

**Hall Farm, Church Lane,
Hoo, Suffolk**

Planning application: C/12/2450

HER Ref: HOO 014

Evaluation & Monitoring Report

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

(September 2013)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land at Hall Farm, Church Lane, Hoo, Suffolk

Client: C H & F M Parkinson & Son

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/12/2450

Development: Erection of grain silo

Date of fieldwork: 5 March (evaluation) & 22 April (monitoring), 2013

HER Ref: HOO 014

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-157417

Grid ref: TM 2566 5942

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Summary: Hoo, land at Hall Farm, Church Lane (HOO 014, TM 2566 5942) evaluation trenching for a new grain silo close to the recorded find spot of Roman period pottery revealed one large and one small ditch of later 1st to mid 2nd century date plus an undated small ditch. Subsequent monitoring of ground works recorded a short length of another small ditch which proved to be of probable middle Saxon date. However in general the soil strip for the hard-standing for the silo was too shallow to reveal any other archaeological features though one rim sherd of Ipswich ware was recovered as a stray find while a stray sherd of later Saxon Thetford type ware was recovered during the initial trenching works (John Newman Archaeological Services for C H & F M Parkinson & Son).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 C H & F M Parkinson & Son commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation works, as specified in a brief set by Ms J Plouviez of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service, and subsequent monitoring of ground works on the site to the north-east of Hall Farm, Church Lane, Hoo (see Fig 1) where planning permission had been gained under application C/12/2450 for a new grain silo. The relevant decision notice for this application making its consent conditional upon a programme of archaeological works being undertaken and completed as the site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Therefore to allow works to commence on site JNAS produced the required Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in response to the relevant brief and thereby gain conditional discharge.

1.2 Hoo, which is located 8 miles to the north of Woodbridge and on the western side of the River Deben in east Suffolk, is an almost extreme example of a dispersed settlement with various farms and cottages scattered across the parish and little nucleation evident close to the church. Hall Farm is c100m north of the parish church of St Andrew & St Eustachius and some 300m south of the River Deben at c35mOD. The proposed development site for the silo is c150m north-east of the parish church with little recent activity nearby save Hall Farm and its associated complex of buildings. Topographically the area across the new silo site and to its south is relatively flat while to the north the ground drops gently towards the River Deben. At the time of the evaluation the silo site with its planned associated area of hard-standing was under arable cultivation.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was due to its close proximity to a known Roman period site (HER HOO 005, see Fig. 1) some 50m to the north-west and to the parish church (HER HOO 006) which has formed a focus for activity since at least the later Saxon period. In addition the silo site is in a topographic location often favoured in the past for settlement being on the crest of the slope overlooking a major river valley.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The proposed development area for the silo and hard-standing was trenched to an agreed plan (see Fig. 2) to gain a representative sample of the site. Two 1.8m wide trenches with a total length of 19m were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision to the top of the underlying naturally occurring glaciofluvial pale yellowish brown chalky clay with flints deposit using a 1500mm wide, toothless, ditching bucket giving a sample of 34.20m², or c6%, of the overall proposed development area of c500m² and including a c20% sample of the silo footprint which would see the most extensive disturbance (trench 1- 7m long/12.6m² in area, trench 2- 12m long/21.6m² in area).

2.2 The exposed clay surface was closely examined for archaeological features, as were the trench sides, and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned. Exposed archaeological features were examined and excavated by hand with 1m long sections from each of the three identified linear features from which bulk samples were taken. The upcast spoil from the trenches was closely examined for archaeological finds and the spoil and exposed trench surfaces were systematically

searched with a metal detector as was the spoil from the three linear features. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation on a clear sunny day. The trenches were then recorded in detail and, with plans and sections at a scale of 1:20, and plotted in relation to locally mapped points before a full photographic record in digital format was taken of the trenching works (see Appendix I).

3. Evaluation results

(see Figs. 2 & 3, Appendix I- Images & Appendix V- Context list)

3.1 As noted above Trench 1 was 7m long and was on a north-south alignment to one side of the planned hard-standing area to the south of the silo site. The topsoil proved to be relatively shallow at 250mm and this lay directly over the underlying natural clay with flints. Within Trench 1 only one archaeological feature was revealed and this was of a linear type which can be identified as a small ditch (0002) on a south-west/north-east alignment. This small ditch (0002) was 450mm wide but only 150mm deep and it contained a mid brown clay fill (0003) from which three pottery sherds (wt. 22g) were recovered.

3.2 Trench 2 was 12m long and was also on a north-south alignment and was designed to sample the circular silo footprint. In this case the trench was 450mm deep at its northern end with 350mm of topsoil over 100mm of mid brown clay subsoil and this overall depth increased to 650mm at the southern end with 400mm of topsoil over 250mm of subsoil. Two archaeological features were revealed in Trench 2 and both were also of a linear type which can be interpreted as ditches though with quite different characteristics. Close to the mid-point of Trench 2 on a south-east/north-west alignment a 1600mm wide and 900mm deep ditch (0004) was clearly visible as its upper fill (0005) was a mid to dark brown clay which contained numerous charcoal flecks. Below this upper fill the lower fill (0006) was of a mid brown clay type with numerous oyster shells. This larger ditch (0004) was more productive with 13 sherds of pottery (wt. 207g) from the upper fill (0005) and 7 (wt. 128g) from the lower layer (0006).

3.3 The second archaeological feature in Trench 2 was another small ditch (0007) which ran on a south-west/north-east alignment which met with the larger ditch (0004) at a point just outside the eastern side of the trench. This ditch (0007) was 400mm wide and 100mm deep and the fill (0008) did not yield any finds.

3.4 During examination of the upcast spoil a further 4 pottery sherds (0001, wt. 89g) were recovered and a moderate quantity of debris of recent date was also noted. However the metal detector scan of the upcast spoil and area around the trenches only recovered finds of 19th century, or later, date with numerous small fragments of recent agricultural type debris and clinker making such a survey difficult to carry out.

4. Monitoring methodology

4.1 Ground works for the main phase of construction at the site were monitored as they progressed using a large 360 machine equipped with a wide, flat bucket while the circular foundation trench for the circular silo was excavated with a 700mm wide bucket. The exposed surface was carefully examined as was the open trench.

5. Monitoring results

(see Figs. 2 & 3 & Appendix V- Context list)

5.1 In general the soil strip for the area of hard-standing was not as deep as the evaluation trenches as it varied between 200mm and 300mm from south to north across the site. Therefore the level at which archaeological features, if present, would be revealed was not reached apart from in a small area of 12m² in the south-eastern corner of the area examined. Within this small area where the underlying natural clay with flints was exposed one small, north-south aligned, ditch (0009) type feature was identified and sectioned. This ditch (0009) was 700mm wide but only 100mm deep and it contained a mid brown clay fill (0010) from which one pottery sherd (wt. 7g) was recovered.

5.2 Examination of the 800mm deep foundation trench for the silo structure did not reveal any archaeological features save the large ditch (0004) examined in the evaluation.

5.3 During the monitoring phase examination of the exposed subsoil surface 4 pottery sherds (0011, wt. 67g) were recovered and another 4 sherds (0012, wt. 62g) were found in the upcast spoil.

6. The Finds

7.1 In total 37 sherds of pottery weighing 600g were recovered from the evaluation and monitoring in addition to 8 fragments (336g) of animal bone and 7 oyster shells (218g, as a sample) with the majority of the finds (20 sherds/335g & all of the animal bone and oyster shells) coming from the single ditch (0004) of any size identified at the site. The full finds report by Stephen Benfield can be found below as Appendix III and the following summary outlines the salient points of this report.

7.2 The bulk of the pottery sherds recovered were of Roman period date, with the majority being common greyware types, and the main phase of activity represented is in the early to mid 2nd century with the large ditch (0004) perhaps having been excavated in the late 1st century and clearly being close to an area of settlement into the 2nd century. One of the smaller ditches (0002) is also likely to be of late 1st to 2nd century date though this conclusion is based on a very limited pottery group from its fill (0003). From the relatively small finds assemblage that was collected it is difficult to gauge the status of the settlement at this location in the Roman period; however the recovery of sherds of samian ware plus possible evidence of wares from the West Stow industry points to the ability to import items and exhibit a degree of 'Romanisation.' In addition while there is a lack of Roman period metal finds conditions for recovery were not ideal and the small animal bone group did contain evidence for horse which may represent an animal for personal transport rather than work use. If for personal transport this may indicate a certain degree of prosperity within this settlement in the early to mid 2nd century. Finally the pottery finds indicate continued Roman period activity at this location into the 4th century.

7.3 With no evidence of activity at this site before the Roman period only three sherds of pottery hint at post Roman use of the area, albeit following a gap in the finds recovered for the post-Roman period. The fill (0010) of the small ditch (0009) did contain a single sherd of possible Ipswich ware of early 8th to mid 9th century

date. In addition a rim sherd of Ipswich ware was amongst the stray sherds (0012) from the monitoring and one of the sherds from the evaluation phase stray finds (0001) could be of Thetford type ware of later Saxon to post-conquest date.

7. The Environmental Evidence

7.1 Samples were taken from the fills (0005 & 0006) of the large ditch (0004) in Trench 2 and from the fill (0003) of the smaller, dateable, ditch (0002) in Trench 1 so an assessment could be made of any charred macrofossil and other remains. The full report by Val Fryer is included below as Appendix IV and the following summary outlines the main findings.

7.2 The assemblages from the three samples that were taken were all small and are described as being 'somewhat limited in composition' with an overall conclusion that they probably represent 'wind-dispersed midden waste' supporting the conclusion from the finds assemblage that the area examined at this site is close to an area of settlement. Within the small macro-fossil groups that were recovered barley and wheat (mainly spelt type) are represented weed seeds are noted as being scarce. In addition fragments of hazel nutshell and marine mollusc were identified.

8. Conclusion

8.1 Prior to the start of the archaeological investigations at this site related to the construction of the grain silo and hard-standing evidence for Roman period activity had been recorded to the north-west (HER HOO 005) and while the recent works were limited with regard to significant ground disturbance important additional evidence has been collected. In particular the conclusions that can be derived from the finds assemblage and environmental evidence from the large ditch (0004) adds considerably to an understanding of Roman period activity at this location which clearly was thriving in the early to mid 2nd century and continued in some form until the 4th century. It also appears likely that the evidence collected points to a farming community of unknown size but one which had at least a moderate level of prosperity and some desire to exhibit a degree of 'Romanisation' by possessing vessels of imported samian ware.

8.2 The more limited, but still significant, evidence for mid to late Saxon activity at this site is also of interest as it points to the presence of a settlement being re-established in this area in the 8th-9th century period following what appears to be a gap in the post-Roman period. A mid Saxon origin for much of the settlement pattern that developed into the later Saxon and medieval parish and village landscape has been identified lower down the Deben valley (Newman, 2005, 481) and this example supports this finding.

8.3 It has been noted that evidence for lower status Roman period rural settlements, their economic base and their degree of Romanisation are relevant current research areas (Medlycott, 2011, 47). The results from this programme of works could form a small part of such a study. It is finally concluded that the results from the archaeological investigations at this site can be disseminated effectively by the publication of a short summary in the relevant County Journal coupled with deposit of the report and archive in at the relevant depository and via the uploading of a

digital version of the report to 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. HOO 014.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Esther Newman for processing the finds, to Stephen Benfield of the Colchester Archaeological Trust for his specialist finds works, Robert Fryer for processing the samples and Val Fryer for reporting on the subsequent results, to Steve Dickons for supplying the plans, to John Parkinson on site and to the relevant contractors).

Ref.

