

**Hammonds Holt, Priory Green,
Little Waldingfield, Suffolk**

Planning application: B/12/01253/FUL

HER Ref: WFL 027

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(October 2013)

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

Site details for HER

Name: Hammonds Holt, Priory Green, Little Waldingfield, Suffolk, CO10 5PN

Clients: Slough Hall Farm

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/12/01253/FUL

Development: Erection of a dwelling, stable, yard and grooms dwelling

Date of fieldwork: 2 October, 2013

HER Ref: WFL 027

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-160156

Grid ref: TL 9400 4390

Site area: c1800m²

Contents

Summary

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

Table 1: Trench details

4. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of evaluation trenches

List of appendices

Appendix I- Selected images

Appendix II- Written scheme for evaluation

Appendix III- OASIS data collection form

Summary: Little Waldingfield, Hammonds Holt, Priory Green (WFL 027, TL 9400 4390) evaluation trenching following the demolition of a mid 20th century dwelling and prior to the construction of two new dwellings and a stables complex did not reveal any evidence for past activity (John Newman Archaeological Services for Slough Hall Farm).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr S Burke on behalf of his client, Slough Hall Farm, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works at the site of a planned development comprising two new dwellings and a stables complex following the demolition of the existing dwelling at Hammonds Holt, Priory Green, Little Waldingfield (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application B/12/01253, set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the development area. 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 before any other ground works were undertaken.

1.2 Little Waldingfield parish is located 3.5 miles north-east of Sudbury in south Suffolk. The main settlement is located around the church and strung out along the nearby B1115 road with, historically, the remaining farms and cottages being dispersed around the rest of the parish. This development site at Hammonds Holt falls into the latter group and is located 2000m south-east of the church and c90m from the north-eastern edge of what was Priory Green and directly to the north of Priory Farm which is a listed structure of 16th to 17th century date (LBS 476462) that is on the edge of the former green. The site lies in an area of generally heavy soils derived from the Till deposits of central Suffolk and is just above the 70m OD contour in an area of gentle topography. At the time of the evaluation the former structures at the site had been demolished to ground level and the area of the stables complex had already been stripped of 250mm of topsoil and 100mm of subsoil (see Fig. 2) exposing the locally occurring glaciofluvial deposit which proved to be stiff pale brown chalky clay with flints.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this proposed development site was generated by its proximity to Priory Farm (see Fig. 2) which may be the site of a the medieval Benedictine Edwardstone Priory (HER EDN 003) which is in all likelihood was a small monastic cell for which few records survive and whose exact location is unclear.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the planned residential and stables development was trenched to a slightly modified layout to that originally proposed because the location of the new stables has been changed, though it is still to be sited in the same overall area in the south-western corner of the development area (see Fig. 2), using a large 360 machine equipped with a 1800mm flat bucket. In addition, and as noted in section 1.2 above, the area of the planned stables complex had already been stripped of top and subsoil so for trenches 2 and 3 works were limited to cleaning the natural clay surface while trench 1 ran along the southern side of the footprint area of the demolished house that formerly occupied the site. The machine was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for greater clarity.

2.2 The sides and base of the trenches and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any finds and any indistinct areas or potential

features were investigated by hand. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken on a dry and sunny day. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trenches was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the evaluation progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works.

3. Results

3.1 In this case the results are most easily summarised as in the table below as nothing 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	Northeast-southwest	16	–	350 of a mid brown clay subsoil mixed with debris of 20C date	Stiff pale brown chalky clay with flints	Only modern material from demolished house
2	Northeast-southwest	18	– (250 at edge of stripped area)	– (100 at edge of site)	Pale yellowish brown stiff chalky clay with flints	No finds or features (and none across overall stripped area)
3	Northwest-southeast	24	– (as T2)	– (as T2)	As T2	As T2
		58 (104.4m ²)				

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above no features or any finds of archaeological significance were revealed during the evaluation with the only debris present being of 20th century date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 With such negative results regarding any significant evidence for past activity from a substantial sample of this proposed development site it can only be concluded that it lies in an area which has seen little activity of any intensity in the past. It was also notable that the site lacked any evidence for past arable use with no plough scars in the subsoil or glaciofluvial deposit below and no evidence for any field drains on what is an area of heavy ground that would not have encouraged free drainage. Therefore it can be suggested that the area of this site has mainly been in use as pasture, woodland or orchard in the past. It may also be noted that a house near the parish church in Little Waldingfield is also called 'The Priory' and its listing description (LBS 278130) draws attention to a 'brick vaulted crypt' under the late 18th century structure and this location would be a more likely site for a small monastic cell, perhaps associated with the nearby church.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out at this planned residential and stables complex development site.

John Newman Archaeological Services

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. WFL 027.

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 Rod Mumford and his site staff for their close cooperation with regard to this evaluation)

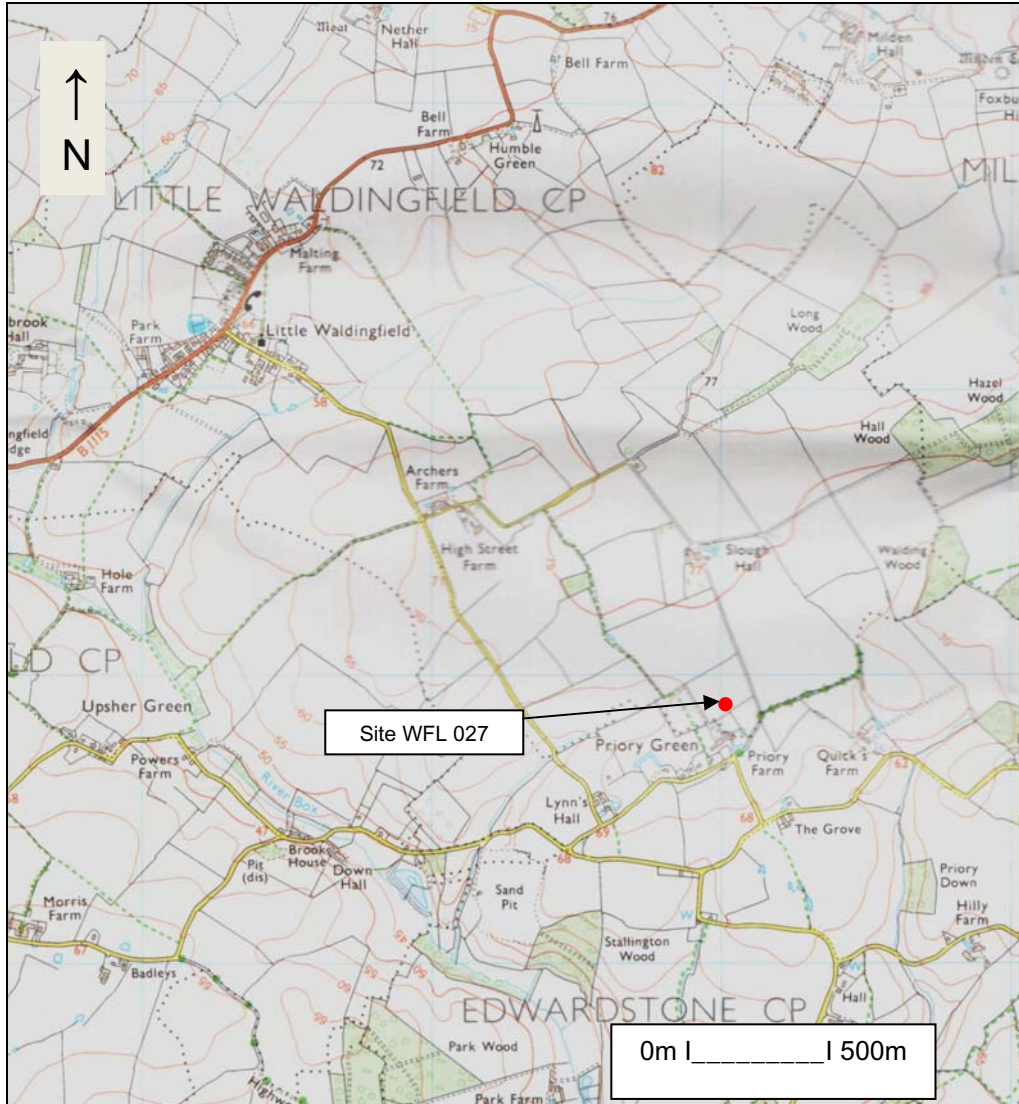


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

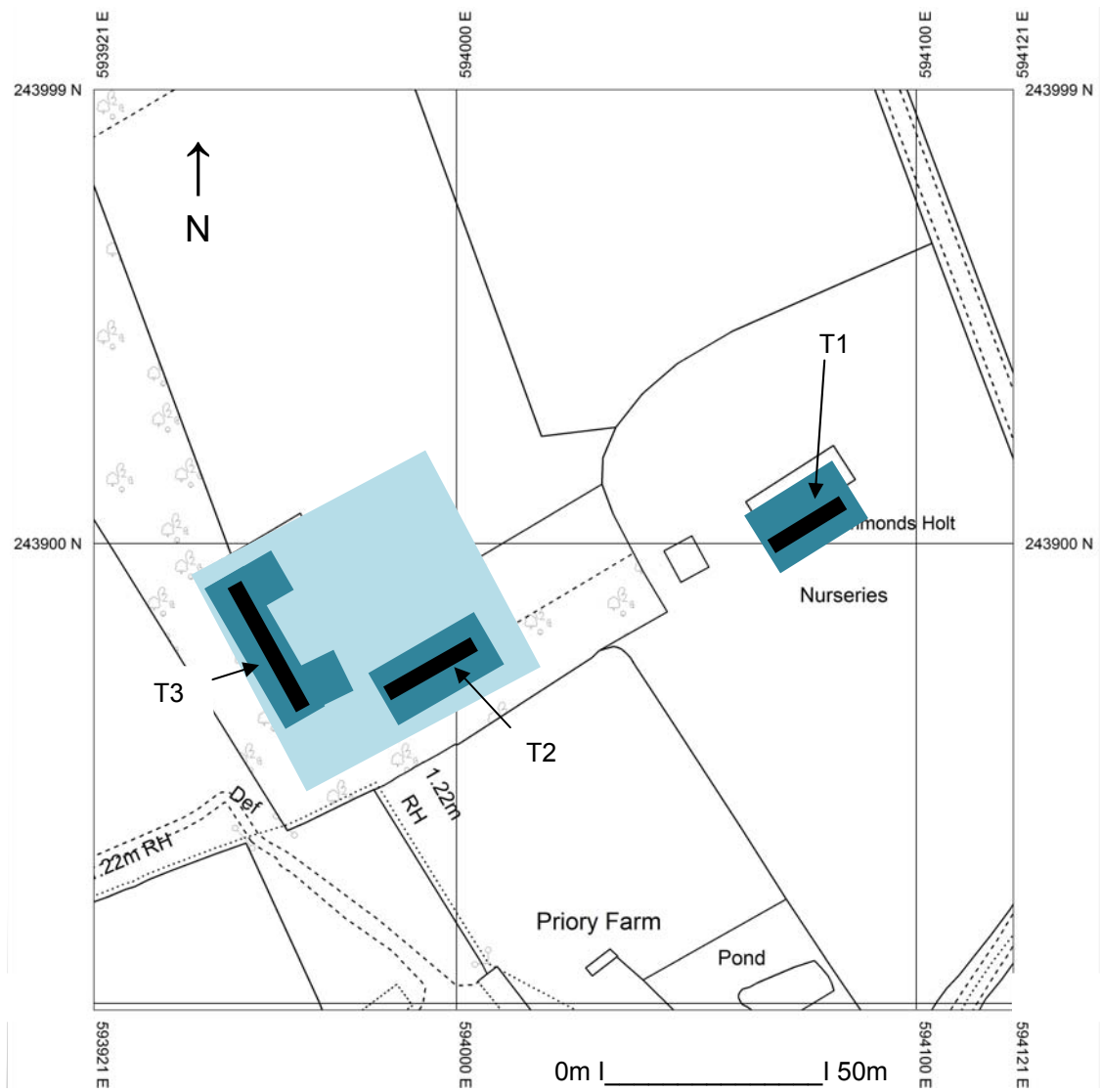


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches
 (Light blue- area stripped of topsoil, darker blue- new building footprints)
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



