

**Redisham Hall, Ringsfield,
Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/13/2234/FUL

HER Ref: RGD 013

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(May 2014)

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

Site details for HER

Name: Redisham Hall, Ringsfield, Suffolk

Client: The Alan Palgrave-Brown Trust

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/13/2234/FUL

Development: Construction of new biomass boiler & related works

Date of fieldwork: 11 March & 11 April, 2014

HER Ref: RGD 013 (related HER Ref: RGD 005- Redisham Hall)

OASIS: johnnewm1-173681

Grid ref: TM 40156 85945

LBS Ref: 282189 (Grade II)

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Summary: Ringsfield, Redisham Hall (REY 074, TM 40156 85945) monitoring of ground works for a new biomass boiler with associated pipe work recorded a flint and mortar wall of uncertain date, though in all probability pre 1800, and a well/soakaway and a pit of later Post medieval date (John Newman Archaeological Services for The Alan Palgrave-Brown Trust).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Durrants, on behalf of their client The Alan Palgrave Trust, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application DC/13/2234/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr R Hoggett of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the erection of a biomass boiler to the south-east of Redisham Hall, Ringsfield (see Fig. 1) with the heat generated to be transferred to the hall and various nearby subsidiary buildings via a network of underground pipes.

1.2 Ringsfield and Redisham are small and sparsely populated historic rural parishes in north-east Suffolk which for many purposes are now a combined local administration. Redisham Hall, a listed structure set within an extensive park and described as having been constructed in 1823 and largely enlarged and replaced in c1880, is located in the south-western part of the parish c500m south of the recorded site of St James' church which was the parish church for Little Redisham. The site for the new biomass boiler is c80m south-east of the main hall building and directly east of an associated and subsidiary complex of former stables, garden related structures and other buildings (see Fig. 2).

1.3 The site lies in an isolated location at c25m OD in an area of mixed drift geology with the higher interfluvial areas being dominated by chalky clay with flints that gives way to better drained sandy gravels in the gentle valleys that cut the Till plateau with a stream flowing northwards c100m east of the hall and 20m east of the biomass boiler site.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location close to Redisham Hall (HER RGD 005) which, as noted above is of 19th century date though the site of an earlier hall of 16th century date is believed to lie to the south-west of the current hall. In addition the deserted medieval settlement of Little Redisham (HER RGD 003) is thought to lie in the park to the north-east of the hall and therefore closer to the site of St James' church with the process of emparking in the Post medieval period in all likelihood clearing away this settlement. The ground works for this biomass heat generation scheme therefore had the potential to impact on deposits of medieval and earlier Post medieval date.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 An initial visit was made to the site to observe the excavation of the pad foundation for the boiler as it progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1200mm wide flat bucket under dry and sunny conditions and site visibility is considered to have been good. Following this initial monitoring a second visit was made to observe the excavation of the pipe trenches using a 600mm wide toothed bucket and an open cable trench was also examined. Again site visibility was good under dry, sunny conditions. Upcast spoil was inspected visually as the work progressed. The foundation area and trenches were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 The footprint area for the boiler house (see Fig. 2) is c280m² and the required foundation was a shallow, 350mm deep, reinforced pad. With such a shallow ground disturbance it was therefore decided on site to excavate a T shaped trench to this depth using a flat bucket to sample some 30% of the footprint area. As this only reached the base of the topsoil exposing the top of the mid brown silty sand subsoil below, which contained a number of later Post medieval peg tile fragments, monitoring was stopped at this point due to the superficial nature of these ground works.

3.2 The pipe trenches from the boiler house to the hall and subsidiary buildings (see Fig. 2) was 600mm wide and 900mm deep with a total length of c250m, in addition just over 50m of 400mm wide and 600mm deep cable trench was opened to the east of the Coach House and at various points service pipes crossed the trenches. With respect to the exposed deposits in the trenches various observations can be made from north to south along the trenches (see also Fig. 2 & Appendix I):

3.2.1 To the east and outside Redisham Hall the exposed deposit profile comprised 300mm of drive and sub-base over 300mm of mid brown sandy subsoil with the underlying natural glaciofluvial throughout the trenching works being an orange sand with flints.

3.2.2 To the east of West Lodge in a short length of trench linking the new pipes to the internal heating system a 400mm wide north-south aligned flint and mortar wall was revealed running parallel to the east wall of the lodge. This wall was under a path and its sub-base layer with the bottom of the wall being at a depth of 600mm. No dating evidence was observed in relation to this feature.

3.2.3 To the south-east of West Lodge the trench cut a large (1400mm diameter), red brick built, well or soakaway with a domed top. The bricks were of standard later Post medieval size being 9in. x 4in. x 2.25in. (228mm x 102mm x 56mm) in size.

