

**Flemings Hall, Hall Road,
Bedingfield, Suffolk**

Planning application: 3976/14

HER Ref: BDF 014

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(May 2015)

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Site details for HER

Name: Flemings Hall, Hall Road, Bedingfield, Suffolk, IP23 7QF

Client: Mr & Mrs A Hill

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 3976/14

Development: Erection of new cart lodge

Date of fieldwork: 14 & 17 April, 2015

HER ref: BDF 014 (moat- BDF 001)

LBS ref: 281307 (Grade II*)

Event ref: ESF 32857

OASIS: johnnewm1-208752

Grid ref: TM 1918 6796

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Summary: Bedingfield. Flemings Hall (BDF 014, TM 1918 6796) monitoring of ground works for a new cart lodge immediately to the east of the moat island, and within an ancillary ditched enclosure that was still extent in the late 19th century though has now been filled-in, did not reveal any features and the only finds in the upcast spoil were of recent date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs A Hill).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr M Lowe on behalf of his clients Mr & Mrs A Hill 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 3976/14. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Mrs R Abraham 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 new cart lodge at Flemings Hall, Hall Road, Bedingfield (see Fig. 1) which is a grade II* listed brick built building of 16th century date that stand within a substantial moat.

1.2 2.1 Bedingfield parish has a dispersed settlement pattern with a small cluster of houses close to the parish church 3.5 miles north of Debenham in central Suffolk on part of the Till plateau of central Suffolk in an area characterised by a gently rolling landscape on heavy clay with flint soils of the Hanslope series. A number of other cottages and farms are scattered across the parish along the various lanes and roads that link with other villages and around former greens with Flemings Hall being located 1500m southeast of the parish church on the eastern side of Hall Road. Topographically the site sits in a generally flat landscape just above the 60m OD contour.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location close to Flemings Hall which, as noted above, is a grade II* listed building of 16th century date with a probable medieval core and which stands within a moat that has documented evidence of a medieval manorial status and high level domestic occupation stretching back to at least the 13th century. The site for the new cart lodge (see Fig. 2) while being to the west of the western arm of the moat, and therefore not on the main island, lies within the area of an ancillary ditched enclosure that was still extent in the later 19th century (see Fig. 3) but whose ditches have now been filled-in. In addition finds of medieval and Post medieval date (HER BDF 007) have been recovered from the field to the north-west of Flemings Hall (see Fig. 1).

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to the site to observe the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new cart lodge. This work was undertaken using a medium sized 360 machine which was under continuous archaeological supervision with weather conditions being dry and sunny giving good site visibility. Upcast spoil was inspected closely as the work progressed. The foundations 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 foundation trenches were 500mm wide between 1100mm and 1600mm deep and the exposed deposit profile comprised 250mm of top soil over 100mm to 350mm of mid brown clay subsoil with the locally occurring glaciofluvial deposit below being a stiff pale brown clay with flints and occasional pockets of silty yellow sand. No features except for modern cables were revealed in the trenches and the

only finds seen in the trench sides and upcast spoil were small fragments of later Post medieval brick, tile and slate.

4. Conclusion

4.1 This lack of evidence for past activity of any age or intensity can only be taken as being representative of the area immediately around the new cart lodge site. However it is likely that the previously enclosed area where the cart lodge is located to the west of the main moat was largely in use as garden, orchard or paddock; or a combination of these uses, in the past thereby supporting life at the hall.

4.2 As an aside it can also be suggested that the scatter of medieval and Post medieval finds (HER BFD 007) recovered from the field to the north-west of Flemings Hall could have originally been lost within the moat area as a newspaper cutting from the Ipswich Evening Star for 14 May, 1992, records that the then owner landscaped the grounds and '6 inches was skimmed off the surface' (of the moat) and it seems likely this material would have been re-deposited nearby and perhaps in the field to the north-west.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Andy and Alison Hill and to the contractors Doug and Ian for their close cooperation during the monitoring)