General view of eastern area from east



General view of stripped western area with T2 open



Trench 1 from east



Trench 2 from east



Trench 3 from south



Deposit at southern edge of stripped area

**Hammond's Holt, Priory Green,
Little Waldingfield, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site details

Name: Hammond's Holt, Priory Green, Little Waldingfield, Suffolk, CO10 5PN

Client: MSC Planning Ltd

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/12/01253/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of one dwelling & one groom's cottage & stables complex

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: SCCAS_TrenchEvaluation_B12_01253_Hammonds Holt

Grid ref: TL 9404 4392

Contents

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

1. Introduction

1.1 MSC Planning Ltd on behalf of their client have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed small scale residential and stables complex development. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition on planning application B/12/01253/FUL and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of one dwelling, a groom's cottage and a small stables complex on land at Hammond's Holt, Priory Green, Little Waldingfield.

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. 1.2 (Suffolk CC)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Little Waldingfield parish is located 3.5 miles north-east of Sudbury in south Suffolk. The main settlement is located around the church and strung out along the nearby B1115 road with, historically, the remaining farms and cottages being dispersed around the rest of the parish. The proposed development site (PDS) falls into the latter group and is located 2000m south-east of the church and towards the north-eastern edge of what was Priory Green and directly to the north of Priory Farm. The PDS lies in an area of generally heavy soils derived from the Till deposits of central Suffolk and is just above the 70m OD contour in an area of gentle topography. At present the PDS is soft ground and part wooded with two buildings in its south-eastern part which are to be demolished.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposed development area is immediately adjacent to the listed building of Priory Farm (LB 476462), which may be the site of the medieval Benedictine Edwardstone Priory (County Historic Environment Record EDN 003).' This monastic house in all probability being a minor cell. A site evaluation by trial trenching is therefore required to:

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

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the PDS relates to its location c60m north of the Grade II listed Priory Farm which is described as being of '16th to 17th century date and timber framed.' The PDS therefore has the potential in particular to contain archaeological deposits of medieval and earlier Post medieval being located close to a possible small priory site and close to the edge of what was a green also of medieval origin. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the planned dwelling footprints and stable development area under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed, a strategy can be formulated for the possible preservation in situ or, failing that, systematic recording of deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost before any other ground works commence.

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for two dwellings and a small stables complex on what is currently largely soft ground.

5.2 The Brief requires 50m of 1.8m wide linear trenches across the development areas to sample the PDS and the proposed trenching plan is included below. This will be undertaken using a minimum 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench. 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 to medium 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 in order to inform any further stages in the archaeological programme of works for the PDS. 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)

- 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 incur additional cost and will take time to obtain, however 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. 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. As required the site evaluation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before field work starts followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER, with the relevant OASIS summary detail form and the digital archive on disc. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual

PSIAH round-up. The trench location will be provided for the HER as a .dxf vector plan.

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 agent/client 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.