3.2.4 Just to the north of the well/soakaway described above the trench cut through the top of a large (1600mm diameter) pit which contained a substantial amount of later Post medieval brick and peg tile fragments.

3.2.5 To the north of Garden Lodge and the Coach House the trench ran through soft ground in the main and the exposed deposit profile comprised 400mm of humic topsoil over 200mm of mid brown sandy subsoil and had extensive tree root disturbance. The only features exposed was a large concrete tank of recent date while the trench sides and upcast spoil contained moderate to large quantities of later Post medieval brick and peg tile fragments and occasional sherds of 19th/earlier 20th century transfer printed blue and white pottery sherds.

3.2.6 The trench through the enclosed garden area to the south of New Flat revealed 300mm of topsoil over 300mm of mid brown sandy subsoil with stray ceramic finds again of relatively recent date.

3.2.7 The trench on the eastern side of the stream running up to South Lodge revealed a depth of at least 900mm of a clean mid brown silty sand.

3.2.8 The cable trench running to the east of the Coach House revealed a large amount of later Post medieval brick rubble under a yard surface at its northern end while to the south-east of the Coach House the topsoil was 600mm deep to the base of the trench.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While the new biomass boiler and related trenching works were undertaken in an area that is relatively close to the site of the earlier, 16th century, Redisham Hall and the deserted medieval settlement of Little Redisham these monitoring results indicate substantial later Post medieval disturbance to the east/south-east of the current hall which is of a post 1800 date. That a structure of the size and importance of Redisham Hall should have such a scale of associated works, including a well/soakaway, a large pit and dumps of building material perhaps deposited to level-up and landscape areas, should not be a surprise and could easily mask evidence for earlier activity. However no features of definite pre-1800 date were revealed though the flint and mortar wall to the east of West Lodge is a candidate as it would be reasonable to assume that it represents part of a structure pre-dating the lodge which forms an integral part of the current hall. It is also of note that no finds of pre-1800 date were recovered during the monitoring.

4.2 Therefore in conclusion it is clear that the monitored ground works have not impacted substantially on any deposits of archaeological significance though the short length of recorded flint and mortar wall near the West Lodge may be related to a structure associated with the earlier, 16th century, hall.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Trevor Musk of Durrants, David Aimes of Willow Builders and everyone on site for their close cooperation during the monitoring)

