

**Land To The Rear Of Guildhall Cottage,
The Street, Metfield, Suffolk**

Planning application: 0467/13

HER Ref: MTF 153

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(September 2013)

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

Site details for HER

Name: Land to the rear of Guildhall Cottage, The Street, Metfield, Suffolk IP20 0LB

Clients: Jordan Developments

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 0467/13 (revision of 1804/05)

Development: retention of new dwelling

Date of fieldwork: 10 September, 2013

HER Ref: MTF 153

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-158791

Grid ref: TM 2947 8024

Conservation area

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Summary: Metfield, land to the rear of Guildhall Cottage, The Street, Metfield (MTF 153, TM 2947 8024) evaluation trenching in the garden area of a new dwelling erected without complying with a programme of archaeological works revealed a large feature extending throughout the 10m long trench with a later Post medieval fill to a depth of 1400mm. Whether this feature was a large, quarry type pit or a filled-in pond was impossible to ascertain (John Newman Archaeological Services for Jordan Developments).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr R Gooderham on behalf of his client, Jordan Developments, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a site to the rear of Guildhall Cottage, The Street, Metfield (see Fig. 1). This requirement for an evaluation was originally a condition on planning application 1804/05, however as the dwelling was erected with no archaeological works being carried out Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) set a second brief for the relevant condition put on application 0467/13 for the retention of the dwelling. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to gain a conditional discharge and allow the trenching to go ahead within the garden of the new dwelling.

1.2 Metfield is located in north-east Suffolk where, historically, settlement was mainly focused around the church in the northern part of the parish or scattered around the large Metfield Green to the south. The site to the rear of Guildhall Cottage is set some 15m west of The Street and is c60m south-east of the parish church (HER MTF 141). That the site lies within the historic core of the village is further indicated by its location close to two listed buildings of early 16th century date with Nook Cottage to the south and Huntsman & Hounds Cottage to the north. Topographically the site lies at c45m OD in an area typically dominated by heavy soils derived from the local boulder clay Till deposits. While the dwelling has already been constructed its planned garden area was soft ground suitable for the required evaluation trench though the trench did avoid an area of hard paving next to the house and an adjacent soakaway.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this site was generated by its location within the historic core of the village close to the parish church and various listed buildings of early Post medieval date. In this location the site to the rear of Guildhall Cottage was seen to have high potential to contain archaeological deposits of later Saxon to Post medieval date.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area available in the garden to the north of the new dwelling, and avoiding a relatively recently excavated soakaway, was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2) using a small 360 machine equipped with a 900mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity. The sides and base of the trench and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any finds and three hand excavated small sondages were opened to examine the deposits below the machined level of 1000mm. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under dry if somewhat overcast conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trench was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the evaluation progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works.

3. Results

3.1 In this case the results are most easily summarised as in the table below as little of archaeological interest was revealed (see also Fig. 2):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/ natural features & finds
1	East-west	10m	400	Mid greyish brown clay fill to depth of 1000 + 400 in 3 small sondages	Not seen (clay with flints seen earlier in soakaway excavation by contractor)	Whole trench was within a large feature with 18 th /19 th century pottery sherds, claypipe stem frags & cbm frags

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposits were not reached in the trench with the maximum depth examined being 1400mm in three small hand excavated sondages (see Appendix I- Images) with the remainder of the trench being taken to a depth of 1000mm. Within the upcast spoil from the trench occasional sherds of 18th and 19th century glazed red earthenware and blue and white transfer printed pottery were noted in addition to a few claypipe stem fragments and a number of later Post medieval brick and tile fragments. At the maximum depth of 1400mm ground water entered the sondages though whether the large feature revealed along the length of the trench was a quarry type pit or filled-in pond was impossible to ascertain. Being relatively close to a boundary wall it was considered imprudent to take the general depth of the trench below 1000mm.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Given the large size of the disturbance revealed in the evaluation trench it seems likely that this may be the site of a pond that was filled in during the 19th century as sherds of blue and white transfer printed pottery were present in the upcast spoil. However it is unlikely that this feature extended under the area of the new dwelling to the south as conventional foundations were used in its construction and a soakaway between the new dwelling and the evaluation trench encountered natural clay deposits (pers. comm. Steven Jordan).

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is uncertain whether the construction of the new dwelling impacted on archaeological deposits of any significance. However it can be noted that during the construction of this dwelling the spoil was temporarily stockpiled on the garden area and during the evaluation this was still bare earth and no pottery sherds of pre 18th century date were visible as surface finds.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. MTF 153.

Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological work in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to all concerned for their close cooperation with regard to this evaluation)

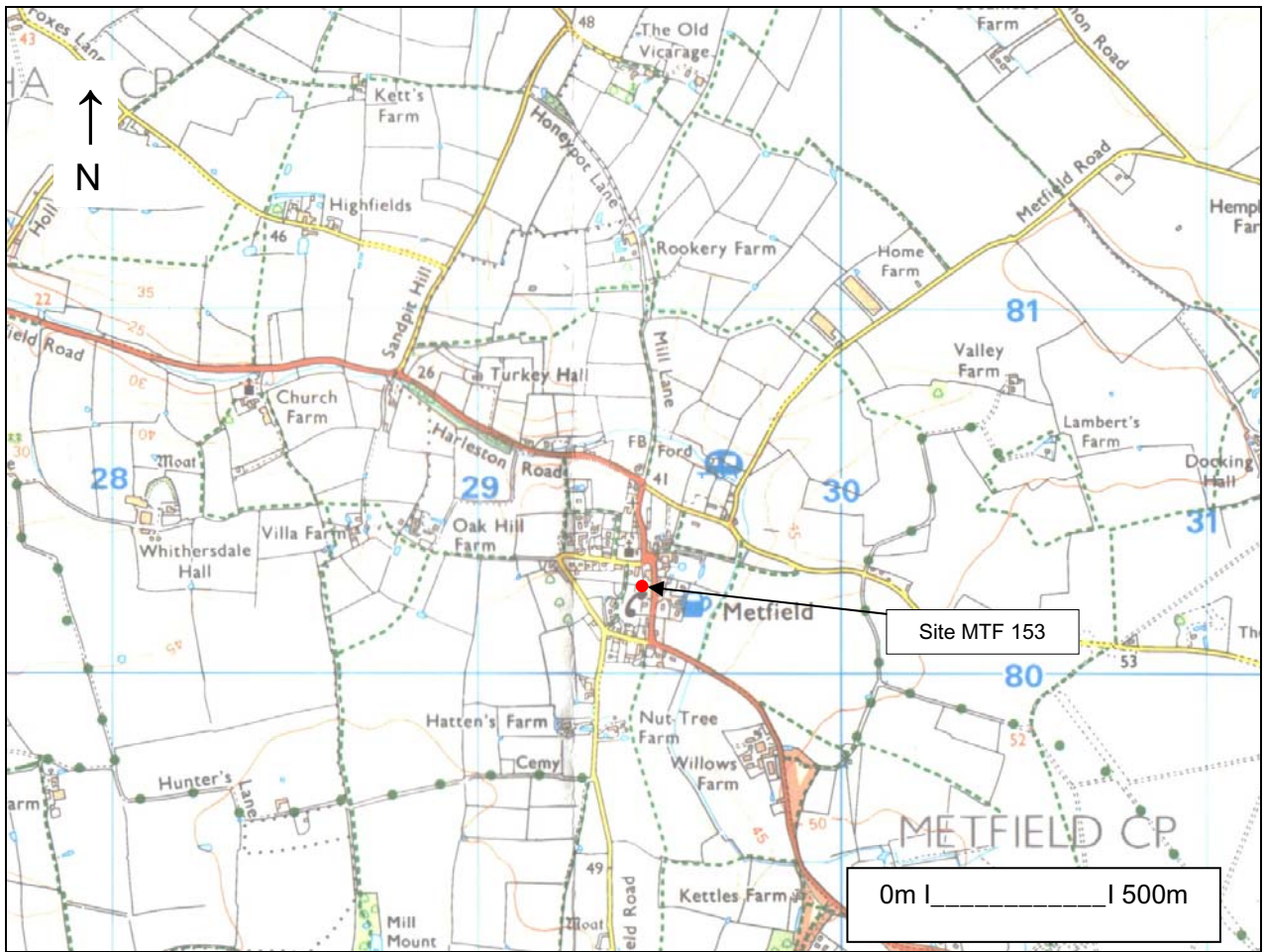


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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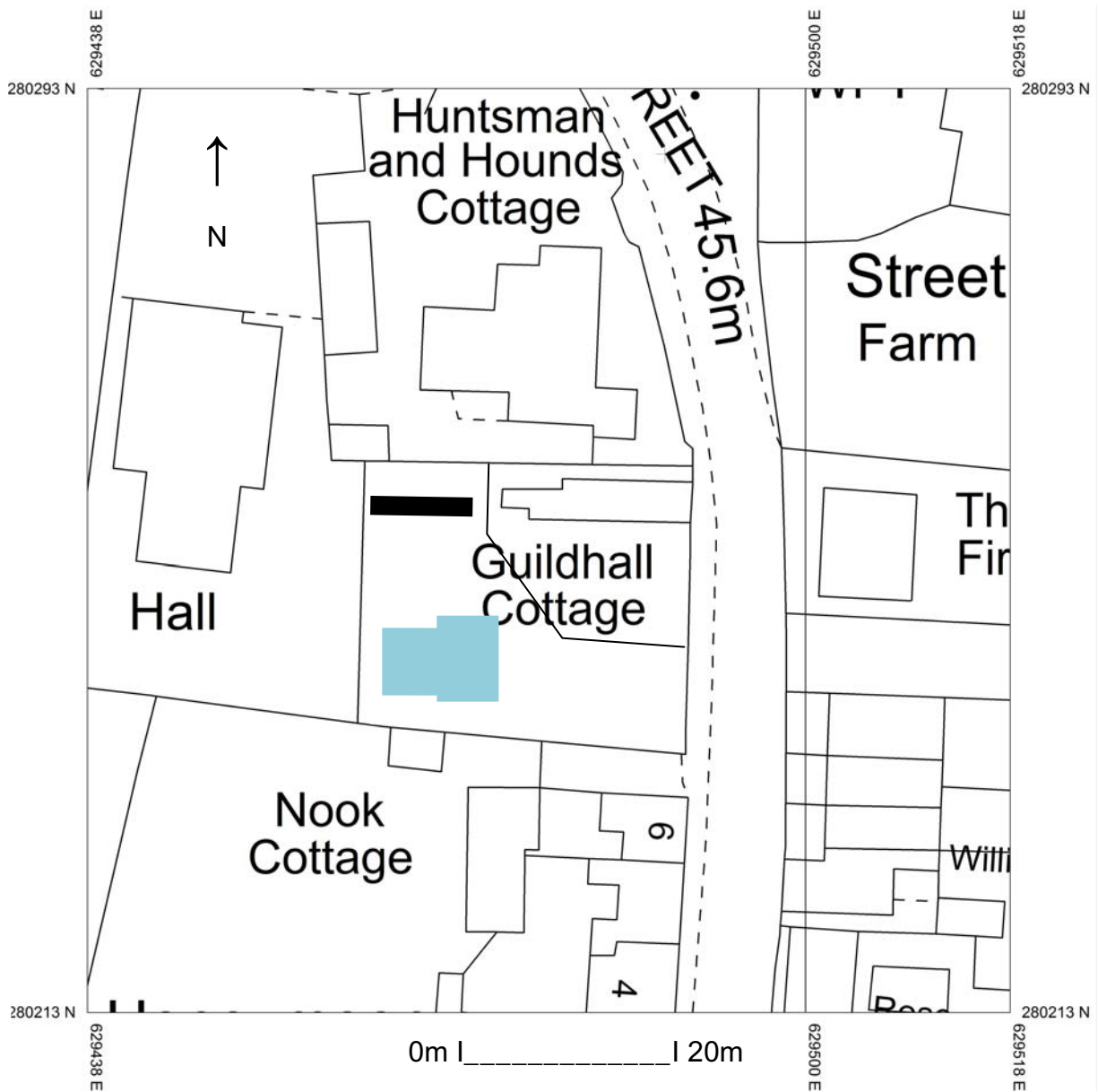


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trench (New dwelling footprint- light blue)

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Appendix I- Images



General view from south-west & yard of new dwelling



Trench from west (depth 1000mm)



Deposit profile with sondage to 1400mm

**Land to The Rear Of Guildhall Cottage,
The Street, Metfield, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site details

Name: Land to the rear of Guildhall Cottage, The Street, Metfield, Suffolk

Clients: Mr S Jordan

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 0467/13

Proposed development: retention of new dwelling

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: 2013_07_10_SCCAS_TrenchedArchaeologicalEvaluation_Brief_ Metfield Street, Metfield

Conservation area

Grid ref: TM 2946 8024

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

Proposed location of trial trench

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr R Gooderham on behalf of his client, Mr S Jordan, has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation initially required under planning application 1804/05 and now required under a subsequent application (0467/13) for the retention of the dwelling that has been constructed without any archaeological involvement to date. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for the latter application and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. The site in question is located to the rear of Guildhall Cottage, The Street, Metfield.

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 Metfield is located in north-east Suffolk where, historically, settlement was mainly focused around the church in the northern part of the parish or scattered around the large Metfield Green to the south. The site to the rear of Guildhall Cottage is set some 15m west of The Street and is c60m south-east of the parish church. That the site lies within the historic core of the village is further indicated by its location close to two listed buildings of early 16th century date with Nook Cottage to the south and Huntsman & Hounds Cottage to the north. Topographically the PDS lies at c45m OD in an area typically dominated by heavy soils derived from the local boulder clay Till deposits. While the dwelling has already been constructed its planned garden area is soft ground suitable for the required evaluation trench.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The site of this proposal lies in an area of archaeological interest, as identified in the County Historic Environment Record, within the historic settlement core and within 50m of the medieval church and churchyard (HER no. MTF 141).' However as outlined above the erection of the new dwelling under the original application 1804/05 took place without any archaeological involvement.

3.2 A site evaluation by trial trenching is therefore required to redress this situation and allow the archaeological potential of the site to be fully understood by:

- Identifying the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluating the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establishing 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 in the historic core of the village where evidence for later Saxon, medieval and earlier Post medieval activity might be present. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the site with an evaluation trench under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed they can be sampled and characterised.

5. Methodology

5.1 This planning application concerns the retention of a single residential dwelling that has already been constructed on land to the rear of Guildhall Cottage, The Street, Metfield.

5.2 The Brief requires a single 10m long and 1.8m wide trench alongside the new dwelling which will give a substantial sample of the site. This will be undertaken using a 1.20m/1.50m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized 360 mini-digger type 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.

- What is the concentration of macro-remains (to inform sampling strategy in any further field work), in particular how might bulk sampling inform the interpretation of burial deposits.
- Can any patterning or similarities/differences be ascertained between deposits from different periods represented on site, similarly can any useful comparisons be made with undated and unphased deposits (to aid interpretation of the evaluation results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)
- Do waterlogged deposits exist on site, if so is there potential for palaeoenvironmental data from preserved insects or pollen and do such deposits contain organic material suitable for RC dating from samples taken as advised by the relevant soil specialist (who would also coordinate the assessment for pollen and insect remains), the RSA will also be consulted in such cases in conjunction with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Incremental column samples will be taken should waterlogged deposits be revealed in close consultation with the evaluation soils specialist with 10-20 litre sample sizes which will be sub-sampled for preserved pollen, insects, diatoms, preserved parasite eggs etc. If waterlogged wood is encountered it will ideal to leave in situ, if it has to be lifted it will be packed while wet in black polythene and stored at 5C until it can be transferred to a specialist for species identification, assessment and potential for RC dating is undertaken (examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is unlikely).
- Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the evaluation the relevant SCCAS Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling and assessment by the relevant evaluation specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land

use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged)

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

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

5.9 Any interpretation of the evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results and the results will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site evaluation in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 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 has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the trench will avoid the existing garden wall. No overhead services impinge on the trench location and no underground services are anticipated. 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.

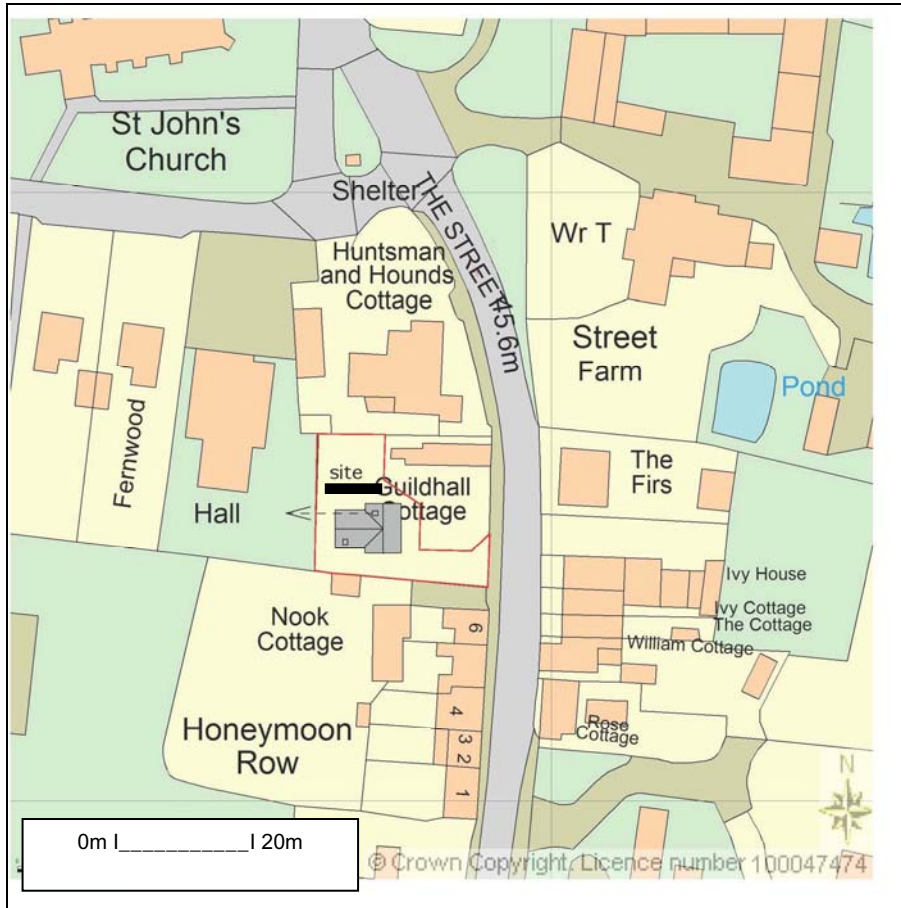
6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

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 trench

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-158791

Project details

Project name	Land To The Rear Of Guildhall Cottage, The Street, Metfield, Suffolk-Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Metfield, land to the rear of Guildhall Cottage, The Street, Metfield (MTF 153, TM 2947 8024) evaluation trenching in the garden area of a new dwelling erected without complying with a programme of archaeological works revealed a large feature extending throughout the 10m long trench with a later Post medieval fill to a depth of 1400mm. Whether this feature was a large, quarry type pit or a filled-in pond was impossible to ascertain.
Project dates	Start: 10-09-2013 End: 10-09-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MTF 153 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	0467/13 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	POND/PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	

SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK METFIELD LAND TO THE REAR OF GUILDHALL COTTAGE

Postcode IP20 0LB
 Study area 250.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TM 2947 8024 52 1 52 22 17 N 001 22 17 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 33.00m Max: 34.00m

Project creators

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 Developer

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 Land to the rear of Guildhall Cottage, The Street, Metfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Newman, J
 Date 2013
 Issuer or publisher John Newman Archaeological Services
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