Medlycott, M	2011	'Research & Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England,' East Anglian Archaeology Occ. Paper 24
Newman, J	2005	'Survey in the Deben Valley' in Sutton Hoo: A seventh-century princely burial ground in its context, M Carver, Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, No 69 pp 477-487 (The British Museum Press)

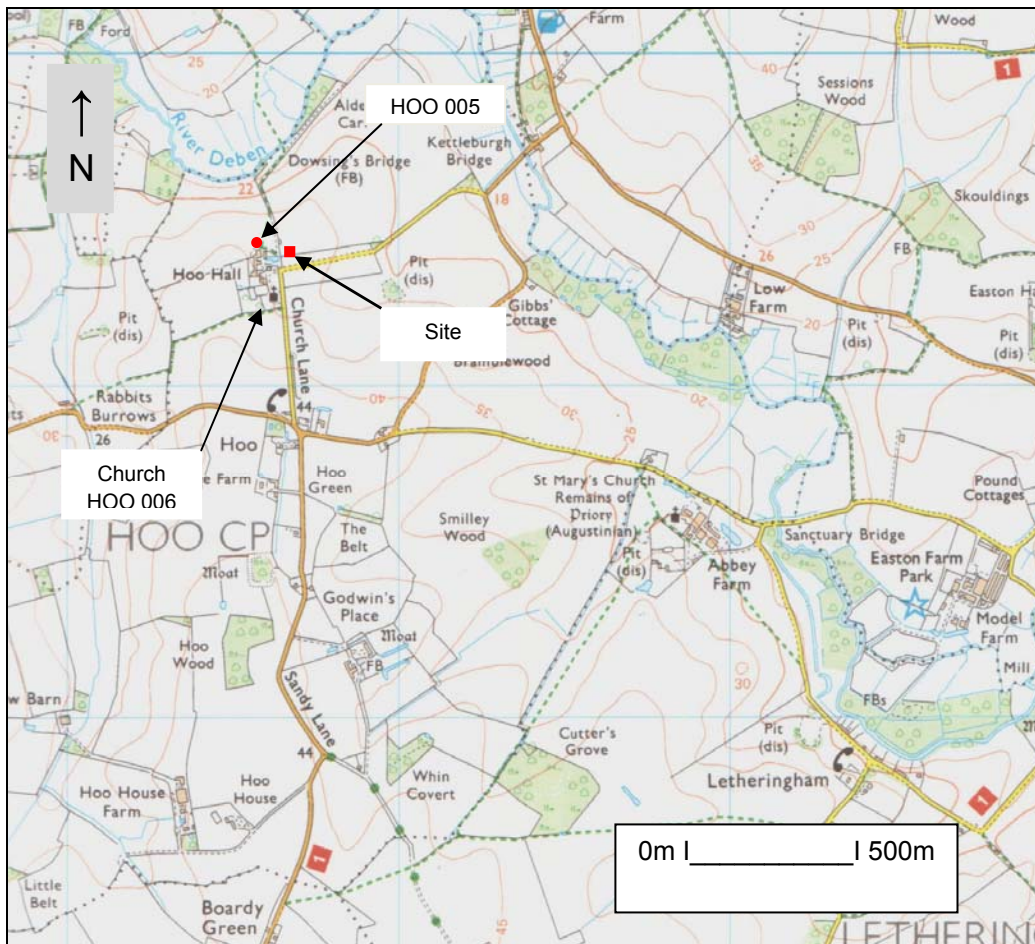


Fig.1: Site location (with nearby sites recorded on the SCC HER)
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008 All rights reserved Licence No. 100049722)