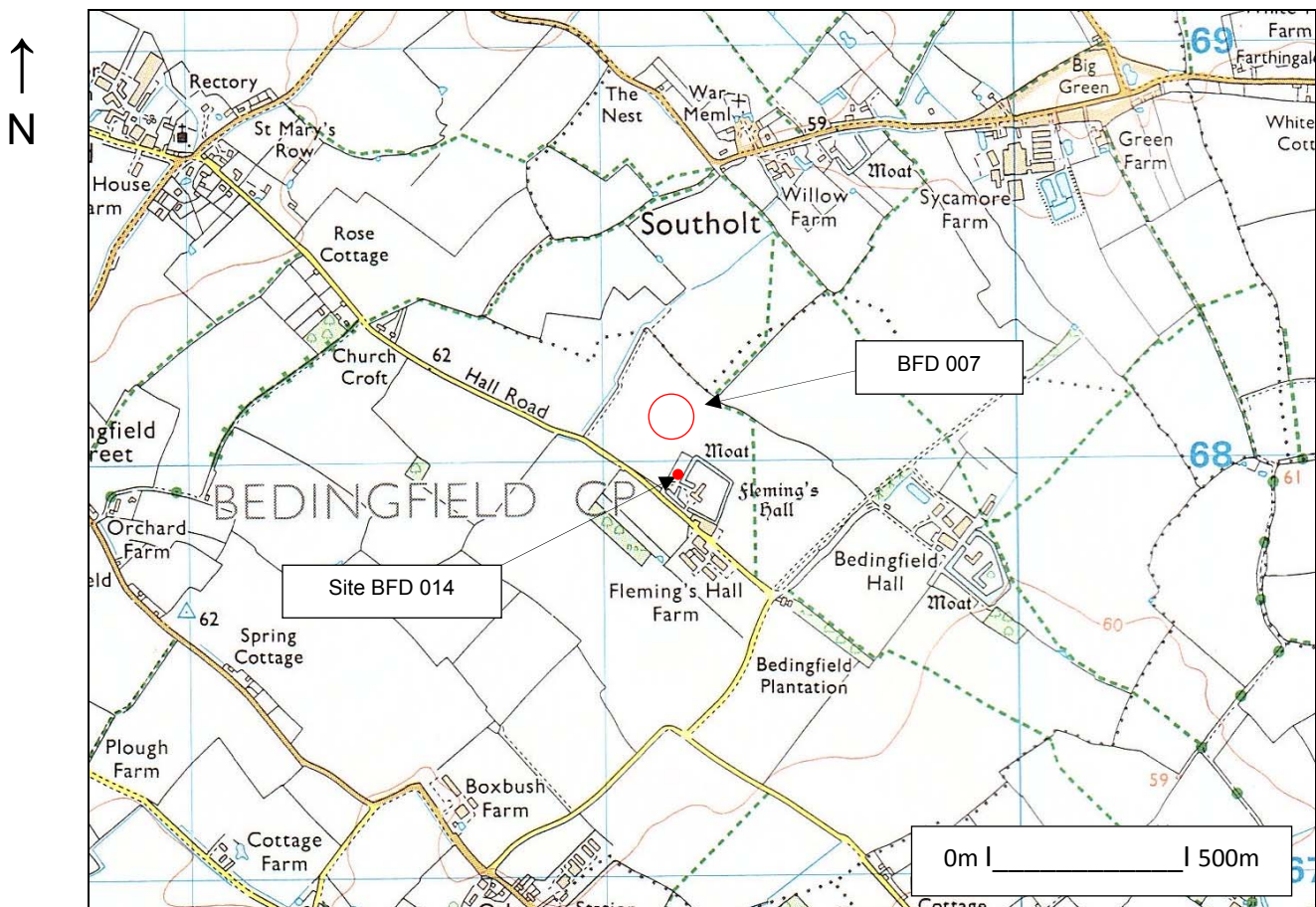


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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Fig. 2: Monitored cart lodge area (light blue- footprint, dark blue- trenches)

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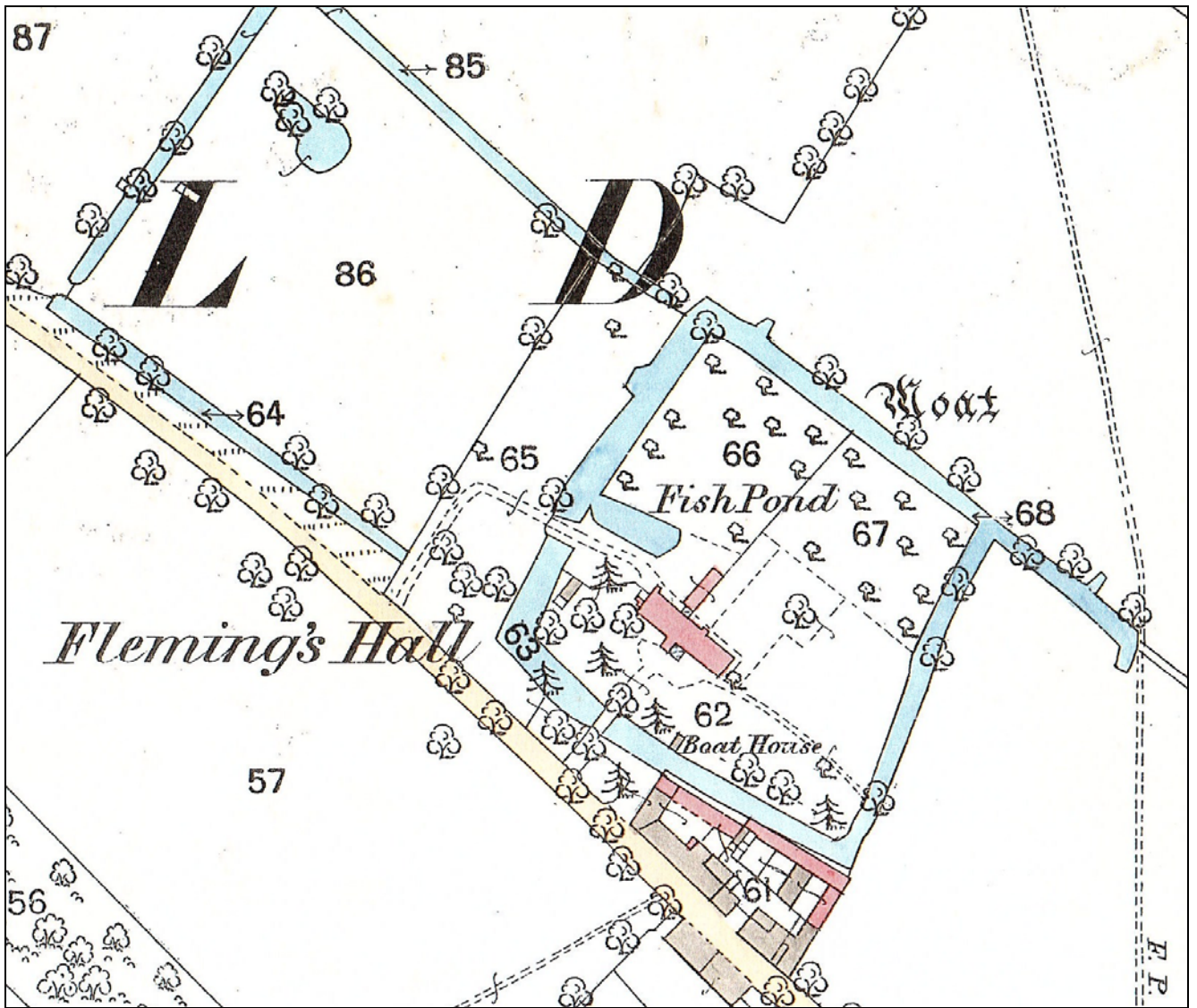


