

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

Planning application: DC/12/0947 & 0948

HER Ref: WRE 025

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(August 2013)

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: 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 (coach house, pool & tennis court covered by an earlier evaluation)

Date of fieldwork: 11 & 14 June, 2013

HER Ref: WRE 025

OASIS: johnnewm1-157420 (evaluation- johnnewm1-144816)

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

Grid ref: TM 4885 8301

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Summary: Wrentham, Wrentham Hall, Church Street (WRE 025, TM 4885 8301) monitoring of ground works for side and rear extensions revealed remnants of the brick foundations of the mid 19th century rear part of what was then Wrentham Rectory which was partially demolished in 1954. While the core of the earliest part of the structure, which dates to the 18th century, survives as the building in its present form this phase of demolition followed by extensive works for extensions and a cellar in the mid to late 20th century caused substantial areas of disturbance in the area of the new extensions and no finds or features of pre 18th/19th century date were revealed (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 programme of works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notices for applications DC/12/0947 & 0948 with regard to the erection of extensions and new works at Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham. With a combination of free standing new works and extensions to the existing building the programme of archaeological works for Wrentham Hall was divided between evaluation trenching for the former and monitoring for the latter. The evaluation was carried out in February, 2013 and it revealed evidence for Post medieval quarrying close to the hall plus limited evidence for Roman period and early Post medieval activity in the area to the north and north-west of Wrentham Hall (Newman, 2013). The monitoring requirements were then set out by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to fully satisfy this condition and a generic written scheme of investigation was followed by JNAS (see Appendix II); conditional discharge for this condition having already been gained before the evaluation works. This report concerns the erection of side and rear extensions to Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham (see Fig. 1).

1.2 The present Wrentham Hall was constructed as The Rectory in the 18th century with extensive additions in the 19th century followed by reduction in size in the mid 20th century and the addition of extensions, including a cellar, in the later 20th century. The relevant heritage assessment (Bradley & Darwin, 2012) summarises the earlier history of the site as it exists today and the recent evaluation works (Newman *ibid.*) confirms that while some evidence for Roman period and earlier Post medieval activity is present significant archaeological deposits do not appear to be present though the site is adjacent to the parish church and close to the recorded location of a multi-period area of activity (HER WRE 011). Following the evaluation the monitoring of ground works for the new extensions therefore aimed to examine the site for evidence relating to the substantial later Post medieval rectory that survived intact until 1954 and any evidence for earlier activity close to the focal point for the parish formed by the parish church. Topographically the site has a gentle southerly aspect and it lies at 12m OD in an area of well drained soils derived from the local glaciofluvial sand with flints.

2. Monitoring methodology

2. Two visits were made to the site to monitor ground works for the new extensions to the west and north of Wrentham Hall with the works being undertaken using a wheeled 180 machine with the rear extension requiring c20m of foundation trench while the side extension required c30m. Due to the depth of the new foundations only the area to the north of the hall could be examined in detail while the area to the west was observed from above due to the depth required. As the works progressed the upcast spoil was examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for stray finds. Finally 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 On the north-western side of Wrentham Hall ground works for the new rear extension (see Fig. 2) revealed extensive recent ground disturbance caused by works for the extension and cellar that was built in the 1980/90s (see Appendix I-Images). These recent works had removed any evidence for the Victorian rectory in addition to any deposits in this area that might have been of an earlier date with a redeposited top and subsoil deposit containing modern brick and tile of up to 800mm deep now being present across the area.

3.2 To the north of Wrentham Hall evidence for later 20th century disturbance was less evident though only remnants of the red brick foundations to the mid Victorian extensions demolished in 1954 and a probable 19th century cellar entrance were revealed below 500-600mm of top and subsoil. No evidence was revealed for any pre 19th century activity in this area to the north of the hall and all the finds seen in the upcast spoil were of mid/late 19th century or more recent date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Originally constructed as the rectory Wrentham Hall has had a chequered history since it passed out of church ownership with the demolition of much of the Victorian rear part of the building in 1954 followed by the erection of relatively large, and in part cellared, extensions in the later 20th century. As the extensions now under construction are located in part over the area of the modern cellar noted above and part of the demolished Victorian structure extensive ground disturbance has occurred in the recent past. Therefore while it has the potential to contain evidence of both Roman period and later Saxon and medieval activity much of the area to the north and north-west of Wrentham Hall has been so extensively disturbed that no deposits of pre 19th century date survived in the areas examined (see Fig. 2).