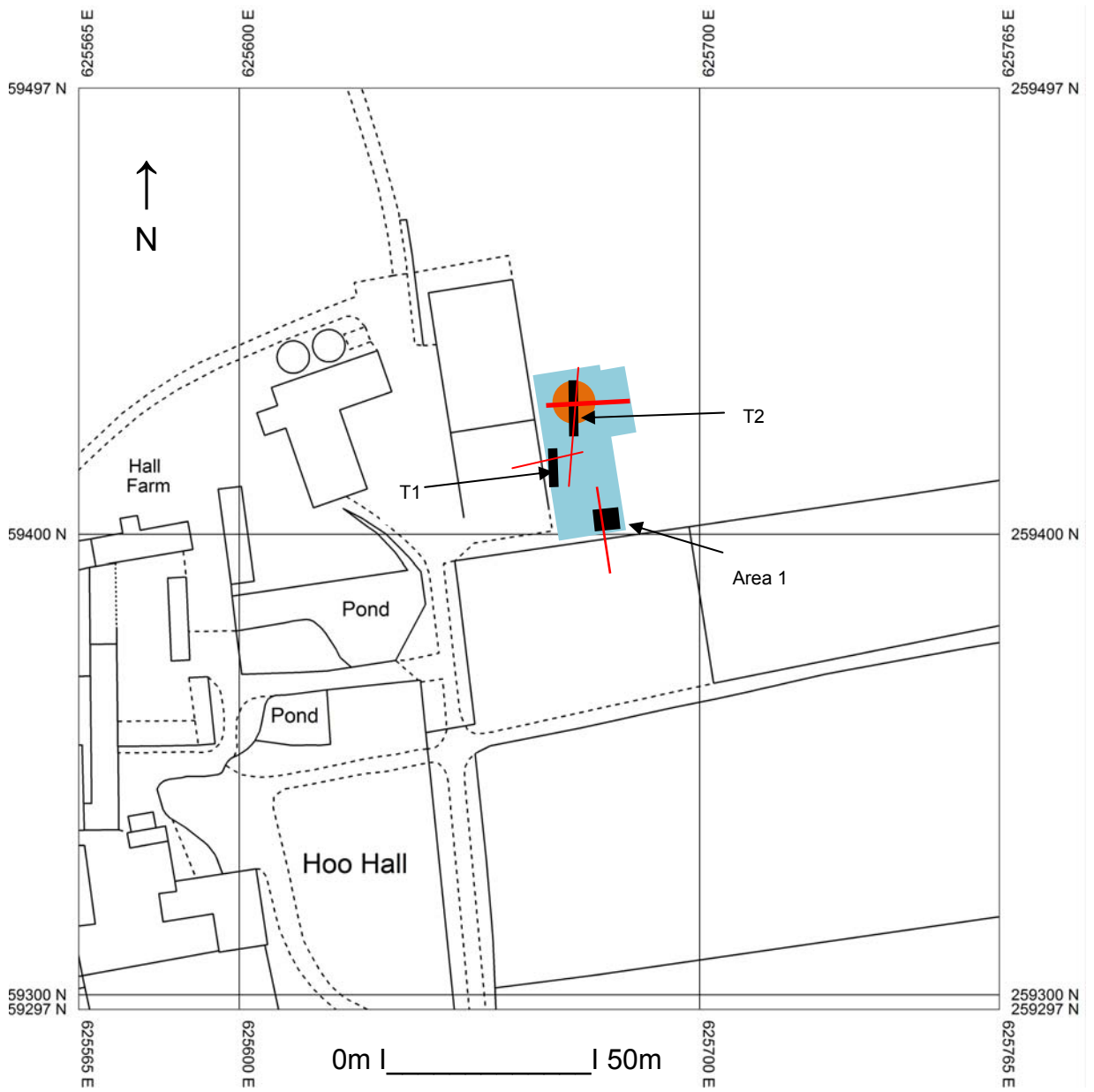


Fig. 2: Location of trenches & monitoring area 1
 (Hard-standing area- light blue, silo- brown, recorded ditches- red)
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

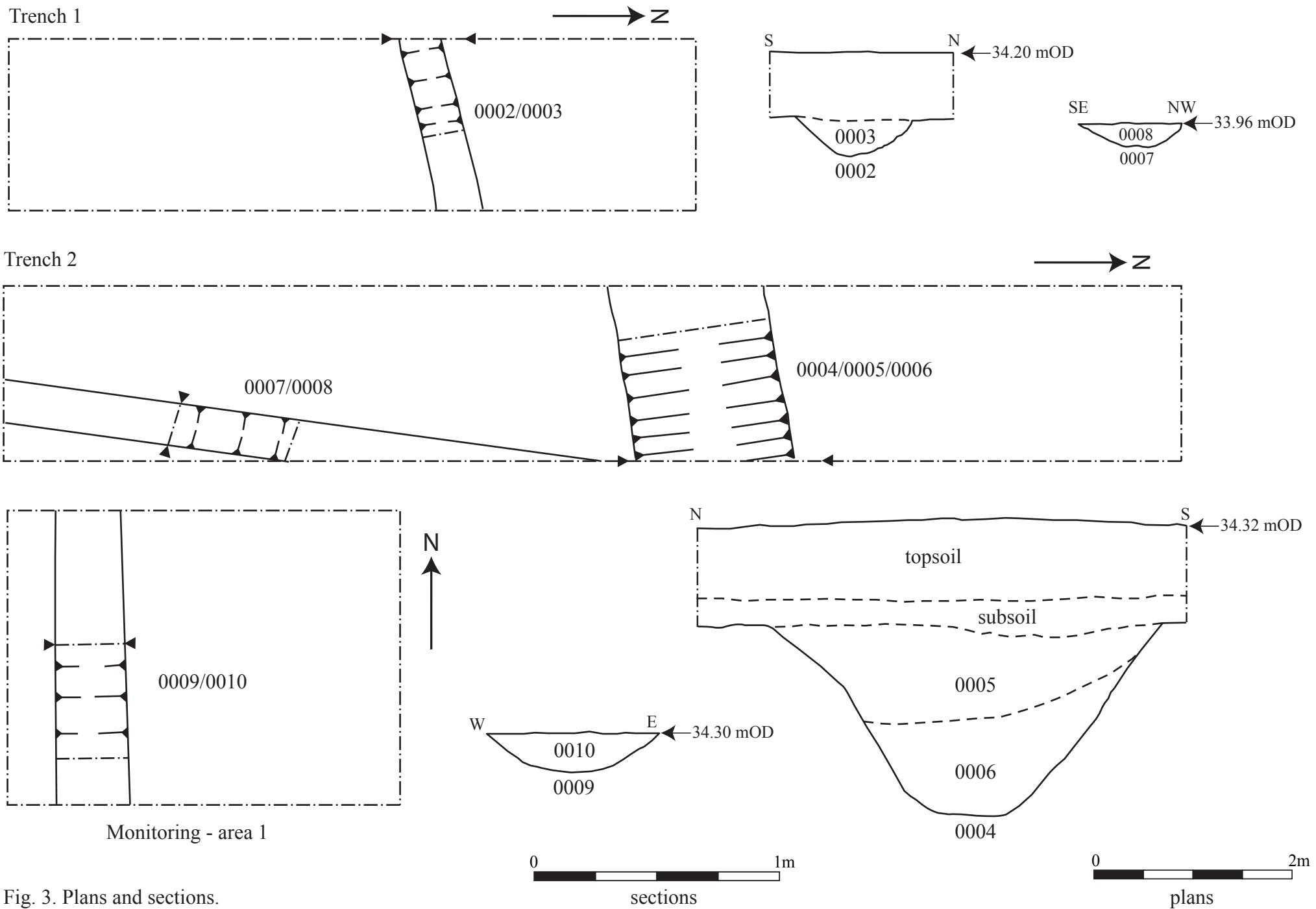


Fig. 3. Plans and sections.

