

**Willisham Hall, Willisham Road,
Willisham, Suffolk**

Planning application: 2844/12

HER Ref: WLS 007

**Archaeological Evaluation Stage Report
(Monitoring report to follow)**

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

(April 2020)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land at Willisham Hall, Willisham Road, Willisham, IP8 4SL

Clients: W D Chaplin Farms Ltd

Planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application refs: 2844/12

Proposed development: Erection of one dwelling and cart lodge

Date of fieldwork: 6 July, 2015

HER ref: WLS 007

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-216801

Grid ref: TM 0700 5026

Development area: c300m²

Recent land use: Grassed garden area

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Summary: Willisham, Willisham Hall, Willisham Road (WLS 007, TM 0700 5026) evaluation trenching for a single dwelling development close to the former site of Willisham Hall revealed deep deposits reminiscent of a filled in water feature such as a pond or moat with fragments of Post medieval brick/tile to a depth of at least 2000mm. However a record office search did not find historic cartographic evidence for a water feature in this area. The few stray ceramic finds indicative of past activity were pottery sherds of Roman, medieval and Post medieval date plus small tile/brick fragments of Post medieval date (John Newman Archaeological Services for W D Chaplin Farms Ltd).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Embrace Architecture on behalf of their client W D Chaplin Farms Ltd commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a single dwelling development that has received consent to go ahead. The evaluation requirements were 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 planned development area. The Written Scheme of Investigation for this archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS to allow the trenching to go ahead. This planned residential development comprises a single dwelling and cart lodge under application 2844/12 at Willisham Hall, Willisham Road, Willisham (see Fig. 1). It should also be noted that the related record office search (Appendix III) was carried out by the late Anthony Breen.

1.2 Willisham is a small parish located 5 miles south of Stowmarket in central Suffolk which, historically, had a dispersed settlement pattern with Willisham Hall and church providing one focal point and Willisham Tye another one. The planned development site is located c90m to the north-west of the parish church within the grounds of a 20th century building called Willisham Hall as this lies partly over the site of the historic hall which burnt down in 1934 (see Appendix III). The historic Willisham Hall is described as having been a brick built structure of 16th century date with 11 hearths (East Anglian Miscellany 1918, p44) and as the main manor in the parish it can be traced back to c1182 when it was held by Albert Greilly (Goult, 1990). The site is located just to the south of the site of the historic hall and it has a gentle slope with a southerly aspect close to the 65m OD contour and was under a grass cover at the time of the evaluation.

1.3 The site is within the area of the till deposits of central East Anglia where heavy, boulder clay, superficial material can be anticipated.

1.4 Archaeological interest in this development was therefore generated by its proximity to Willisham Hall, a medieval site probably within a possible moated enclosure (HER WLS 003) and close to the parish church (HER WLS 002), therefore a classic church and main manorial centre complex.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The development area was trenched to a plan agreed with SCCAS (see Fig. 2). The trenching was carried out using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1200mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned as necessary to improve clarity with the trenches initially being 1.80m wide but this was reduced to 1200mm as deep deposits were revealed. Some hand excavation was also carried out in the base of the trench to examine the exposed deposits.

2.2 The sides and base of trenches and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned briefly with a metal detector for any finds as the evaluation progressed. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under dry weather conditions with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trench was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the works progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken.

3. Results

3.1 The Record Office search by the late Anthony Breen (see below Appendix III) confirms that this was a medieval manorial centre though little evidence is indicated in historic or cartographic sources for a moat around the site. The earlier Post medieval building having been burnt down in 1934.

3.1 A 30m long, L shaped, trench revealed 300mm of topsoil (0001) above 300mm of mid brown clay subsoil (0002) containing late Post medieval brick and tile fragments which was above 400mm of re-deposited yellow chalky clay. This in turn was above 600mm+ of dark greyish brown silty clay with small later Post medieval brick and tile fragments and a hand excavated sondage indicated that the depth of made ground from the surrounding surface was in excess of 2400mm into silty material with ground water entering at around 2000mm. Small fragments of Post medieval brick or tile were found to a depth of 2000mm in this silty material (0003) below the subsoil, these were examined on site and not retained. The underlying natural glaciofluvial deposit was not exposed at any point so must be below a depth of 2500mm+.

3.2 Stray finds from the upcast spoil were examined by Sue Anderson (see below Appendix IV). In summary two small pottery sherds of Roman date (wt. 21gm), one sherd of late Saxon to early medieval date (2 gm), five sherds of medieval date (wt. 49 gm) and five sherds (wt. 173 gm) of Post medieval date were recovered from the upcast top and subsoil spoil. In addition five fragments of brick/tile (wt. 621 gm) were recovered from the upper levels; these were all of Post medieval date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 With largely negative results from the evaluation trenching with regard to archaeological deposits of any significance a search from the County Historic Environment Record for local sites and finds was not commissioned with the record office search (Appendix III) giving a good background to the site.

4.2 While the site is close to and within the curtilage of Willisham Hall that burnt down in 1934 no evidence was found for medieval or earlier activity save a few stray finds in the area of the proposed new house. The deposits that were revealed in the L shaped trench indicated the presence of a deep feature that could possibly be a former pond or moat ditch on the southern side of where the hall had stood although

the historic maps do not confirm the former existence of a moat in this area. The stray finds from the evaluation suggest Roman, late Saxon/early medieval and medieval activity in this area.

