

**Land Opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane,
Bromeswell, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/15/0650/FUL

HER Ref: BML 058

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(August 2015)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane, Bromeswell, Suffolk

Clients: Mr & Mrs J Potter

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/15/0650/FUL

Development: Erection of single dwelling, cart lodge and store

Date of fieldwork: 25 June, 2015

HER ref: BML 058

Event ref: ESF 23115

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-215158

Grid ref: TM 3092 5010

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Summary: Bromeswell, land opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane (BML 058, TM 3092 5010) evaluation trenching for a single dwelling close to the recorded find spot of a medieval pottery kiln and late Saxon pottery did not reveal any archaeological features or finds at a site which in all likelihood had been open heathland until the area along Sandy Lane saw low density residential development in the 20th century (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs J Potter).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mullins Dowse Architects on behalf of their clients Mr & Mrs J Potter commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a single dwelling development on land opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane, Bromeswell (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application DC/15/0650/FUL, set by Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the area for the new dwelling, cart lodge and store. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to gain a conditional discharge and allow the trenching to go ahead before any other ground works were undertaken.

1.2 The village of Bromeswell is located on the eastern side of the River Deben some 3 miles north-east of Woodbridge in that part of Suffolk known as The Sandlings; a name derived from the light soils of the area that historically gave rise to extensive areas of heath land. The local drift geology is made up largely of well drained sands and gravels (deep sands of the Newport Series 20 with extensive areas distant from easily accessible water sources) giving rise to a dispersed settlement pattern scattered across various relatively large parishes. Bromeswell also lies just above Wilford Bridge, which is the highest tidal point on the River Deben, with the proposed development site being 800m south-east of the parish church and 750m east of a small stream that feeds into the River Deben. Historically the area around Sandy Lane has been open heath land mainly used for grazing sheep as only with irrigation and soil improvement in recent years has arable use been a possibility.

1.3 At the time of the evaluation the site was soft ground under a grass cover with extensive evidence of rabbit burrows. Topographically the site slopes down gently from south-east to north-west around the 20m OD contour.

1.4 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location adjacent and to the south-east of the find spot of what is described as a medieval pottery kiln plus a scatter of Late Saxon pottery sherds (HER BML 002) that were recorded in a sand and gravel pit located on the northern side of Sandy Lane in the 1940s (see Figs. 1 & 2).

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.

2.2 The sides and base of the 1.80m wide trenches and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any finds and any indistinct areas or potential features were investigated by hand. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under dry sunny and conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trenches was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the evaluation

progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works.

3. Results

3.1 In this case the results are most easily summarised as in the table below as nothing of archaeological interest was revealed (see also Fig. 2 & Appendix I):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/ natural features & finds
1	Northeast-southwest	10	200	200 of mid brown sandy subsoil	Yellow sand with small flints	No features or finds
2	Northwest-southeast	5	200	300 (as T1)	As T1	No features and the only finds were of 20 th C date
Total		15 (27m ²)	200	300		Trench depth minimum at 400 & maximum at 500, top 100mm of yellow sand in each trench also removed to improve clarity

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above no archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation with the trenches being 400mm to 500mm deep to the locally occurring glaciofluvial yellow sand natural. In both trenches the top 100mm of the natural yellow sand was also removed mechanically to improve site clarity by getting below the root disturbed horizon.

3.3 The only finds seen in the upcast spoil proved to be small fragments of burnt 20th century brick and glass at the base of the subsoil at the western end of trench 2.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site is located close to the recorded find spot of a medieval kiln and Late Saxon pottery sherds which were found in the former quarry pit to the northwest this past activity did not extend into the area for the proposed dwelling and cart lodge. It is also noteworthy that the deep sandy soils of this area of former heath land would seem to be a strange location to construct a kiln as such past industrial activities are rarely sited away from the primary raw material that is clay of a suitable type for potting.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out at this planned single dwelling, cart lodge and store development on and opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane, Bromeswell.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. BML 058.

