

Pentney Abbey, Pentney, Norfolk

Scheduled Monument Ref: 30590

Archaeological Monitoring Report

(Continuous observation of ground works related to the restoration of the gatehouse)

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

(November 2013)

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

Site details for HER

Name: Pentney Abbey, Pentney, Norfolk, PE32 1JT

Client: Mr H Barber

Local planning authority: Kings Lynn & West Norfolk

Planning authority: English Heritage (Scheduled Monument Consent)

Development: Trenches for drains to take storm water from the gatehouse to the existing drainage system.

Planning application: NA

Date of fieldwork: 22 October, 2013

HER Ref: ENF 132611

Scheduled Monument Ref: 30590

Listed Building Refs: 222004 (Gatehouse- Grade I)

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-165045

Grid ref: TF 7010 1216

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Monitoring methodology
3. Results
4. Conclusion

Fig. 1: Site location

Fig. 2: Monitored trenches

List of appendices

Appendix I- Selected images

Summary: Pentney Abbey, Pentney, Norfolk (HER: ENF 132611, TF 7010 1216) monitoring of minor trenching works for storm water drains during restoration works to the gatehouse did not reveal any archaeological features or finds (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr H Barber).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr H Barber commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of trenching works for two short length of storm water drainage trench during the restoration works to the gatehouse at Abbey Farm, Pentney (see Fig. 1) required under the relevant Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) issued by English Heritage. The monitoring requirements were set out by Mr K Hamilton of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, Norfolk CC acting as county representative for English Heritage.

1.2 Pentney is a long narrow parish on the northern of the River Nar in west Norfolk with the main village being located in the north western part of the parish. Abbey Farm, which is located on the site Pentney Priory, is some 3km south west of the village on an isolated site spur of higher ground with the River Nar c200m to the south. The soils are generally sandy and coarse loams over chalk and carstone.

1.3 Pentney Priory was founded in c1130 as a house for Augustinian Canons and to quote further from *Pastscape-*, '*consolidated with Wormegay priory in 1468, and dissolved 1537. Remains now consist of little more than foundations apart from a fine late 14th century gatehouse. Material from the priory has been reused in Abbey Farm and outbuildings which now occupies the site. Crop marks to the south seen on air photographs may be associated with the site. Excavation has revealed pits apparently for burning stonework for lime production at the time of the dissolution. Geophysical survey has located the nave and transepts of the church.*' This geophysical survey covered the area to the east of the gatehouse and it appears that the priory church was located in this area (Ken Hamilton pers. comm.). In addition to being within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), though as outlined above the priory layout is poorly understood, the gatehouse is a grade 1 listed building. Until recently the gatehouse has also been on the Monuments at Risk register as while the walls survived to the original roof level internally there has been severe degradation with continual ingress of the elements. The current restoration works will remedy this situation making the structure weather tight with the only below ground works, which are the subject of this report, to be carried out being short lengths of trench to the eastern and western sides of the gatehouse (see Fig. 2) to take storm water from the structure to the existing drainage system.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The SMC for the restoration of the gatehouse was therefore conditional upon a programme of archaeological monitoring being carried out to ensure that any deposits, features or finds would be fully recorded and, if possible, preserved in situ on each side of the structure. In practice only the trenches on the eastern side of the gatehouse required any extensive monitoring as on the western side the drop between the bottom of the relevant downpipes at ground level and the existing drainage system was so small that the connecting new pipes only required 100mm of excavation into the topsoil followed by some soil being put over the pipe work. All other works for this restoration project were above ground.

2.2 As the trenching works using a small 360 machine equipped with a 400mm bucket progressed any indistinct areas were hand cleaned and the trenches were

plotted in relation to existing, mapped, features. Finally a series of photographs (see Appendix I) were taken to record the trenching works.

3. Results

3.1 In total 24m of trench were opened with 14m on the eastern side of the gatehouse and 10m of very shallow, 100mm deep, trench on the western side (see Fig. 2). On the eastern side the trenches were 500mm to 600mm deep and they revealed a deposit profile made up of 400mm of topsoil over 100mm to 200mm of mid brown sand subsoil and at the maximum depth of the trenches at 600mm the top of the locally occurring natural carstone deposits were exposed. The trenches did not reveal any archaeological features and the only finds seen in the upcast spoil were small peg tile fragments of later Post medieval date and occasional items of modern debris.

4. Conclusion

4.1 In conclusion it can be confirmed that the recent minor trenching works to either side of the gatehouse did not impact on any archaeological features and no finds of any significance were revealed.

(The archive for this monitoring will be lodged with the Norfolk CC Museums service under the HER Ref. ENF132611)

Acknowledgements: JNAS would like to thank Mr & Mrs H Barber and everyone at Universal Stone for their close cooperation which helped in the smooth running of the archaeological monitoring.