Appendix I- Images



General view from south with ground beginning to drop into the Deben valley



Trench 1 from south



Trench 1- small ditch 0002 from east



Trench 2 from south- small ditch 0007 in right foreground



Trench 2- ditch 0004 from west



Monitoring of subsoil from south-east

**Hall Farm, Church Lane,
Hoo, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site details

Name: Land at Hall Farm, Church Lane, Hoo, Suffolk

Client: C H & F M Parkinson & Son

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/12/2450

Proposed development: Erection of grain silo

Proposed date for evaluation: Tuesday, 5 March, 2013

Brief ref: 2013_02_21_SCCAS_Trenched_Archaeological_Evaluation_Brief_Hoo Hall Farm

Grid ref: TM 2566 5942

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1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Evaluation
5. Methodology
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Proposed location of trial trenches

1. Introduction

1.1 C H & F M Parkinson & Son have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed grain silo development that has recently received consent to go ahead. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application C/12/2450 and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Ms J Plouviez 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 grain silo, with access works, at Hall Farm, Church Lane, Hoo .

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 Hoo, 8 miles to the north of Woodbridge, and on the western side of the River Deben in east Suffolk is an almost extreme example of a dispersed settlement with various farms and cottages scattered across the parish and little nucleation evident close to the church. Hall Farm is some 100m north of the parish church of St Andrew & St Eustachius some 750m west of the River Deben at c35mOD in an area dominated by relatively free draining soils derived from the underlying naturally derived sands and grovels. The proposed development site for the silo is c150m north of the parish church with little recent activity nearby save Hall Farm and its associated complex of buildings.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief " A site evaluation by trial trenching is therefore required to identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together. This development lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). A Roman site is indicated by finds of pottery from 50m to the north (Suffolk HER ref HOO 005) and the Hall complex lies immediately to the north of the medieval church (HER ref HOO 006). The development lies between 30 and 35 m OD, on a north-facing spur overlooking the Deben valley.'

- 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.

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the main archaeological potential relates to the site's location where evidence for Roman and medieval period settlement and related activities may exist. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed development area with an evaluation trench over the proposed new build area and related access 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 grain silo with access at Hall Farm Church Lane, Hoo.

5.2 The Brief requires a 5% by area sample of the footprint area and access and the trenching plan below outlines the proposed evaluation works. The trenching will be undertaken using a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench plan as set out below. 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 though this is a rare occurrence on small scale evaluations).

- 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, examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is unlikely unless particularly deep features are present).
- Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the evaluation the relevant SCCAS Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling and assessment by the relevant evaluation specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged)

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2, and particularly Appendix 3). This archive will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the guidelines outlined in '*Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2008). As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.8 The evaluation report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 3.1 & Appendix 4.1) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the aims of this WSI and section 4 above in particular. The report will give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. The report will include an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features in relation to both dated and undated features and in terms of patterning across the site.

5.9 Any interpretation of the evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results and the results will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site evaluation in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). There will be no further work on site until the evaluation results have been assessed and the SCCAS Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required 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 agent has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the discovery of underground services is unlikely. No overhead services impinge on the trench locations. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the evaluation will be passed to finds and environmental specialists.

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

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

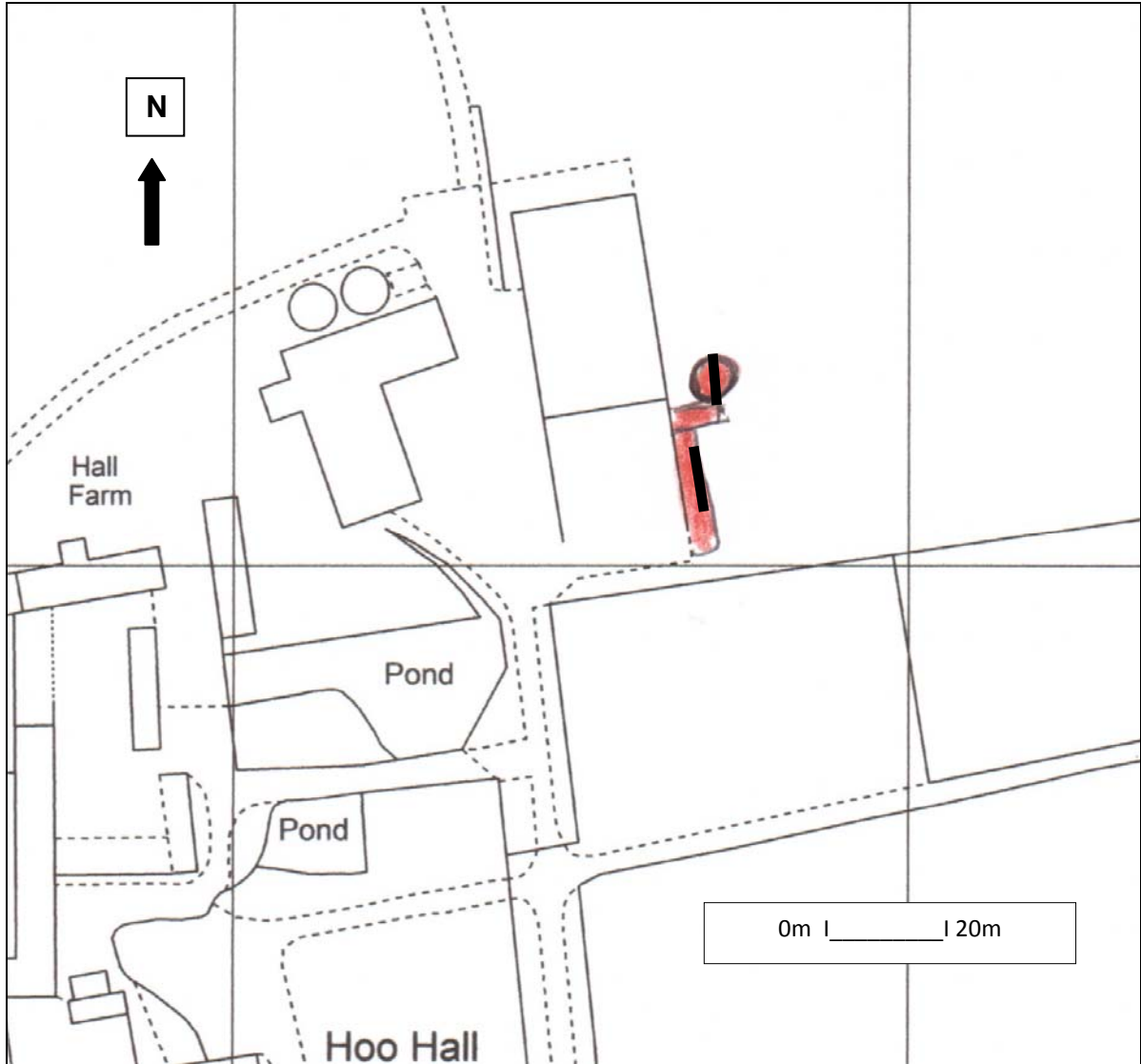
6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

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)

John Newman Archaeological Services

Roman period small finds: N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics: S Benfield (CAT)
Medieval coins: M Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum)
Post Roman small finds: JNAS



Proposed location of trial trenches

Appendix III- The Finds

Finds Report: Hoo Farm, Hoo, Suffolk HOO 014

Stephen Benfield (July, 2013)

Introduction

A small quantity of bulk finds consisting of Roman pottery, Middle and possibly Late Saxon pottery, animal bone and oyster shell were recovered (Table1). The animal bone and oyster shell are stratified with Early Roman (mid 1st-mid 2nd century) pottery. The finds come from contexts excavated in three ditches (0002, 0004 & 0009) or are unstratified from spoil or exposed soil surfaces (0001, 0011 & 0012).

Finds type	no.	wt (g)
Pottery	37	600
Animal bone	8	336
Oyster shell	7	218

Table 1: Type and quantities of finds

Pottery

Introduction

In total thirty-seven sherds of pottery weighing 600 g were recovered. The average sherd size is 16.2 g. The majority of the pottery can be dated to the Roman period. There is also rim one sherd of a type typical of Ipswich ware jars of Middle Saxon date and two other small sherds are possibly of Middle Saxon and Late Saxon date. The pottery was recovered from ditch fill or as unstratified sherds.

The pottery was recorded using the Suffolk fabric type series. Roman pottery vessel forms were recorded using the Suffolk (Pakenham) (unpublished) series, supplemented by the Colchester (Camulodunum) and Chelmsford (Essex) form series where appropriate (Hawkes & Hull 1947, Hull 1958, Going 1987). Samian vessel forms refer to Webster (1996). The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 2 and the pottery is listed by context in Table 3. A spot date is provided for each of the fabrics and form types recorded for each context.

Fabric name	Code	No	Wt(g)	EVE	Fabric date range
Roman fabrics:					
<i>Imported fine wares:</i>					
Les Martres-de-veyre samian	SAMDV	1	25	0.12	Trajanic-Hadrianic
East Gaulish samian	SAEG	2	17		M2-M3C
<i>Local and regional wares:</i>					
Grey micaceous wares (Black surface)	GMB	5	75		Roman
Grey micaceous wares (grey surface)	GMG	5	96	0.08	Roman
Miscellaneous sandy grey wares	GX	19	279	0.60	Roman
West Stowe fine reduced ware	WSF	1	65		L1-E2C
<i>Late Roman specialist wares:</i>					
Nene Valley colour-coated ware	NVC	1	15		M/L3-4C
Sub total		34	572	0.8	
Post-Roman fabrics:					
Sandy Ipswich ware	SIPS	2	25	0.12	E8-M9C
Thetford ware (General)	THET	1	3		10-11C
Sub total		3	28	0.12	
Total		37	600	0.92	

Table 2: Pottery fabric quantities

Ctxt	Ctxt type	Fabric	No	Wt(g)	Eve	Abr.	Form	Notes	Spot date
0001	US	GX	1	58	0.20		6.18 bowl	Small bead rim	E2-3C
0001	US	GX	1	18					Rom
0001	US	GX	1	10	0.06		Jar/bowl	Sooting on rim edge	M1-2C?
0001	US	THET(?)	1	3				Thin, ridged body sherd	10-11C?
0003	Ditch 0002 fill	GX	1	13	0.08		6.3? (bowl/Jar)	Rim, flattened, poss from a bowl but rim dia might suggest a jar	M1-2C
0003	Ditch 0002 fill	GX	2	9				Body sherds, water scale? Inside of one sherd	Rom
0005	Ditch 0004 upper fill	GMG	1	30			Dish/bowl base	micaceous	Rom
0005	Ditch 0004 upper fill	GX	1	15	0.09		Jar rim		Rom
0005	Ditch 0004 upper fill	GX	1	7			5.1 (Cam 218) (jar)	Carination and shoulder cordon	M1-E2C
0005	Ditch 0004 upper fill	GX	7	54				Misc body sherds	Rom
0005	Ditch 0004 upper fill	GX	1	11				Cordoned bowl or jar with cordon & wavy comb decoration	M1-2C?
0005	Ditch 0004 upper fill	SAMDV	1	25	0.12		Dr 27 (cup)	Trajanic-Hadrianic, large cup	E2C
0005	Ditch 0004 upper fill	WSF	1	65			Dish/bowl base	Dark sandy fabric similar to BB1 but micaceous	L1-E2C
0006	Ditch 0004 lower fill	GMB	2	38			Bowl base	SV, joining sherds, prob BB type	E/M2-4C
0006	Ditch 0004 lower fill	GMB	3	37				Body sherds, one from slack shouldered jar?	Rom (E2-4C?)
0006	Ditch 0004 lower fill	GX	1	34	0.17		4.4 (lid-seated jar)	Rim, lid seated jar, sooting on rim edge (Going 1987, form G5)	M1-2/3C
0006	Ditch 0004 lower fill	GX	1	19			Jar base		Rom
0010	Ditch F009 fill	SIPS(?)	1	7				Body sherd, Fabric SIPS? similar to SIPS rim sherd in 0012	E8-M9C?
0011	US (subsoil surface)	GMG	1	17	0.08		6.17 (bowl)	Flanged bowl	L3-4C
0011	US (subsoil surface)	GMG	1	20				base	Rom
0011	US (subsoil surface)	GMG	1	22			6.19 (dish/bowl)	Rim, curving wall, micaceous sandy fabric WS?	Rom
0011	US (subsoil surface)	SAEG	1	8			base		M2-M3C
0012	US (spoil)	GMG	1	7				micaceous sandy fabric WS?	Rom
0012	US (spoil)	GX	1	31			base		Rom?
0012	US (spoil)	NVC	1	15			6.17 (bowl)	Flanged bowl, dirty white/cream fabric	4C
0012	US (spoil)	SAEG	1	9				Base with badly smudged potters stamp, only clear identified letter is	M2-M3C

Ctxt	Ctxt type	Fabric	No	Wt(g)	Eve	Abr.	Form	Notes	Spot date
								located at one end of the stamp; reading O(N).. possibly ONERATUS of Rheinzarben (Names on <i>Terra Sigillata</i> Vol. 6, 2010, 282)	
0012	US (spoil)	SIPS	1	18	0.07		jar	Jar rim, wheel made, simple, slightly everted (SIPS c. 720-850 AD)	E8-M9C

Table 3: Pottery by context

Discussion

Stratified Roman pottery was recovered from ditch 0002 (0003) and ditch 0004 (0005, 0006). No later dated pottery was associated with these features and the average sherd size and nature of the pottery indicates it is essentially contemporary with them.

The pottery from ditch 0002 consists of just two greyware sherds (22 g), one a flattened rim from a bowl or jar which is probably of mid 1st-2nd century date.

The larger quantity of pottery from ditch 0004 (20 sherds weighing 335 g) comes from the upper and lower fill. The pottery from the lower fill (0006) consists of greywares (Fabric GX & Fabric GMB) which include a rim from a lid seated jar (form 4.4) which is not closely dated, but is probably of mid 1st-2nd/3rd century date and a base from a bowl which is possibly of Black-burnished ware type and if so would date to after the early 2nd century. The more closely date pottery from the upper fill (0005) need not date later than the early 2nd century. This includes a rim from an imported samian cup (form Dr 27) from Les Martres-de-Veyre (dated c. 100-120 AD) a sherd from a Cam 218 jar (dated mid 1st-early 2nd century) and a base sherd from a dish which is probably a West-Stow product (dated late 1st-early 2nd century). Overall, pottery from the ditch suggests an early-mid 2nd century date.

The unstratified Roman pottery includes sherds which can be dated to the mid 2nd-4th century. There are two sherds of East Gaulish samian, probably from the same source and possibly from the same vessel. One of the sherds in this fabric is a dished (concave) base sherd which is probably from a bowl. This sherd also has a potters name stamp, but the stamp has been smudged, leaving only the one end letter clearly legible and is not certainly identified. These two sherds broadly date to the period of the mid 2nd-mid 3rd century. There are also two sherds from flanged bowls (form 6.17) which date to the late 3rd-4th century. One is in greyware, the other is a Nene Valley colour-coated product which probably dates to the 4th century.

Among the unstratified pottery is a simple, everted rim from a wheel made pot, the form of which is typical of Ipswich ware jars (0012) although the fabric is not the typical dark grey, but is black with a grey core and is partly oxidised on the rim. Ipswich ware is dated to the early 8th-mid 9th century (c. 720-850 AD). A body sherd which is very similar in nature, but which otherwise might be Roman, is the only find from ditch 0009 (0010) and (by comparison with the rim sherd) is probably also Ipswich ware. Another unstratified greyware body sherd (0001) is possibly Thetford ware (dated 10th-11th century) but the sherd is quite thin and a Roman date might also be possible.

Animal bone (identifications by Adam Wightman)

A small quantity of animal bone (eight pieces weighing 336 g) was recovered from the upper fill of ditch 0004 (0005) associated with Roman pottery dating to the Early Roman period (mid 1st-mid 2nd century). These consist of a complete horse metapodial, a fragment from a pelvis, either cow or horse, with several butchery cuts and so probably cow, and several fragments which are, or probably are all rib bone pieces from a large mammal, again probably cow or horse.

Shell

Seven complete halves of oyster shells (weight 218 g) were recovered from the upper fill of ditch 0004 (0006) associated with pottery dating to the Early Roman period (mid 1st-mid 2nd century). The condition of the shells indicates they are contemporary with the context and are not residual. They represent waste from oysters consumed as food on the site and which would have to have been supplied from the coast in a fresh condition.

The significance of the finds assemblage

The small quantity of finds shows occupation on or close to the site in the Early Roman period, certainly from the early 2nd century. There is no indication of earlier settlement or activity prior to the Roman period among the finds assemblage. The pottery indicates that the Roman occupation here continued into the late Roman period of the 4th century. Although there is a significant quantity of imported samian in relation to the size of the pottery assemblage, this possibly represents just two pots and only one of the sherds is stratified. The other (two) samian sherds were recovered as unstratified pieces where the red colour would make them more visible for collection in relation to other, less conspicuous sherds. The remainder of the Roman pottery is dominated by jars or deep bowls and bowls, with some pieces from bowls/dishes and which is fairly typical of many rural assemblages. The majority of these appear to have been of local or regional supply containing common silver mica, typical of many East Anglian Roman coarsewares, with one vessel probably coming from West Stow. The absence of any metal small finds could also suggest a settlement of relatively moderate means and outlook. However, the horse bone from one of ditches (0004) should be noted, suggesting ownership of an animal possibly kept mostly for mobility, either riding or traction for carts or carriages.

The post-Roman activity is more difficult to assess and the dated finds are limited to the Middle and possibly the Late Saxon period. There are no finds dated later than this period. The finds consist of one unstratified rim sherd which can be identified as Middle Saxon Ipswich ware (early 8th-mid 9th century). Another sherd which is probably also Ipswich ware is the only find recovered from one of the ditches (0009). One unstratified sherd might be Thetford ware, dated to the 10th-11th century. These hint at some activity here in the Middle-Late Saxon period, but the nature of this, given the small quantity of these sherds and difficulty of closely identifying two of them, is not clear.