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 James Potter for his close cooperation and skilled machine operation)

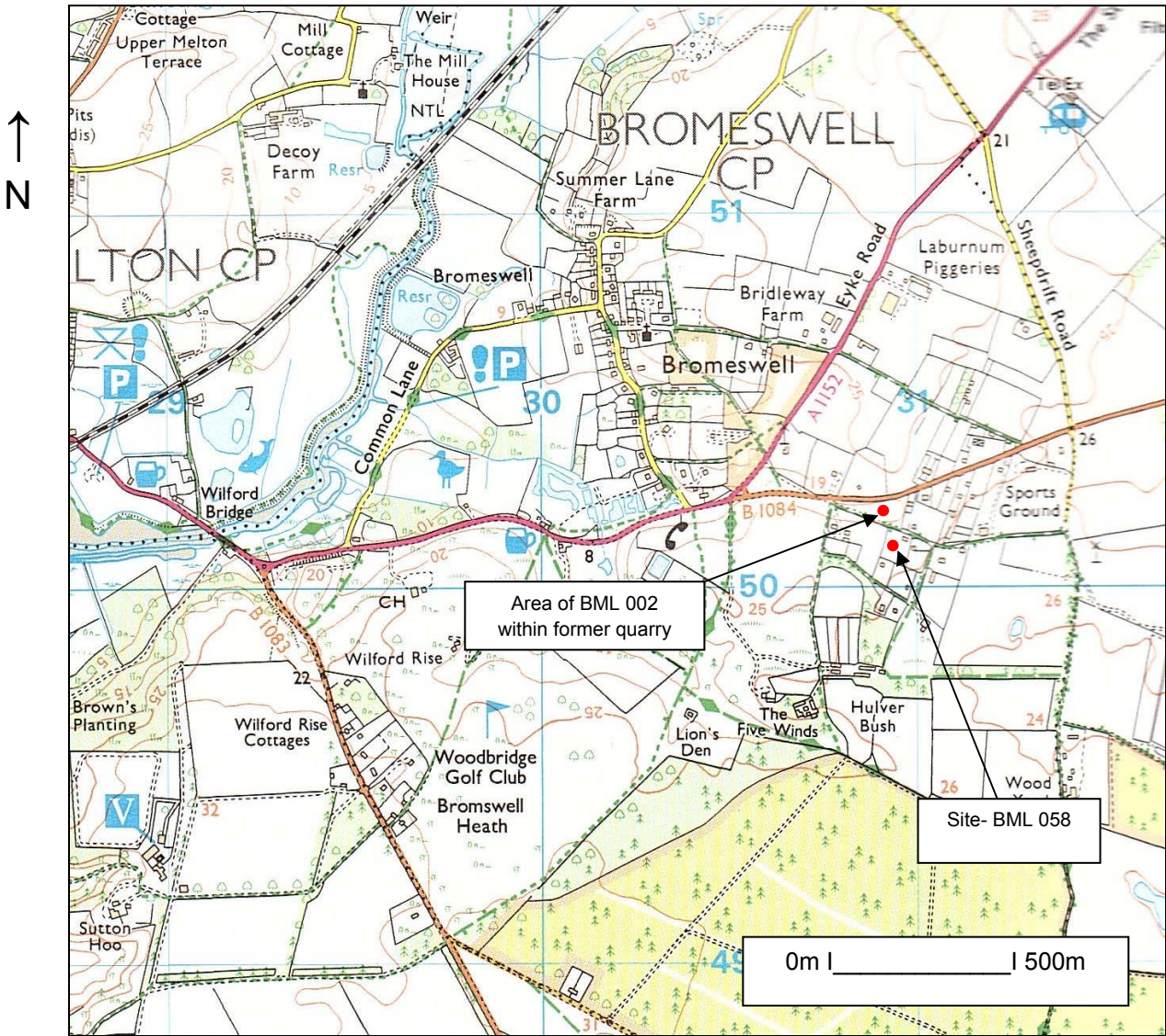


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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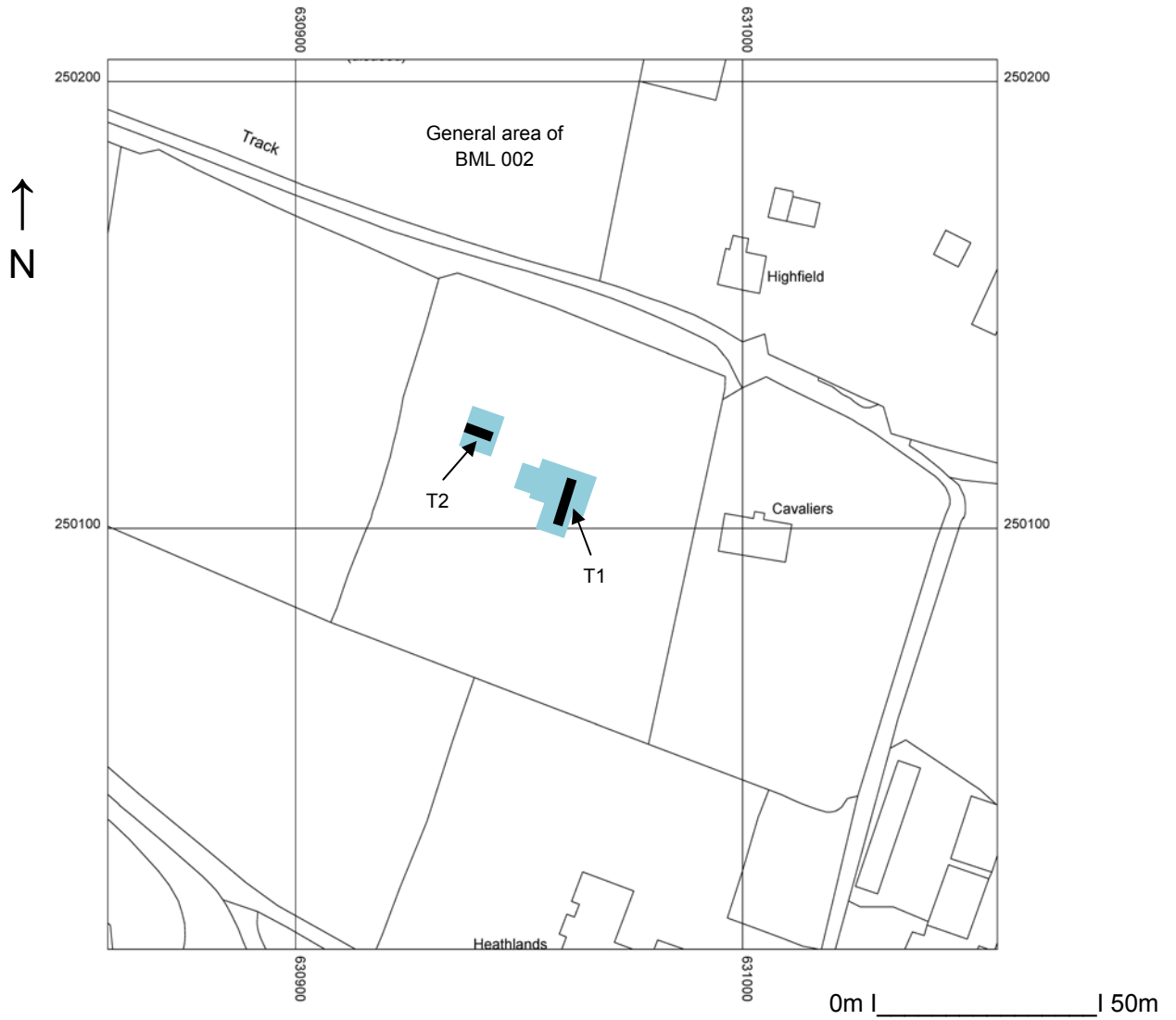


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches (light blue- new build footprints)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from south



Trench 1 from north



Trench 2 from northwest



Trench 1 deposit profile



Trench 2 deposit profile

**Land Opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane,
Bromeswell, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site details

Name: Land opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane, Bromeswell, Suffolk

Clients: Mr & Mrs J Potter

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/15/0650/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of a single dwelling, cart lodge and store

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: SCCAS_RA_Trenched Archaeological Evaluation Brief_ Land opposite Highfield, Bromeswell_0650

Grid ref: TM 3092 5010

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2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
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Proposed location of trial trench

1. Introduction

1.1 Mullins Dowse Architects on behalf of their clients Mr & Mrs J Potter have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed single dwelling 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 DC/15/0650/FUL and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the construction of a single detached dwelling, cart lodge and store on land opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane, Bromeswell.

