

**Land At Firwood, Low Street,
Bardwell, Suffolk**

Planning application: SE/13/0167/FUL

HER Ref: BAR 104

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(March 2014)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land at Firwood, Low Street, Bardwell, Suffolk IP31 1AS

Clients: Jordan Developments

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: SE/13/0167/FUL

Development: Demolition of existing house & erection of two dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 7 February, 2014

HER Ref: BAR 104

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-170813

Grid ref: TL 9418 7310

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Summary: Bardwell, land at Firwood, Low Street (BAR 104, TL 9418 7310) evaluation trenching for a development comprising two detached dwellings revealed a substantial depth of overburden at a site close to the floodplain of the Black Bourn River that would have been on the margin of habitable land in the past. Below the 1400mm of top and subsoil a single ditch of medieval date was identified though the number of pottery sherds recovered and the scarcity of the environmental evidence in its fill suggests that this site was peripheral to any areas of intensive past activity and appears to have been rough grassland at this time. Stray finds in the upcast spoil were mainly of recent date though two medieval sherds were found in the subsoil (John Newman Archaeological Services for Jordan Developments).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Jordan Developments commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a small scale residential development comprising two detached dwellings following the demolition of a bungalow at Firwood, Low Street, Bardwell (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application SE/13/0167/FUL, set by Ms R Monk of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the site. 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 though the bungalow at the site had been demolished to ground level.

1.2 Bardwell parish is located to the north of Bury St Edmunds in central Suffolk in an area of deep, loamy, soils over chalky till with better drained glaciofluvial sands and gravels in areas close to watercourses. The main village settlement is laid out around a pattern of roads which form a square with the parish church just inside this enclosed area midway along its western side. Low Street runs from the south-western corner of the square of roads linking Bardwell with Ixworth to the south and Hodkinson's map of 1783 shows a small hamlet, as now reflected in the number of nearby listed buildings, where Firwood is located close to the junction with Knox Lane some 500m south of the parish church. The proposed development site at Firwood was formerly occupied by a bungalow of mid 20th century date and is on the western side of Low Street at c26m OD with the ground dropping away to the west into an area crossed by various drainage ditches that feed into the upper reaches of The Black Bourn River with one of these drains running to the south-western corner of this plot of land (see Fig. 2).

1.3 Archaeological interest in this planned development was generated by its proximity to sites where both evidence for Roman period (HER BAR 001 & 013, see Fig. 1) and medieval (HER BAR 030 & 066) activity has been recorded. In addition, and as noted above in section 1.2, the site at Firwood is also close to various listed buildings of early Post medieval date which also front onto The Street (see Fig. 1).

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed residential development was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2) using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1200mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity. Trench 1 sampled the footprint area of the planned northern new dwelling at the site while trench 2 was placed in front of the southern new dwelling area in order to avoid the footprint area of the bungalow that formerly stood within this plot.

2.2 The glaciofluvial deposits exposed in the base of the trench proved to be a soft, pale grey sand with small and medium flints. In both trenches ground water was encountered at its base. The sides and base of the trench, 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, sampled and then recorded. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good

throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under conditions which were initially wet but which became sunny as the day progressed. 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 only one feature of any archaeological interest was revealed (see also Figs. 2 & 3 and Appendix I):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/natural features & finds
T1	North-west/south-east	10	400	900 mid brown silty sand	Pale grey sand with flints	No features, 20 th C debris in topsoil, subsoil largely clean save two medieval pottery sherds (0001)
T2	North-east/south-west	10	450	700 as T1	As T1	Clean subsoil, one feature a ditch (0002) 1100mm wide & 700mm deep with dark brown silty sand fill (0003) at the southern end

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above the only archaeological feature revealed was a north-east/south-west orientated ditch (0002) at the southern end of trench 2 (see Fig. 3) which was 1100mm wide and 700mm deep below 1300mm of top and subsoil. The dark brown silty sandy fill (0003) of this ditch (0002) contained two pottery sherds.

3.3 The only finds seen in the upcast top were occasional small pottery sherds of later 19th and earlier 20th century date and a moderate number of later Post medieval brick and tile fragments while the subsoil was largely clean save a small number of small brick/tile fragments and two medieval pottery sherds (0001) from trench 1. The metal detector search only recovered iron nails and other miscellaneous sheet iron fragments of uncertain date with the subsoil again being largely clean with few signals encountered.

4. The Finds

4.1 In total only four finds of any age were recovered during the evaluation and these were all pottery sherds (wt 57g) and the full report by Stephen Benfield on these finds is included as Appendix III below. In summary all of these sherds are of medieval date with the two sherds (30g) from the fill (0003) of the ditch (0002) in trench 2 indicating a late 12th to 14th century date for this feature. Trench 1 produced only unstratified finds with the two medieval pottery rim sherds (0001) from the subsoil being respectively of 11th/12th century (17g) and late 12th/14th century (10g) date. All four medieval sherds are of locally common coarse ware types.

5. The Environmental evidence

5.1 A sample was taken from the fill (0003) of the ditch (0002) in trench 2 and the full assessment report by Val Fryer on this is included as Appendix IV below. In summary the assessment of the results from this sample point to human activity in the medieval period in the general area along Low Street though the relative scarcity of plant macrofossils and other remains suggest that this site was peripheral to more intensely utilised areas. The macrofossil evidence also suggests that the area close to this feature was rough grassland when the ditch was open and liable to intermittent wet periods.

6. Conclusion

4.1 While the evaluation did reveal one feature of medieval date both the low number of pottery sherds from it, and the trenches in general, and the scarcity of environmental evidence in the fill (0003) of this ditch (0002) suggest that this site was peripheral to nearby areas of medieval settlement as evidenced by at least two previously recorded sites (HER BAR 030 & 066). Additionally it can be noted that the alignment of this ditch (0002) is close to the southern boundary of the overall site and only a short length of it will potentially be disturbed by the foundations for the planned new dwelling 1.

4.2 With regard to this site being peripheral to nearby evidence for medieval activity, and being close to various early Post medieval buildings, examination of its topographic setting indicates that while modern ground level here is at 26m OD the nearby listed structures are closer to the 30m OD contour. This is a substantial height difference close to the Black Bourn River and it seems likely that the area around Firwood was liable to flood in the past, as indicated by the evidence for intermittent wetness in the identified ditch (0002), and was therefore left as seasonally used pasture. It also appears likely that the medieval ground level was lower than it is at present and the substantial depth of subsoil may be evidence for deliberate ground raising to get above the local flooding level. Finally it can also be noted that this ditch (0002) is on the same alignment as the existing drain to the south-west of the site (see Fig. 2).

4.3 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out on the proposed site of the new dwellings on the land formerly occupied by Firwood at Low Street, Bardwell.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. BAR 104.

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 everyone concerned for their close cooperation with regard to the evaluation)

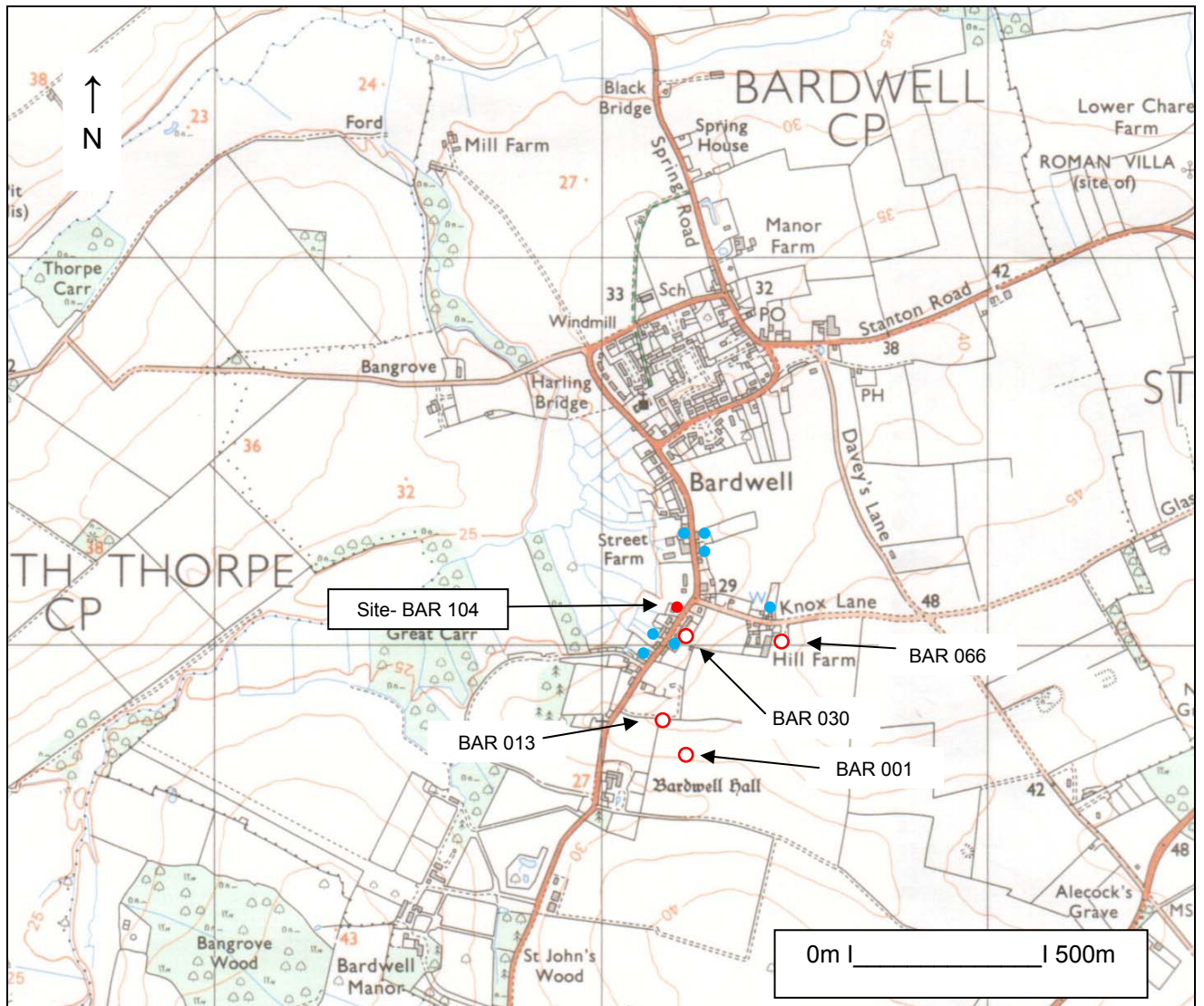


Fig. 1: Site location (listed buildings- blue dots)
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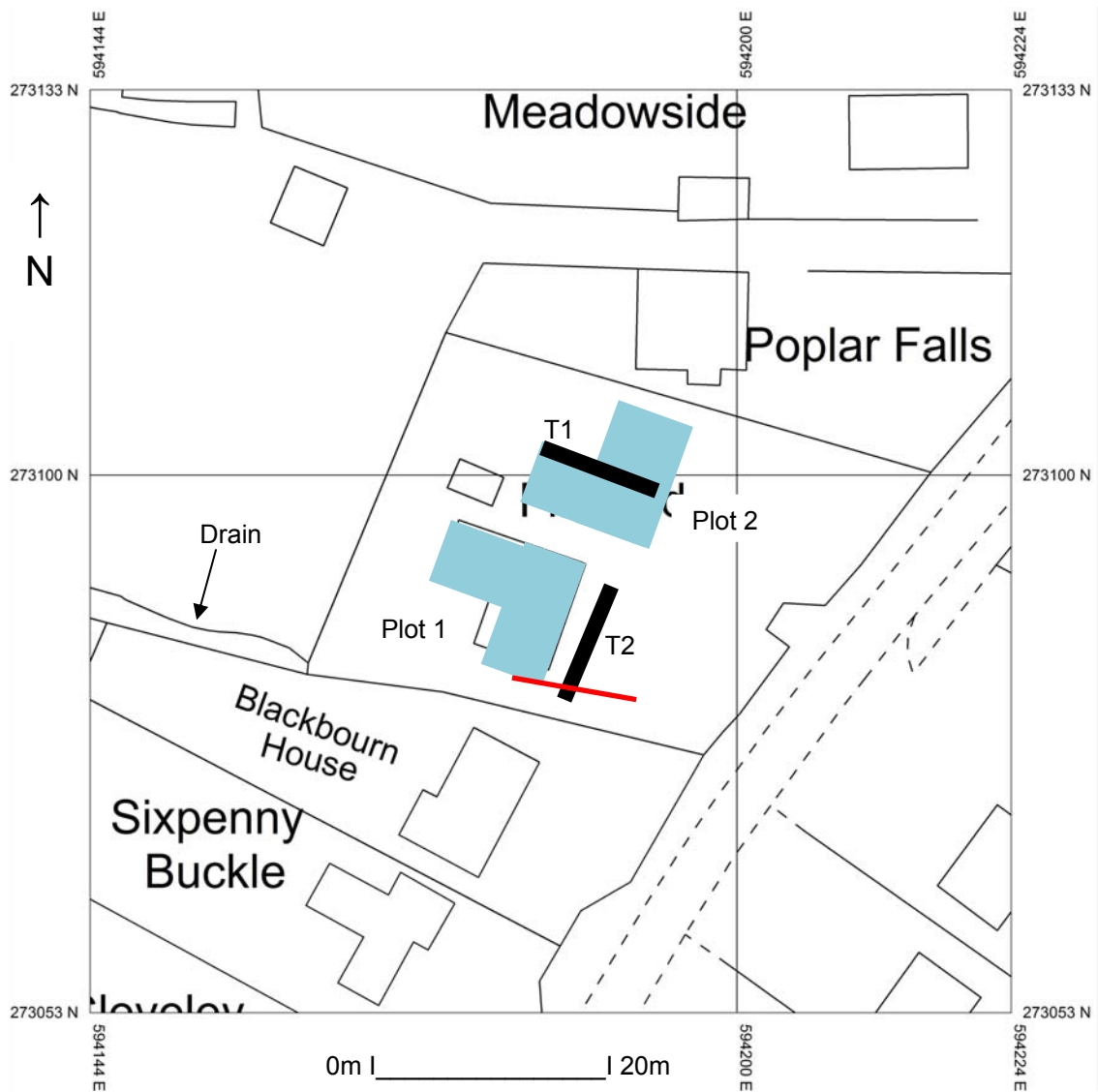


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches (line of ditch 0002- red)
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2014 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

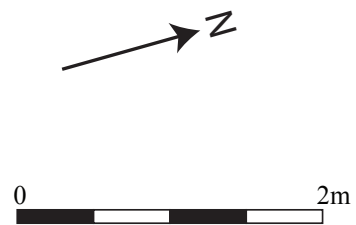
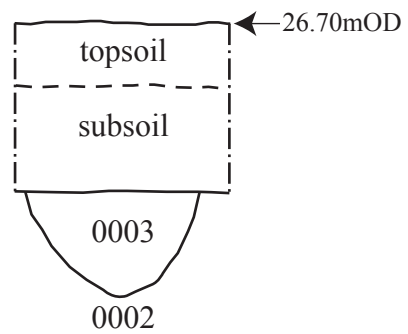


Fig. 3: Plan and section (trench 2).

Appendix I- Images



General view from east looking towards Black Bourn floodplain



Trench 1 from east



Trench 1 deposit profile



Trench 2 from south



Ditch 0002 in trench 2 from east

**Firwood, Low Street, Bardwell,
Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site details

Name: Land at Firwood, Low Street, Bardwell, Suffolk, IP31 1AS

Client: Jordan Developments Ltd

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: SE/13/0167/FUL

Proposed development: Demolition of existing house & erection of 2 dwellings

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: SCCAS_RM_Trenched Archaeological Evaluation Brief_Firwood, Low Street, Bardwell

Grid ref: TL 9418 7310

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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
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Proposed location of trial trenches

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr R Gooderham, on behalf of his client Jordan Developments Ltd, has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed small residential 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 SE/13/0167/FUL and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Ms R Monk of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the demolition of the existing house and the construction of 2 dwellings at Firwood, Low Street, Bardwell.

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 Bardwell parish is located to the north of Bury St Edmunds in central Suffolk in an area of deep, loamy, soils over chalky till and glaciofluvial drift with previous archaeological interventions in the area revealing a mix of sandy gravel and heavier clays. The main village settlement is laid out around a pattern of roads which form a square with the parish church just inside this enclosed area midway along its western side. Low Street runs from the south-western corner of the square of roads linking Bardwell with Ixworth to the south and Hodkinson's map of 1783 shows a small hamlet, as now reflected in the number of nearby listed buildings, where Firwood is located close to the junction with Knox Lane some 500m south of the parish church. The proposed development site (PDS) at Firwood is currently occupied by a detached house of mid 20th century date on the western side of Low Street at c30m OD with the ground dropping away to the west into an area crossed by various drainage ditches that feed into the upper reaches of The Black Bourn stream.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential, indicated by the County Historic

Environment Record. Finds of medieval and Roman pottery have been recorded from the immediate area of the proposal, (HER nos. BAR 030, BAR 066, BAR 013, BAR 001) which in addition is situated on a street fronted by listed medieval and post-medieval buildings. As a result there is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest in this area.' 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 main archaeological potential relates to the site's location where evidence for Roman, medieval and Post medieval period settlement and related activities may exist within the general area of a historic hamlet in the parish. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed development area with two evaluation trenches over or close to the proposed new build areas 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 two residential dwellings on what is partly soft ground and partly now occupied by the existing house at Firwood, Low Street, Bardwell. Therefore while one trench can cover proposed new footprint area the second is located to the front of the

existing house which covers the second new build area to sample undisturbed ground as indicated in the trenching plan below.

5.2 Initially an HER search will be requested from Suffolk CC for the area within 250m of the PDS to gain background information.

5.3 The Brief requires two 10m long by 1.80m wide trenches. The trenching will be undertaken using a 1.2/1.5m 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 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.

5.6 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.

5.7 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)

5.8 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 deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.9 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.

5.10 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.

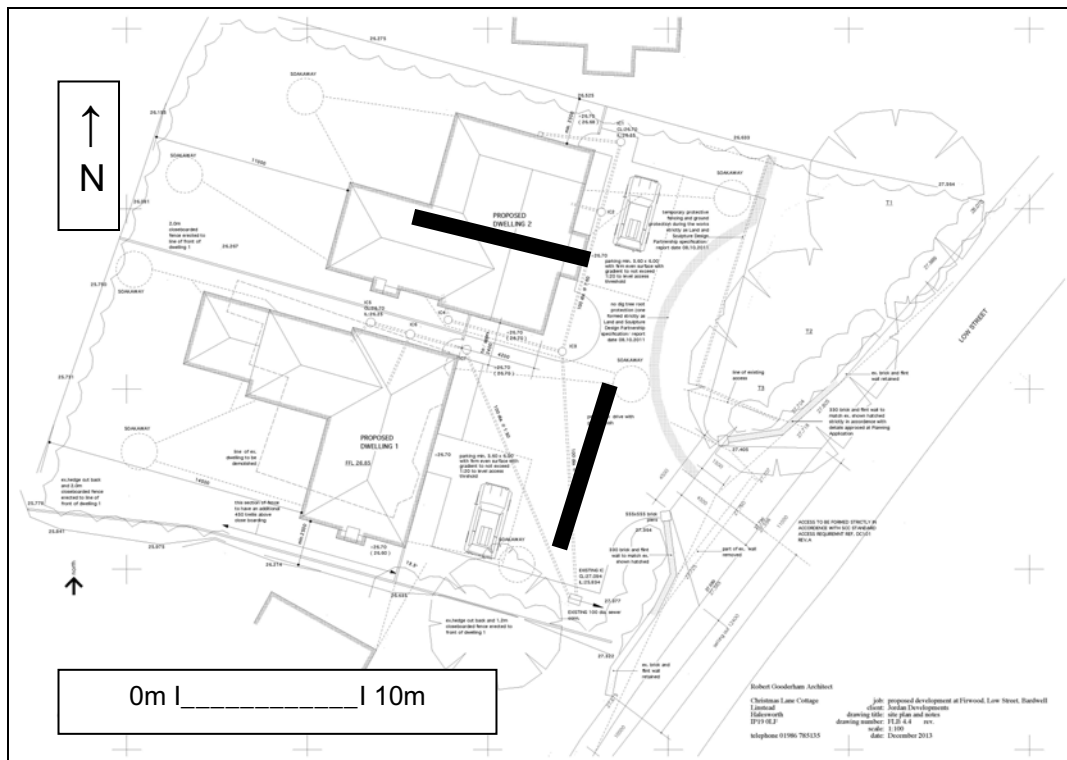
6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

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

7. Specialists

John Newman Archaeological Services

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:	C Pendleton (Freelance)
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 (2 x 10m each)

Appendix III- The Finds

Stephen Benfield, Colchester Archaeological Trust

Firwood, Low Street, Bardwell- Evaluation Finds (HER BAR 104)

Introduction

The only finds of any age from this evaluation consist of a small quantity of medieval pottery recovered as stratified sherds from the fill (0003) of ditch 0002 (Trench 2) and as unstratified material from spoil 0001 (Trench 1).

Pottery

In total there are four sherds of medieval pottery with a combined weight of 57g. The pottery was recorded using the Suffolk post-Roman fabric type series (unpublished). The pottery fabrics are listed in Table 1 and the pottery is listed and described, together with a spot date in Table 2.

Fabric name	Code	Broad date range
Early medieval ware sparse shelly	EMWSS	11-12C
Medieval coarse ware (general)	MCW	L12-14C

Table 1: Pottery fabrics

Ctxt	Ctxt type	Fabric	No	Wt(g)	Eve	Ab	Form	Notes	Spot date
0001	US	EMWSS	1	17	0.04		Cooking pot	Rim sherd from a cooking pot, simple flaring, flat-topped rim, oxidised, tempered with sparse fine-medium shell fragments, sooted on external rim face and rim top	11-12C
		MCW	1	10	0.03		Cooking pot	Rim sherd from a cooking pot, fine sand grey fabric	L12-14C
0003	ditch	MCW	1	25	0.04		Cooking pot	Rim sherd from a cooking pot, sandy grey fabric	L12-14C
		MCW	1	5			Cooking pot	Body sherd from a cooking pot, grey sandy fabric with fine silver mica, burnt residue or sooting deposit on external surface	L12-14C

Table 2: Pottery by context

Discussion

The four sherds are all from medieval cooking pots and the fabric variation shows that each is from a different vessel so that four pots are represented.

The pottery from the ditch 0002(0003) consists of two sherds, a rim and a body sherd in sandy medieval coarse ware (Fabric MCW) and can be broadly dated to the late 12th-14th

century. The body sherd is sooted on the outside from use. There is little abrasion to the rim sherd and as sooting survives on the surface of the body sherd this suggests that the pottery did not have any significant depositional history prior to ending up in this context.

The pottery from spoil 0001 consists of a coarse ware rim (Fabric MCW) broadly dated to the late 12th-14th century and a rim in an oxidised sparse shelly fabric (Fabric EMWSS) which can be dated slightly earlier, to the 11th-12th century. The top of the rim of the shell-tempered pot is sooted from use. As with the pottery from the ditch there is little sign of any significant abrasion, which together with the sooting deposit, suggests these sherds also have a limited depositional history prior to recovery.

The pottery indicates domestic occupation on or close to the site in the early medieval period of the 11th/12th-14th century.

Appendix IV- The Environmental Evidence

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM FIRWOOD, BARDWELL, SUFFOLK (HER BAR 104)

Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF
February 2014

Introduction and method statement

An evaluation at Bardwell, undertaken by JNAS, recorded a ditch of medieval date. A sample for the retrieval and assessment of the plant macrofossil assessment was taken from the ditch fill.

The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. As de-watered macrofossils were noted within the flot, the remains were stored in water prior to sorting. The wet retents 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). Charred, mineral replaced and de-watered plant remains were recorded, with the latter two being respectively denoted within the table by lower case 'm' and 'w' suffixes.

The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts/ecofacts were not present.

Results

Charred barely (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are present along with a number of cereals which are too poorly preserved for close identification. Preservation of these charred remains is generally quite poor, with most being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

De-watered seeds of a limited range of grassland herbs, ruderal weeds and tree/shrub species are also present along with a single charred cotyledon of an indeterminate small legume (Fabaceae). Taxa noted include orache (*Atriplex* sp.), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), cherry type (*Prunus* sp.) and bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*). With the exception of a particularly well preserved seed of fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*), which is almost certainly intrusive within the feature fill, the de-watered seeds are generally quite poorly preserved, possibly indicating that they have been subjected to frequent periods of post-depositional drying and re-wetting. However, numerous well-preserved elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) 'pips' are also recorded. Of the latter, some (particularly those which are partly or wholly mineral replaced) may be contemporary with the ditch fill, but it is thought most likely that the remainder may be intrusive and possibly derived from a rodent cache. The presence of mineral replaced plant remains within such a context is somewhat unusual, but it is currently unclear whether this preservation occurred solely a result of high mineral levels within the local ground water or whether it may in part be a result of deposition along with mineral rich materials like dung or sewage. Larger fragments of charcoal/charred wood are also recorded, but other plant macrofossils are scarce.

With the exception of mineral concretions, other remains occur infrequently but do include bone fragments, fish and small mammal/amphibian bones and a single ferrous spherule.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the charred remains within the assemblage are almost certainly derived from a low density of hearth or midden waste. As these remains are relatively scarce, it is suggested that the

ditch was probably peripheral to any focus of either domestic or agricultural activity during the medieval period. The de-watered macrofossils appear to indicate that the ditch was situated within an area of rough grassland, whilst the feature itself appears to have been poorly maintained, overgrown and possibly used for the deposition of refuse. However, it is thought most likely that this dereliction probably occurred after the ditch fell out of regular use.

As the assemblage does not contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Reference

Stace, C.' 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press

Context No.	0003
Feature No.	0002
Feature type	Ditch
Cereals	
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx
Herbs	
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i> L.	xwpmc
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	xw
<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.	xw
Fabaceae indet.	x
<i>Lamium</i> sp.	xw
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	xw
Wetland plants	
<i>Carex</i> sp.	xcfw
Tree/shrub macrofossils	
<i>Prunus</i> sp. (fruit stone frags.)	xw
<i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Glandulosus</i> Wimmer & Grab	xw
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	xxxxw xxm
Other plant macrofossils	
Charcoal <2mm	x
Charcoal >2mm	xxx
Charcoal >5mm	xxx
Charcoal >10mm	x
Charred root/stem	x
Mineral replaced root/stem	x
Waterlogged root/stem	x
Indet.fruit stone frags.	xw
Indet.seeds	xw
Other remains	
Black tarry material	x
Bone	x
Fish bone	x
Ferrous globule	x
Mineral concretions	xxx
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x
Sample volume (litres)	30
Volume of flot (litres)	0.1
% flot sorted	100%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
w = de-watered pmc = possible modern contaminant m = mineral replaced

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-170813

Project details

Project name	Firwood, Low Road, Bardwell, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Bardwell, land at Firwood, Low Street (BAR 104, TL 9418 7310) evaluation trenching for a development comprising two detached dwellings revealed a substantial depth of overburden at a site close to the floodplain of the Black Bourn River that would have been on the margin of habitable land in the past. Below the 1300mm of top and subsoil a single ditch of medieval date was identified though the number of pottery sherds recovered and the scarcity of the environmental evidence in its fill suggests that this site was peripheral to any areas of intensive past activity and appears to have been rough grassland at this time. Stray finds in the upcast spoil were mainly of recent date though two medieval sherds were found in the subsoil.
Project dates	Start: 07-02-2014 End: 07-02-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BAR 104 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SE/13/0167/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ECOFACT Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BARDWELL FIRWOOD, LOW ROAD
Postcode	IP13 1AS
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9418 7310 52.3211254736 0.849535967095 52 19 16 N 000 50 58 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 25.00m Max: 26.00m

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	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Landowner
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Firwood, Low Street, Bardwell, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Arcaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henley, Suffolk

Description	Loose bound client report
Entered by	John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)
Entered on	6 March 2014

OASIS:

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