Refs:

Going, C., 1987, *The mansio and other sites in the south-eastern sector of Caesaromagus: the Roman pottery*, CBA Research Report 62

Hawkes, C., & Hull, M., 1947, *Camulodunum*, RRCSAL 14

Hull, M., 1958, *Roman Colchester*, RRCSAL 20

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

Appendix IV- The Environmental Evidence

AN EVALUATION OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM ROMAN DITCH FILLS AT HOO FARM, HOO, SUFFOLK (HOO 014)

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

Introduction and method statement

Evaluation excavations at Hoo, undertaken by John Newman, recorded a limited number of features of late 1st to mid 2nd century Roman date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within ditches 0002 and 0004, and three 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.

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

Results

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds were present at a low density within all three assemblages. Preservation was moderately good, although some cereals were puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were noted, with wheat occurring most frequently. Of the wheat grains, most were of an elongated 'drop' form typical of spelt (*T. spelta*), and spelt glume bases were also recorded. Weed seeds were exceedingly scarce. Although cotyledon fragments of indeterminate small legumes (Fabaceae) were present throughout, the only other seeds recorded were a fragmentary brome (*Bromus* sp.) fruit from sample 0005 and a single small grass (Poaceae) seed. However, small fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell were also present within all three samples. Charcoal/charred wood fragments, some of which were quite large, were common or abundant.

Other remains were generally scarce. However, all three assemblages contained fragments of marine mollusc shell and small pieces of black porous material, with the latter probably being derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. The small coal fragments (coal 'dust') were almost certainly derived from the use of steam implements on the land during the early modern era, and were, therefore, intrusive within the feature fills.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although the current assemblages are small (<0.1 litres in volume) and somewhat limited in composition, it would appear most likely that the few remains which are recorded are derived from scattered or wind-dispersed midden waste, some of which was accidentally incorporated within the ditch fills. The presence of such material may suggest that a focus of Roman domestic activity is situated somewhere within the immediate vicinity.

As moderately well-preserved plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon at Hoo, it is strongly recommended that if any further interventions are planned within the immediate vicinity, additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed features recorded during excavation.

Ref:

Stace, C., 1997

New Flora of the British Isles. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press

Context No.	0003	0005	0006
Feature No.	0002	0004	0004
Cereals			
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x		x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	xcf	xcf	x
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)		x	x
Cereal indet. (grains)		x	x
Herbs			
<i>Bromus</i> sp.		xfg	
Fabaceae indet.	x	x	x
Small Poaceae indet.			x
Tree/shrub macrofossils			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	x	x	xcf
<i>Prunus</i> sp. (fruit stone frag.)		xcf	
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	xx	xxxx
Charcoal >5mm	x	x	xx
Charcoal >10mm			xx
Charred root/stem			x
Other remains			
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x
Bone	x		
Burnt/fired clay	x		
Marine mollusc shell	x	x	xxxxfg
Mineralised soil concretions	xx		
Small coal frags.	x	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	12	10	10
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare fg = fragment

Appendix V

Hall Farm, Hoo, Suffolk (HOO 014)

Evaluation phase of works

Trench	Context	Type	Finds/ sample	Part of	Description	Spot date
1	0001	US	F		Stray finds from spoil of trench 1	
1	0002	Ditch		0002	Shallow east-west aligned ditch, 450mm wide x 150mm deep	
1	0003	Fill	F/S	0002	Fill of ditch 0002, mid brown clay with small flints & chalk frags.	Rom. mid 1C- early 2C
2	0004	Ditch		0004	Large east-west aligned ditch 1600mm wide x 900mm deep	
2	0005	Fill	F/S	0004	Upper fill of ditch 0004, mid to dark brown clay with charcoal flecks & small to medium flints, above 0006	Rom. early-mid 2C
2	0006	Fill	F/S	0004	Lower fill of ditch 0004, mid brown clay with numerous oyster shells, charcoal flecks & small to medium flints, below 0005	“
2	0007	Ditch		0007	Small south-west to north-east aligned ditch, 400mm wide x 100mm deep	
2	0008	Fill		0007	Fill of 0007, mid brown clay	

(Trench 1- 7m long x 1.80m wide along access to silo, trench 2- 12m long x 1.80m wide across silo footprint)

Monitoring phase of works

	0009	Ditch		0009	Small north-south aligned ditch, 400mm wide x 150mm deep, only exposed for 1.50m length	
	0010	Fill	F	0009	Fill of 0009, mid brown clay	?Sax. early 8C- mid 9C

	0011	US	F		Unstratified finds from surface of subsoil exposed during top soil stripping	
	0012	US	F		Stray finds from upcast spoil	

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-157417

Project details

Project name	Hall Farm, Hoo, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Hoo, land at Hall Farm, Church Lane (HOO 014, TM 2566 5942) evaluation trenching for a new grain silo close to the recorded find spot of Roman period pottery revealed one large and one small ditch of later 1st to mid 2nd century date plus an undated small ditch. Subsequent monitoring of ground works recorded a short length of another small ditch which proved to be of probable middle Saxon date. However in general the soil strip for the hard-standing for the silo was too shallow to reveal any other archaeological features though one rim sherd of Ipswich ware was recovered as a stray find while a stray sherd of later Saxon Thetford type ware was recovered during the initial trenching works.
Project dates	Start: 05-03-2013 End: 22-04-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HOO 014 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	SHELL Roman
Significant Finds	ECOFACT Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England
 Site location SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL HOO HALL FARM
 Study area 400.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TM 2566 5942 52 1 52 11 10 N 001 18 05 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 33.00m Max: 34.00m

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Hall Farm, Church Lane, Hoo, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation and 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 12 September 2013

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