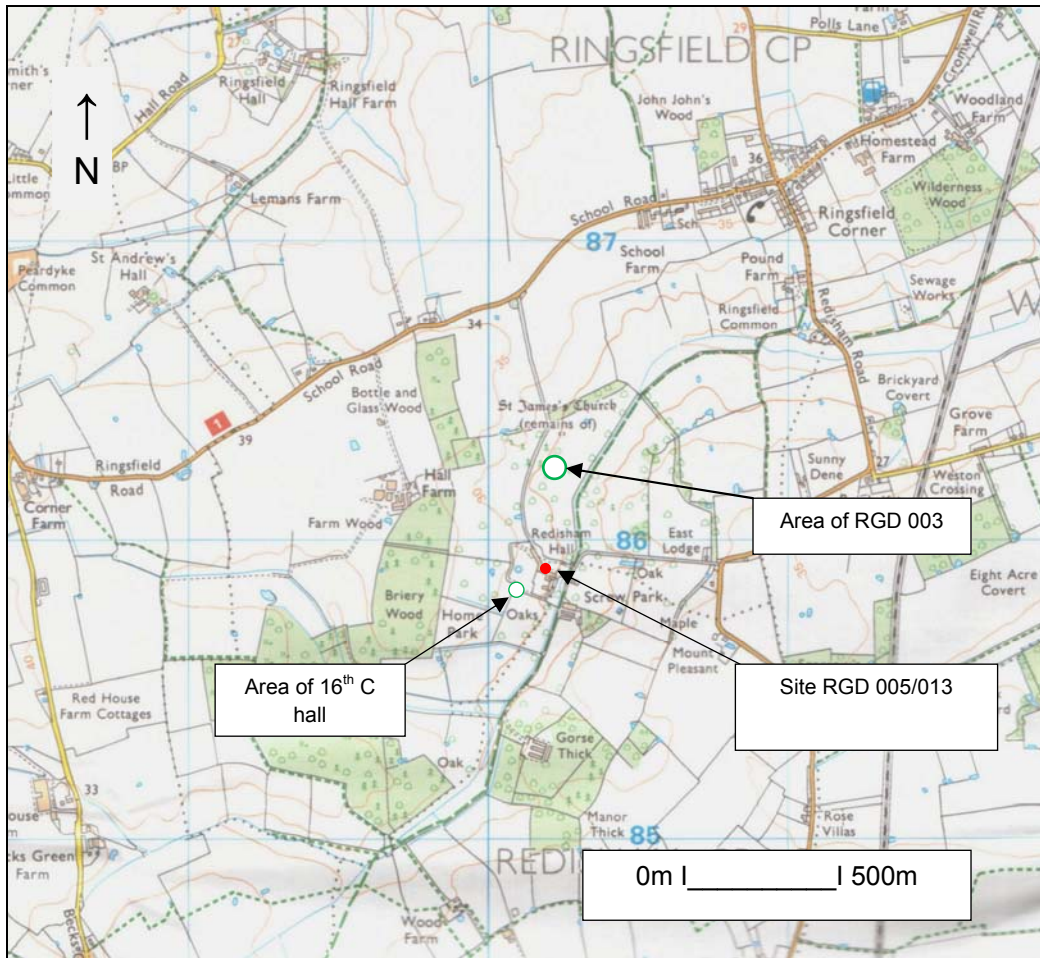


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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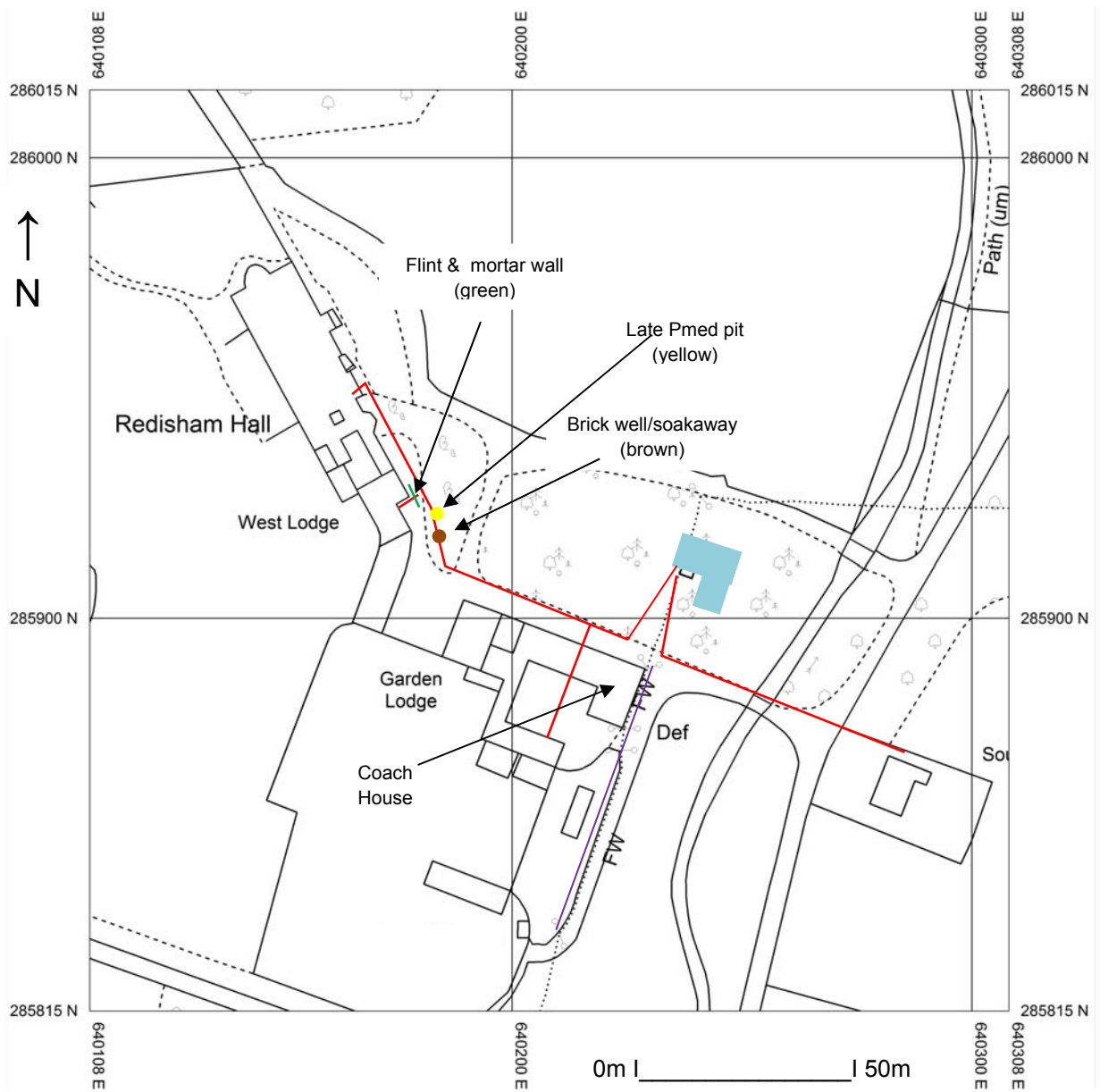


Fig. 10: Monitored boiler house (light blue), pipe trenches (red) & cable trench (purple)
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Appendix I- Images



General view across boiler toward Redisham Hall from east



Trench across boiler site



Pipe trench in front of hall from north-west



Flint & mortar wall to the east of West Lodge



Brick built well/soakaway to south-east of West Lodge



Pipe trench to north of Garden Lodge/Coach House from north-west



Pipe trench running across enclosed garden to the south of the Coach House



Cable trench to the east of the Coach House from north

**Construction of New Biomass Boiler Building
& Associated Works at Redisham Hall,
Ringsfield, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/13/2234/FUL

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Continuous Archaeological Monitoring**

Site details

Name: Redisham Hall, Ringsfield, Suffolk

Client: The Alan Palgrave-Brown Will Trust

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/13/2234/FUL

Proposed development: Construction of new biomass boiler & related works

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief & Specification ref: Suffolk CC brief dated 24 July, 2013

Grid ref: Tm 40156 85945

LBS Ref: 282189 (Grade II)

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1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Monitoring
5. Methodology
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1. Introduction

1.1 Durrants on behalf of their client, the Alan Palgrave Will Trust, have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application DC/13/2234/FUL. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Dr R Hoggett of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the construction of a new biomass boiler and related trenching works at Redisham Hall, Ringsfield.

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

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Ringsfield and Redisham are small parishes and sparsely populated rural parishes in north-east Suffolk which for many purposes are now a combined local administration. Redisham Hall, a listed structure described as having been constructed in 1823 and largely enlarged and replaced in c1880, is located in the south-western part of the parish c500m south of the recorded site of St James' church. The site lies in an isolated location at c30m OD in an area largely dominated by heavier soils derived from the underlying glaciofluvial Till deposits which are mainly characterised by a medium to heavy chalky clay with flints.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'Redisham Hall (RGD 005) dates from 1825, but there was an earlier (probably 16th century) hall slightly to the south-west of the present building. A map of 1802 (in private ownership) shows that this building had a small area of garden and pleasure ground, but was otherwise surrounded by a landscape of enclosed fields and woods.....The supposed site of the deserted medieval settlement of Little Redisham is thought to lie in the park to the north-east of the house (RGD 003).'

3.2 The Brief then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local

heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording as ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential where evidence for medieval and earlier Post medieval period deposits in particular might be found and continuous monitoring of ground works as they progress can best record what may be revealed. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to depth of overburden and evidence, character and date of any past activity that is revealed with the primary aim of gaining more information relating to past activity in this location close to a listed building of Post medieval date, with a probable early Post medieval predecessor, and close to the likely area of medieval activity related to the settlement of Little Redisham.

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be a 450mm deep edge beam reinforced raft foundation for the biomass boiler and mechanical excavation, with hand digging near trees, of trenches for the related pipe works. The ground works for the raft foundation will be monitored as it is undertaken and the trench works will be monitored as they progress. Notice of ground works starting and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to hand clean sections as necessary and investigate by hand any possible archaeological deposits within the foundation trenches.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under an overall site HER number supplied by Suffolk CC. 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 with the monitored footings shown. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the trench foundations with sections recorded in relation to

the trench sides, if possible, and with levels OD. Even if no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land use and topography at the site. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains which would incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (the potential of this site to contain burials is assessed as being very low).

5.4 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological 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 SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

5.5 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2) and particularly Appendix 3 and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. 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.

5.6 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 4) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the

results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 2 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). An unbound draft copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided plus another for the County HER, a copy will be sent to the client so they can gain full discharge of the relevant condition. The project 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

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots & ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil 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 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client's agent and any ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

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

6.5 Deep holes/trenches going below c1.30m will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

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

John Newman Archaeological Services

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

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-173681

Project details

Project name	Redisham Hall, Ringsfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Ringsfield, Redisham Hall (REY 074, TM 40156 85945) monitoring of ground works for a new biomass boiler with associated pipe work recorded a flint and mortar wall of uncertain date, though in all probability pre 1800, and a well/soakaway and a pit of later Post medieval date.
Project dates	Start: 11-03-2014 End: 11-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	RGD 013 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	RGD 005 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	282189 - LBS No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/13/2234/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	FLINT AND MORTAR WALL Uncertain
Monument type	WELL/SOAKAWAY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY RINGSFIELD REDISHAM HALL

Study area 200.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TM 4015 8594 52.4180637375 1.53207045561 52 25 05 N 001 31 55 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 Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Discarded
 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 "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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