Fig. 3: Extract from first edition large scale Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (Suffolk RO ref. sheet 48/1)

Appendix I- Images



General view from west



Northern trench from east



Southern trench from east



Deposit profile in south-eastern corner



Deposit profile in southern trench

**Flemings Hall, Hall Road,
Bedingfield, Suffolk**

Planning application: 3976 & 3977/14

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

Site details

Name: Flemings Hall, Hall Road, Bedingfield, Suffolk, IP23 7QF

Client: Mr & Mrs A Hill

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 3976 & 3977/14

Proposed development: Erection of new cart lodge

Proposed date for ground works: 14 April, 2015

HER ref: BFD 001

LBS ref: 281307 (Grade II*)

Grid ref: TM 1918 6796

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1. Introduction

1.1 Mr M Lowe on behalf of his clients Mr & Mrs A Hill has 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 applications 3976 & 3977/14. 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 Mrs R Abraham 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 erection of a new cart lodge at Flemings Hall, Hall Road, Bedingfield.

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 (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 & reissued 2014)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Bedingfield parish has a dispersed settlement pattern with a small cluster of houses close to the parish church 3.5 miles north of Debenham in central Suffolk on part of the Till plateau of central Suffolk in an area characterised by a gently rolling landscape on heavy clay with flint soils of the Hanslope series. A number of other cottages and farms are scattered across the parish along the various lanes and roads that link with other villages and around former greens with Flemings Hall being located 1500m southeast of the parish church on the eastern side of Hall Road. Topographically the site sits in a generally flat landscape just above the 60m OD contour.

2.2

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological interest, within a medieval moated site recorded in the County Historic Environment Record as BDF 001. Flemings Hall itself is a Grade II* listed property dating from the 16th century (LB 281307) and finds of medieval and post-medieval date have been located within the vicinity of the property. As a result, there is high potential for encountering heritage assets at this location. The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has

potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.' The medieval and Post medieval finds (HER BDF 007) noted above having been recovered from the area to the north/northwest of Flemings Hall and the HER entry (BFD 001) for Flemings Hall also notes the presence of an associated enclosure to the northwest of the main moat.

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 new cart lodge site lies in a location with high archaeological potential to contain evidence of medieval and earlier Post medieval activity. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to the 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 of prehistoric date.

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be trench foundations. The excavation of the trench footings and any related service trenches will be observed once they are underway and then through to completion and any up cast spoil examined for finds. 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 any possible archaeological deposits.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under overall site event and HER numbers 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 related 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 in the town. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litre if possible) 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. 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 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 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 discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before site works start 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 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 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.

John Newman Archaeological Services

7. Specialists

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

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-208752

Project details

Project name	Flemings Hall, Hall Road, Bedingfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Bedingfield. Flemings Hall (BDF 014, TM 1918 6796) monitoring of ground works for a new cart lodge immediately to the east of the moat island, and within an ancillary ditched enclosure that was still extent in the late 19th century though has now been filled-in, did not reveal any features and the only finds in the upcast spoil were of recent date.
Project dates	Start: 14-04-2015 End: 17-04-2015
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	BFD 014 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	3976/14 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 32857 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BFD 001 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK BEDINGFIELD FLEMINGS HALL, HALL ROAD

Postcode	IP23 7QF
Study area	80.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1918 6796 52.2655222717 1.21247046286 52 15 55 N 001 12 44 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 57.00m Max: 58.00m

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 vector", "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	Flemings Hall, Hall Road, Bedingfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
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