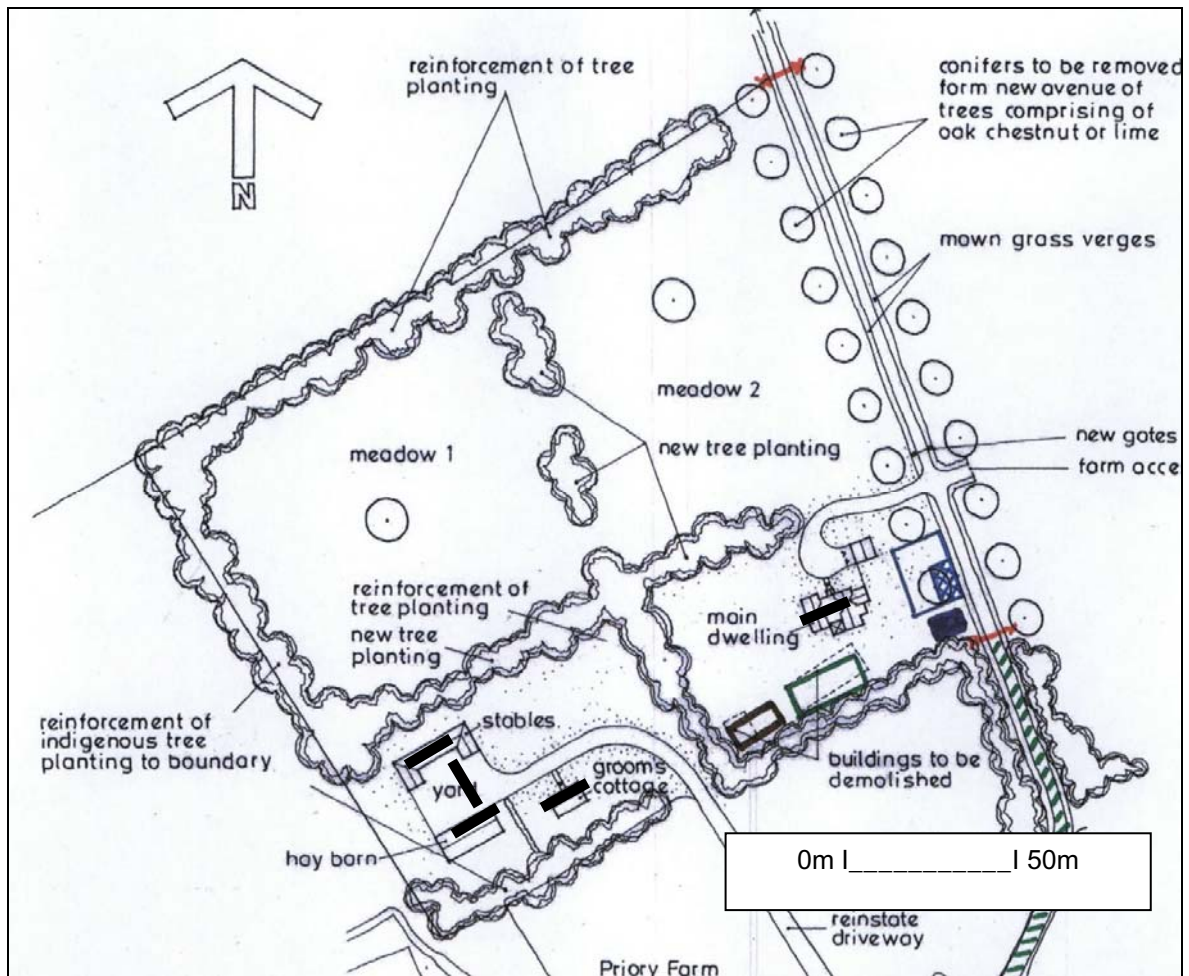
6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Tovergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)

John Newman Archaeological Services

Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
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 (5 x 10m each)

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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

Printable version

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-160156

Project details

Project name	Hammonds Holt, Priory Green, Little Waldingfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Little Waldingfield, Hammonds Holt, Priory Green (WFL 027, TL 9400 4390) evaluation trenching following the demolition of a mid 20th century dwelling and prior to the construction of two new dwellings and a stables complex did not reveal any evidence for past activity.
Project dates	Start: 02-10-2013 End: 02-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WFL 027 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	B/12/01253 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
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 BABERGH LITTLE WALDINGFIELD HAMMONDS HOLT, PRIORY GREEN
Postcode	CO10 5PN
Study area	1800.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 9400 4390 52 0 52 03 32 N 000 49 48 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 69.00m Max: 70.00m

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 Hammonds Holt, Priory Green, Little Waldingfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Newman, J
 Date 2013
 Issuer or publisher John Newman Archaeological Services
 Place of issue or publication Henley, Suffolk
 Description Loose bound client report
 Entered by John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)
 Entered on 15 October 2013