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the monitored footings have had no impact on any significant archaeological deposits as the area had already seen extensive disturbance in the relatively recent past.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Jonathan Briggs for his close cooperation in relation to this site monitoring)

Ref.

Bradely P A & Darwin J 2012 Heritage Assessment- Wrentham Hall, Church Corner, Wrentham, Suffolk

Newman J 2013 Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report (ADS OASIS ref: johnnewm1-144816)

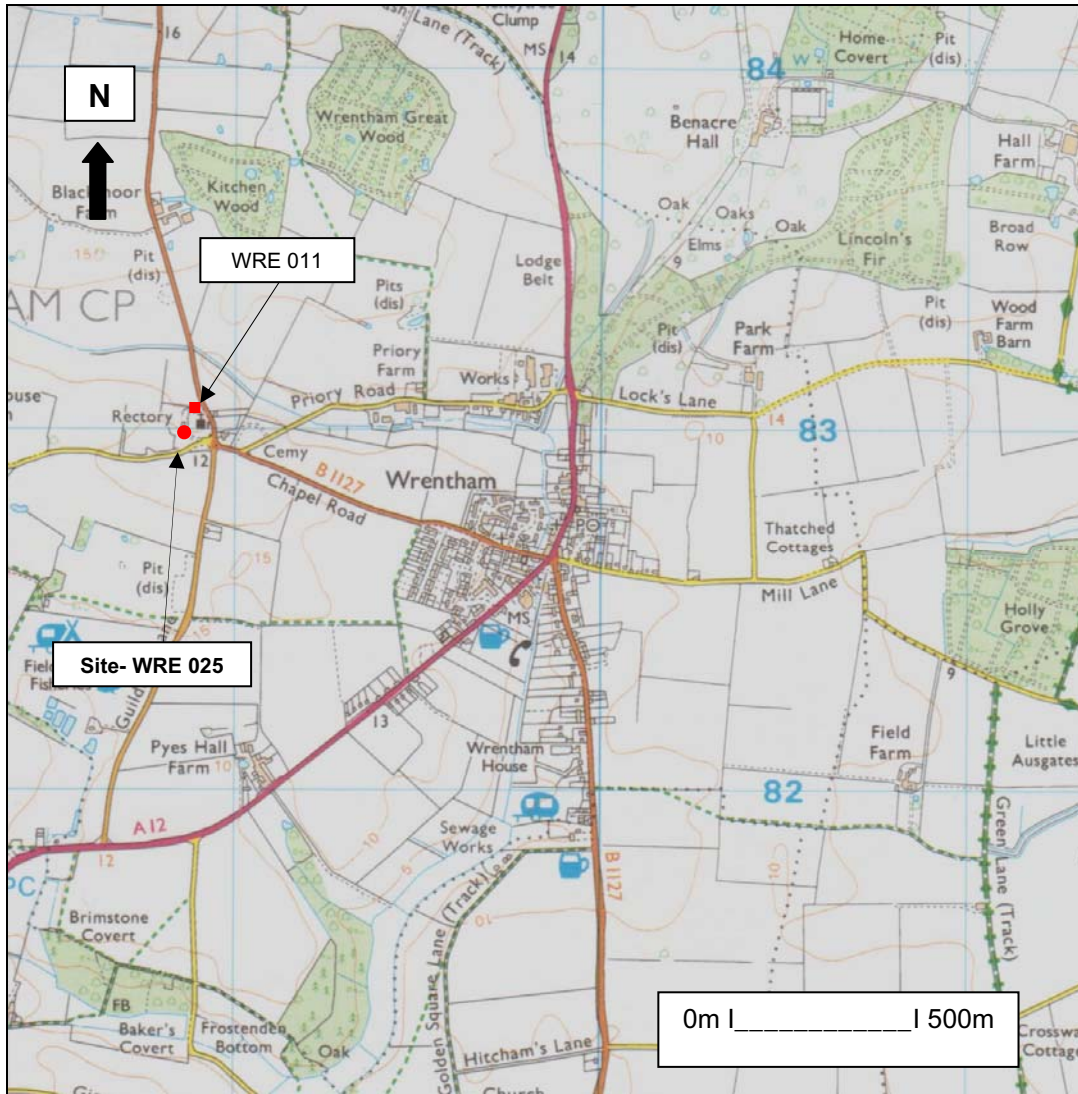


Fig. 1: Site location

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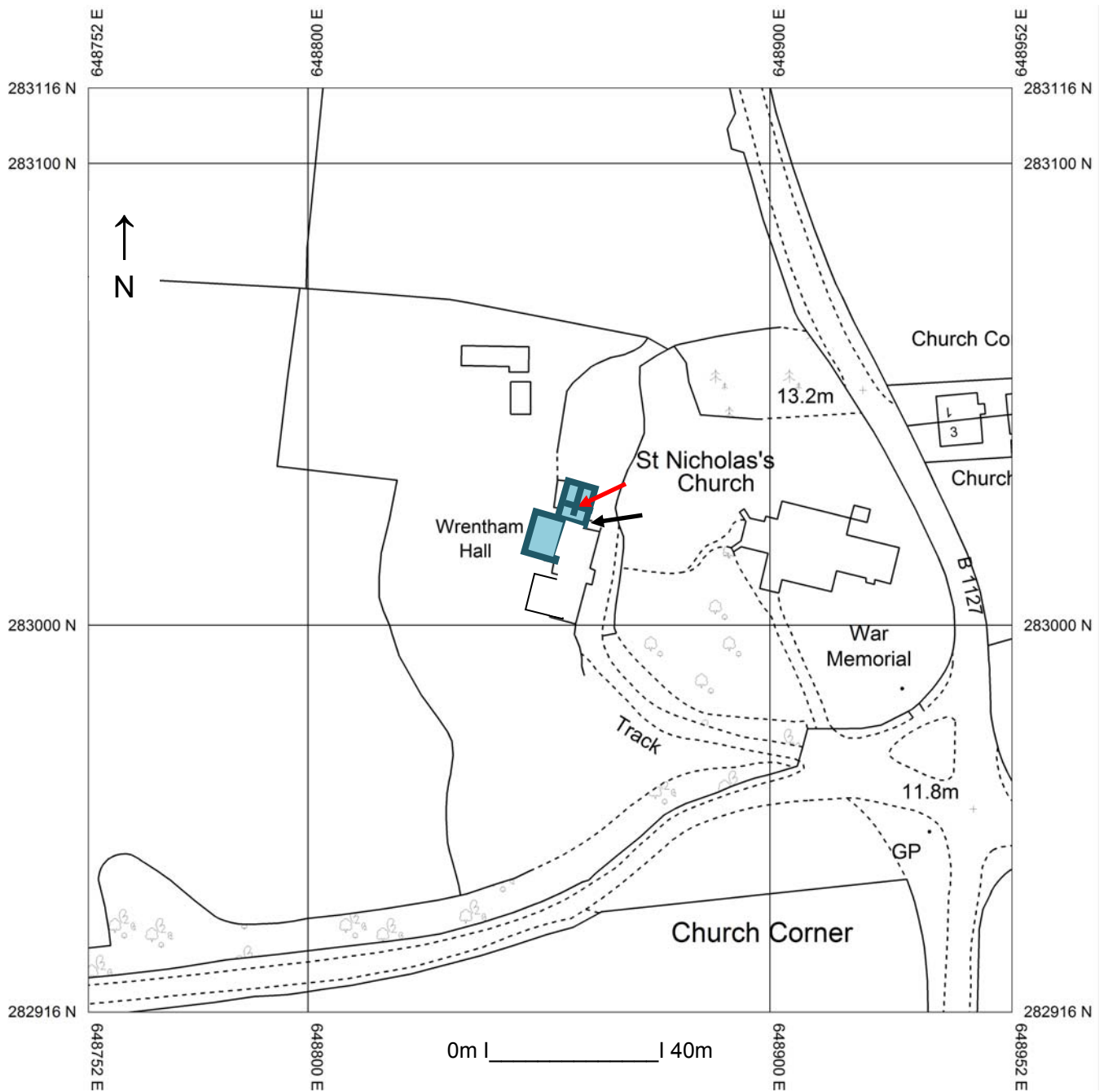


Fig. 2: Monitored extension footprints

((foundation trenches- dark blue, 19th C cellar entrance black arrow, 19th C foundation red arrow)

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Appendix I- Images



North-west corner of hall from SW showing late 20th C cellar foundation



Late 20th C cellar foundation disturbance to rear of hall



Side extension- remnant of mid 19th C foundation



Side extension foundations from NW with probable infilled cellar entrance to right of scale pole

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Monitoring**

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Site details

Name: Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham, Suffolk

Client: Mr & Mrs R Gurr

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/12/0947 & 0948

Proposed development: Side & rear extensions

LPA Archaeological advisor: Dr J Tipper

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TM 4885 8301

HER Ref: WRE 025

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

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2. Methodology
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1. Aims of the Site Monitoring

1.1 The site lies in a location with high archaeological potential by virtue of nearby recorded sites and/or finds and its general topographic location. Site monitoring arrangements with the relevant ground works contractor(s) will allow for unimpeded access to the area of the ground works, within constraints imposed by health and safety considerations, to allow for detailed investigation and recording work. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details to the exposed overburden and depth of deposit as revealed within the ground works and evidence for the character and date of any past activity that is revealed.

2 Methodology

2.1 The monitoring will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

2.2 The construction method to be used on individual sites will vary but include traditional trench foundations, piling with related ground beams or pad foundations any possibly in conjunction with ground lowering/terracing. In addition prior ground testing and demolition works may cause substantial ground disturbance. The relevant ground works on the site concerned will be monitored continuously or during and after excavation as the Brief specifies and the upcast spoil will be examined for finds (which may include a metal detector search if relevant to the Brief or exposed archaeology). Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Archaeological Office giving advice to the LPA in each case as will notice of when the site works are scheduled to start.

2.3 The local HER will be consulted with regard to nearby archaeological finds and sites within the area around the proposed development if required. The area selected for this search will vary but may typically cover the area within 250m of the proposed development. The HER search area will be commensurate with the scale of the development and its location.

2.4 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site HER number supplied by the relevant County HER. 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 related to the proposed development, and sections at

1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and any exposed features.

2.5 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 at appropriate points. 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. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the relevant local Archaeological Office will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains. Any such work will incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (in general the possibility of finding burials is assessed as being low).

2.6 All finds will be collected and processed, save large quantities of Post medieval material which will be sampled in light of their date and significance, unless any variation is agreed with the relevant local Archaeological Office. 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 local Archaeological Archive under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the local Archaeological Office will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Office.

2.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2) and particularly Appendix 3 and this will be deposited with the relevant HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. As required the site monitoring will be registered on the OASIS online grey literature archive at the Archaeology Data Service with submission of the subsequent report.

2.8 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 relevant Archaeological Office within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted the required number of bound hard copies and pdf version (with the monitoring archive on the same cd) will sent to the County HER in addition to a pdf version for the client or their agent. As required the site monitoring 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 County round-up (and a vector plan in dxf format will be provided showing the area examined if required). The reporting will be commensurate with the findings from the monitoring.

3. Risk Assessment

3.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, gloves and 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. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

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

3.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client's agent and 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.

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

John Newman Archaeological Services

3.5 Close liaison will be maintained with the contractor on site with regard to the depth and stability of the footing trenches and any potential health and safety considerations.

3.6 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.

4. Specialists

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

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-157420

Project details

Project name	Wrentham Hall, Church Road, Wrentham, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Wrentham, Wrentham Hall, Church Street (WRE 025, TM 4885 8301) monitoring of ground works for side and rear extensions revealed remnants of the brick foundations of the mid 19th century rear part of what was then Wrentham Rectory which was partially demolished in 1954. While the core of the earliest part of the structure, which dates to the 18th century, survives as the building in its present form this phase of demolition followed by extensive works for extensions and a cellar in the mid to late 20th century caused substantial areas disturbance in the area of the new extensions and no finds or features of pre 18th/19th century date were revealed.
Project dates	Start: 11-06-2013 End: 14-06-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	1352538 - LBS No.
Any associated project reference codes	WRE 025 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	johnnewm1-144816 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Monument type	CELLAR Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY WRENTHAM WRENTHAM HALL, CHURCH ROAD
Postcode	NR34 7LX
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 48856 83016 52 1 52 23 16 N 001 39 27 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.00m Max: 12.00m

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 Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Wrentham Hall, Church Street, Wrentham, 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 26 August 2013

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