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

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 The village of Bromeswell is located on the eastern side of the River Deben some 3 miles north-east of Woodbridge in that part of Suffolk known as The Sandlings; a name derived from the light soils of the area that historically gave rise to extensive areas of heath land. The local drift geology is made up largely of well drained sands and gravels (deep sands of the Newport Series 20 with extensive areas distant from easily accessible water sources) giving rise to a dispersed settlement pattern scattered across various relatively large parishes. Bromeswell also lies just above Wilford Bridge, which is the highest tidal point on the River Deben, with the proposed development site (PDS) being 800m south-east of the parish church and 750m east of a small stream that feeds into the River Deben. Historically the area around the PDS has been open heath land mainly used for grazing sheep as only with irrigation and soil improvement in recent years has arable use been a possibility.

2.2 As note above the PDS lies in an area of generally freely draining soils derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sands and gravels characteristic of The Sandlings at c20m OD in an area of generally flat topography. At present the PDS is soft ground.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposal lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, adjacent to the site of a medieval pottery kiln and a scatter of Saxon pottery (BML 002). As a result there is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location, given the presence of known archaeological remains.' A site evaluation by trial trenching is therefore required to:

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

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the PDS relates to its location close to recorded evidence for Saxon period activity and to the site of a kiln of medieval date. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed development area with evaluation trenches across the planned new build areas under controlled conditions so, if related 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 a single residential dwelling, cart lodge and store on what is soft ground opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane, Bromeswell.

5.2 The Brief requires 15m of 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.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under overall site event and HER numbers 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 high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before appropriate hand investigation and recording. Exposed archaeological features will be sampled at standard levels with care being taken to cause minimum disturbance to the site consistent with evaluation to a level adequate to properly form a subsequent mitigation strategy. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained (and during backfilling). Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%-possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCCAS Officer will be informed and the clear presumption must be to preserve such remains in situ with minimum disturbance during this evaluation stage. If this is not possible then a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on site recording (total 100% sampling if a cremation deposit)

and removal of the remains followed by examination by the relevant specialist and possibly scientific dating. If human remains do have to be recorded, removed from site and reported on then these works will add an additional cost to the evaluation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial is assessed as being low).

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCCAS Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCCAS Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording (which may have an additional cost implication). Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer.

5.6 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas. 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)

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2, and particularly Appendix 3). This archive will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the guidelines outlined in '*Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2008). As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.8 The evaluation report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 3.1 & Appendix 4.1) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the aims of this WSI and section 4 above in particular. The report will give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. The report will include an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features in relation to both dated and undated features and in terms of patterning across the site.

5.9 Any interpretation of the evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results and the results will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site evaluation in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). There will be no further work on site until the evaluation results have been assessed and the SCCAS Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required 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. As appropriate a vector plan of the trench location 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 Tovergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)

John Newman Archaeological Services

Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (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

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-215158

Project details

Project name	Land Opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane, Bromeswell, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Bromeswell, land opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane (BML 058, TM 3092 5010) evaluation trenching for a single dwelling close to the recorded find spot of a medieval pottery kiln and late Saxon pottery did not reveal any archaeological features or finds at a site which in all likelihood had been open heathland until the area along Sandy Lane saw low density residential development in the 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 25-06-2015 End: 25-06-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23115 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BML 058 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/15/0650/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL BROMESWELL LAND OPPOSITE HIGHFIELD, SANDY LANE
Study area	300 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 3092 5010 52.1003837957 1.3720640011 52 06 01 N 001 22 19 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 19m Max: 20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Newman Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	John Newman
Project director/manager	John Newman
Project supervisor	John Newman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land Opposite Highfield, Sandy Lane, Bromeswell, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henley, Suffolk
Description	Loose bound report and pdf
Entered by	John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)