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

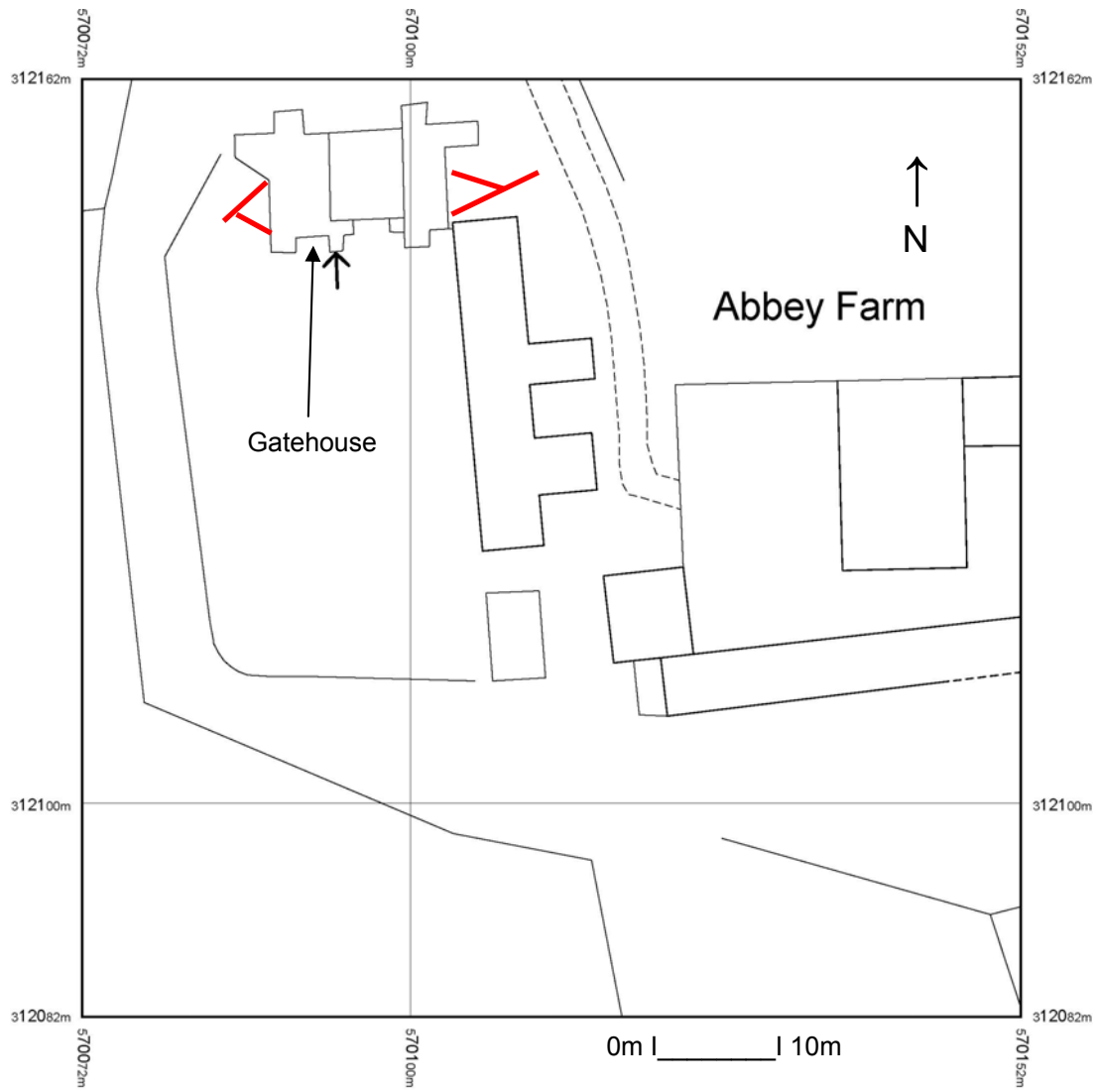


Fig. 2: Monitored trenches (red)

(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



Pentney Abbey gatehouse during restoration from north



Area of trenching works on eastern side of the gatehouse



Trenching works on eastern side from east



Pipe trench on eastern side from east

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: johnnewm1-165045

Project details

Project name	Pentney Abbey, Pentney, Norfolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Pentney Abbey, Pentney, Norfolk (HER: ENF 132611, TF 7010 1216) monitoring of minor trenching works for storm water drains during restoration works to the gatehouse did not reveal any archaeological features or finds.
Project dates	Start: 30-10-2013 End: 30-10-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 132611 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	222004 - LBS No.
Any associated project reference codes	30590 - SM No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK PENTNEY ABBEY FARM
Postcode	PE32 1JT
Study area	30.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 7010 1216 52 0 52 40 48 N 000 30 59 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 3.00m Max: 4.00m

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 Norfolk Museum Service
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Norfolk Museum Service
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Report"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Pentney Abbey, Pentney, Norfolk- 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 22 November 2013

OASIS: