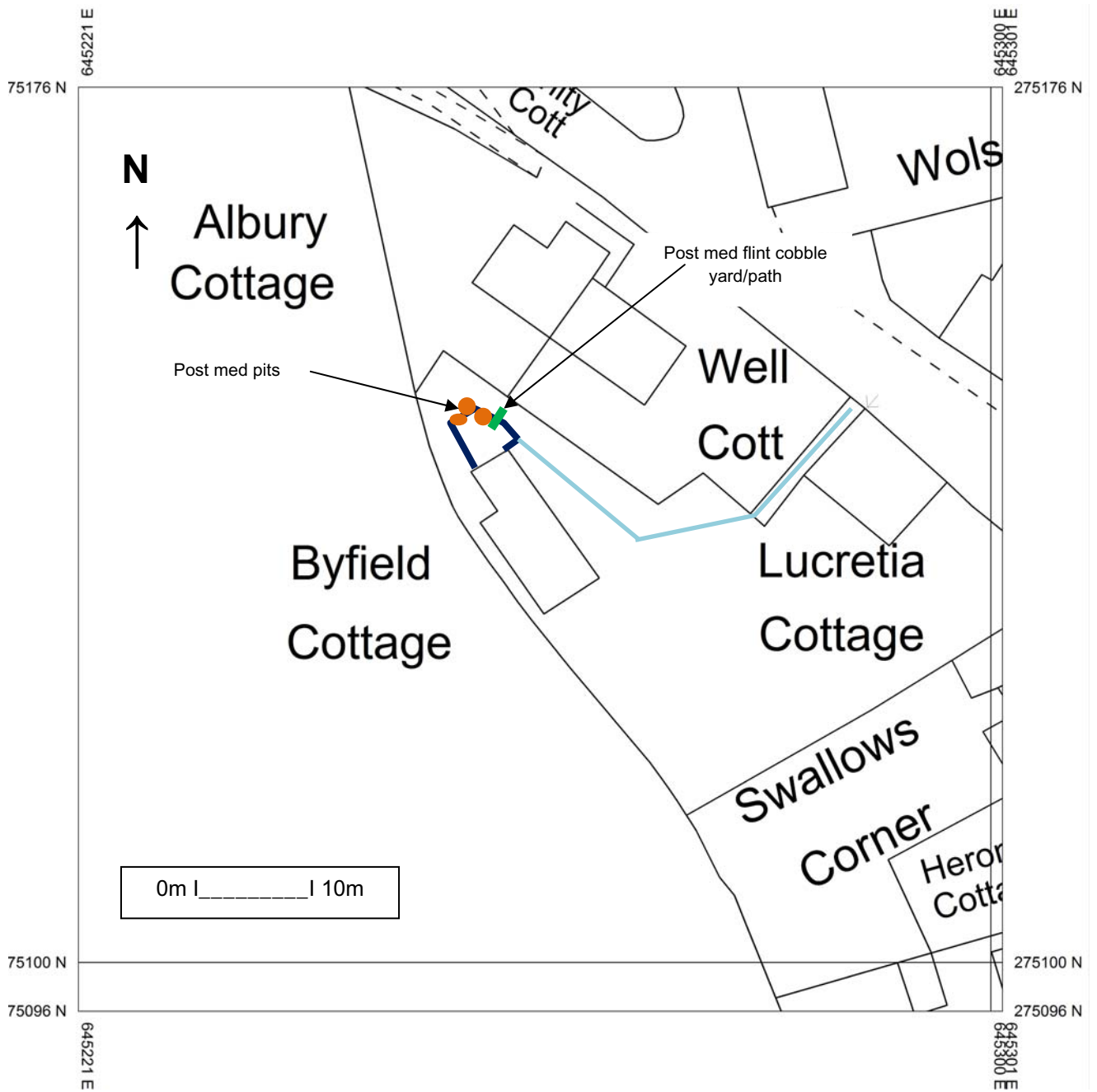


Fig.2: Monitored extension footprint trenches (dark blue) & service trench (light blue)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from north



North-west corner of footings from east with Post medieval quarry type pit



Small area of flint cobbles in eastern footing trench



Flint cobbles- detail

**Byfield Cottage, Chapel Road,
Blythburgh, Suffolk**

Planning application: C/12/0829

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Continuous Archaeological Monitoring**

Site details

Name: Byfield Cottage, Chapel Road, Suffolk, IP19 9LW

Client: Mr & Mrs J Goold

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/12/0829

Proposed development: Erection of extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc (JNAS request at least 2-3 weeks notice)

Brief & Specification ref: 2012_07_25_SCCAS_Monitoring_Byfield Cottage

Grid ref: TM 4526 7513

Conservation area

Contents

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

1. Introduction

1.1 Geoffrey Vale Chartered Architect on behalf of his clients, Mr & Mrs J Goold has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application C/12/0829. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Ms S Poppy of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of an extension to Byfield Cottage, Chapel Road, Blythburgh.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Located on the southern side of the River Blyth towards the upper limit of its tidal range some 3.5 miles west of the modern coastline Blythburgh is now a modest sized village well known for its imposing church. Historically however Blythburgh has played a significant role with clear evidence for having been a major Middle to Late Saxon settlement with almost certain minster, or central church, status. In addition a market is recorded here from at least 1324 and possibly from the mid 11th century Domesday Book period and a medieval Augustinian Abbey was established in all likelihood recalling the Saxon minster disrupted during the period of the Viking incursions. The medieval monastic house noted above being located in the area to the north-east of the parish church. Byfield Cottage is located towards the southern edge of the historic core of the settlement c270m south-east of the church at c10m OD in an area of generally good drainage on sands and gravels though heavier, clayey, deposits have been revealed closer to the church at Cherry Tree Cottage.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief and Specification: 'The proposed extension to Byfield Cottage affects an area of archaeological potential, within the historic core of Blythburgh (County Historic Environment Record ref BLB 025). The settlement at Blythburgh has Anglo-Saxon origins, and medieval occupation evidence comprising hearths, pits and postholes has been identified in proximity to the development area (HER ref BLB 011). There is high potential for encountering medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation deposits at this location'

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

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

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

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be trench foundations. The excavation of the trench footings and related service trenches will be observed once they are underway and then through to completion and any up cast spoil examined for finds. Notice of ground works starting and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to hand clean sections as necessary and investigate any possible archaeological deposits at the rate of 1.5 hours per 10m of foundation trench and 1 hour per 20m for the smaller service as a minimum.

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

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the trench foundations with sections recorded related to the trench sides, if possible, and with levels OD. Even if no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a

record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land use and topography in the town. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litre if possible) will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains which would incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (the potential of this site to contain burials is assessed as being low).

5.4 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

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

5.6 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 4) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 2 above and their significance in the context of the Regional

Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). An unbound draft copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided plus another for the County HER, a copy will be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up. As appropriate a dxf type vector plan of the area examined will be supplied for inclusion into the County HER map base.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots & ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

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

6.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and any ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

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

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

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

7. Specialists

Conservation:

Conservation Services

John Newman Archaeological Services

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

Appendix III- The Finds

Stephen Benfield, Colchester Archaeological Trust, April, 2013

Introduction

A small quantity of unstratified (0001) pottery of Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern date, was recovered from the subsoil. In total there are nine sherds with a combined weight of 221g. The pottery was recorded using the Suffolk Roman and post-Roman (medieval, post-medieval and modern) fabric type series (unpublished). The pottery fabrics are listed in Table 1 and the pottery is listed and spot dated in Table 2. Discussion of the finds, beyond the quantification and description contained in the listing, is not considered necessary.

Fabric name	Code	broad date range
Roman fabrics:		
Miscellaneous sandy grey wares	GX	M1-4C
Medieval fabrics:		
Medieval coarse ware	MCW	L12-14C
Late medieval and transitional	LMT	15-L16C
Post-medieval fabrics:		
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	16-18C
Iron Glazed Black Wares	IGBW	16-18C
Modern fabrics:		
English stoneware	ESW	L18-19/20C

Table 1: Pottery fabrics

Ctxt	Ctxt type	Fabric	No	Wt(g)	Eve	Abr.	Form	Notes	Spot date
0001	US	GX	1	3				Small, thin, wheel-made, grey ware sherd, probably Roman	M1-4C
		MCW	4	70				Dark-grey/black surfaced, sandy coarse ware body sherds from 2-3 pots	L12-14C
		LMT	1	74	0.05		Large jar	Rim with frilled collar and with thumbled edge of handle attachment?. Probably burnt. Black surfaces, iridescent interior and a white deposit, possibly traces of cream slip or coating? on the exterior. Similar to some GRE vessels but probably LMT.	15-16C
		GRE	1	18				base sherd, sooted	16-18C
		IGBW	1	28				Base with footring, shiny, very dark-brown/black glaze	16-18C
		ESW	1	28	0.05			Sherd from upper part of a small, brown glazed, cylindrical 'ink' bottle	Prob 19/E20C

Table 2: Pottery by context

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-148800

Project details

Project name	Byfield Cottage, Chapel Road, Blythburgh, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Blythburgh, Byfield Cottage, Chapel Road (BLB 089, TM 4526 7514) monitoring of foundation and services trenches for an extension close to the southern edge of the historic core of the village revealed a small area of flint cobbled yard or path and a few large, extraction type, pits of Post medieval date. Some evidence was also recorded for earlier Roman and medieval activity in the area in the form of a few pottery sherds from these periods being recovered from the upcast subsoil deposits.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2013 End: 20-03-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BLB 089 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Site status	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	YARD SURFACE Post Medieval
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL BLYTHBURGH BYFIELD COTTAGE, CHAPEL ROAD
Postcode	IP19 9LW

Study area 50.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TM 4526 7514 52 1 52 19 07 N 001 35 57 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 Landowner
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
 Digital Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Media available "Images vector","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
 Paper Contents "Ceramics"
 Paper Media available "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Byfield Cottage, Chapel Road, Blythburgh, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring 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 25 April 2013