4.3 To secure the planning consent a short length of drainage trench was opened in October, 2015. This trench (see Fig. 2) only went to a depth of 900mm and was within the subsoil with Post medieval tile and brick fragments seen in the initial evaluation works.

4.4 Therefore it has been suggested that monitoring of ground works for the development of this site would be useful to further understand the history of Willisham Hall and this has been agreed with SCCAS to finally clear the relevant planning condition. If foundation works for the planned new dwelling prove to be on a piled basis with related shallow ground beams then archaeological monitoring would be of little benefit though any information from geotechnical ground testing, should this be carried out, would be useful to add to the archive for this site. In addition SCCAS have advised that demolition works for the existing office building that occupies the site of the former Willisham Hall will require archaeological monitoring for any below ground works such as grubbing out of foundations.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref: WLS 007.

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 every on site for their close cooperation)

Refs:

Edmund Farrer 'Willisham Hall', 'East Anglian Miscellany', 5,168, 5,177 & 5,180 Part II April-June 1918

Goult, W 1990 'Parish Survey of Suffolk' (Suffolk CC)

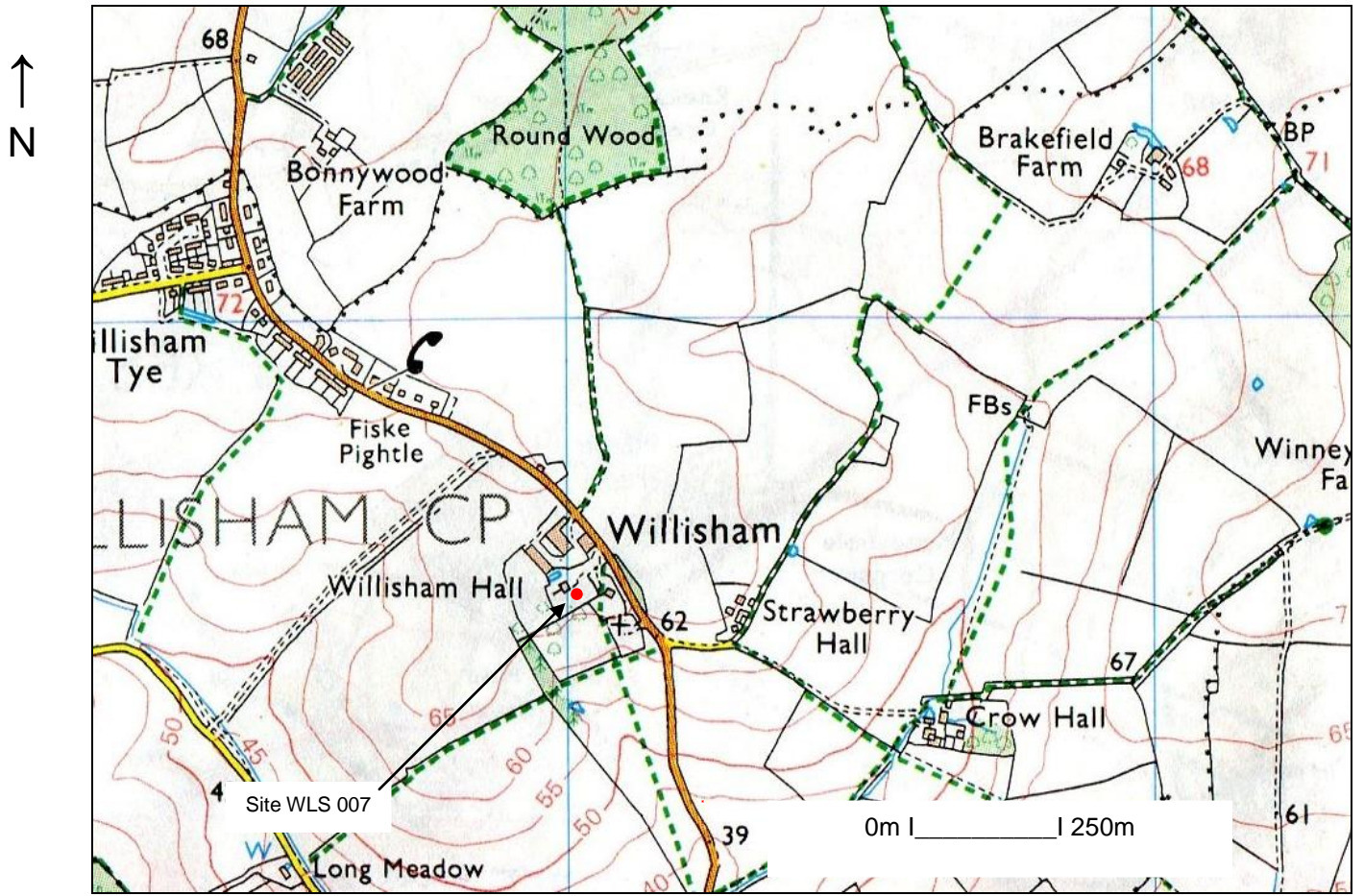


Fig. 1: Site location

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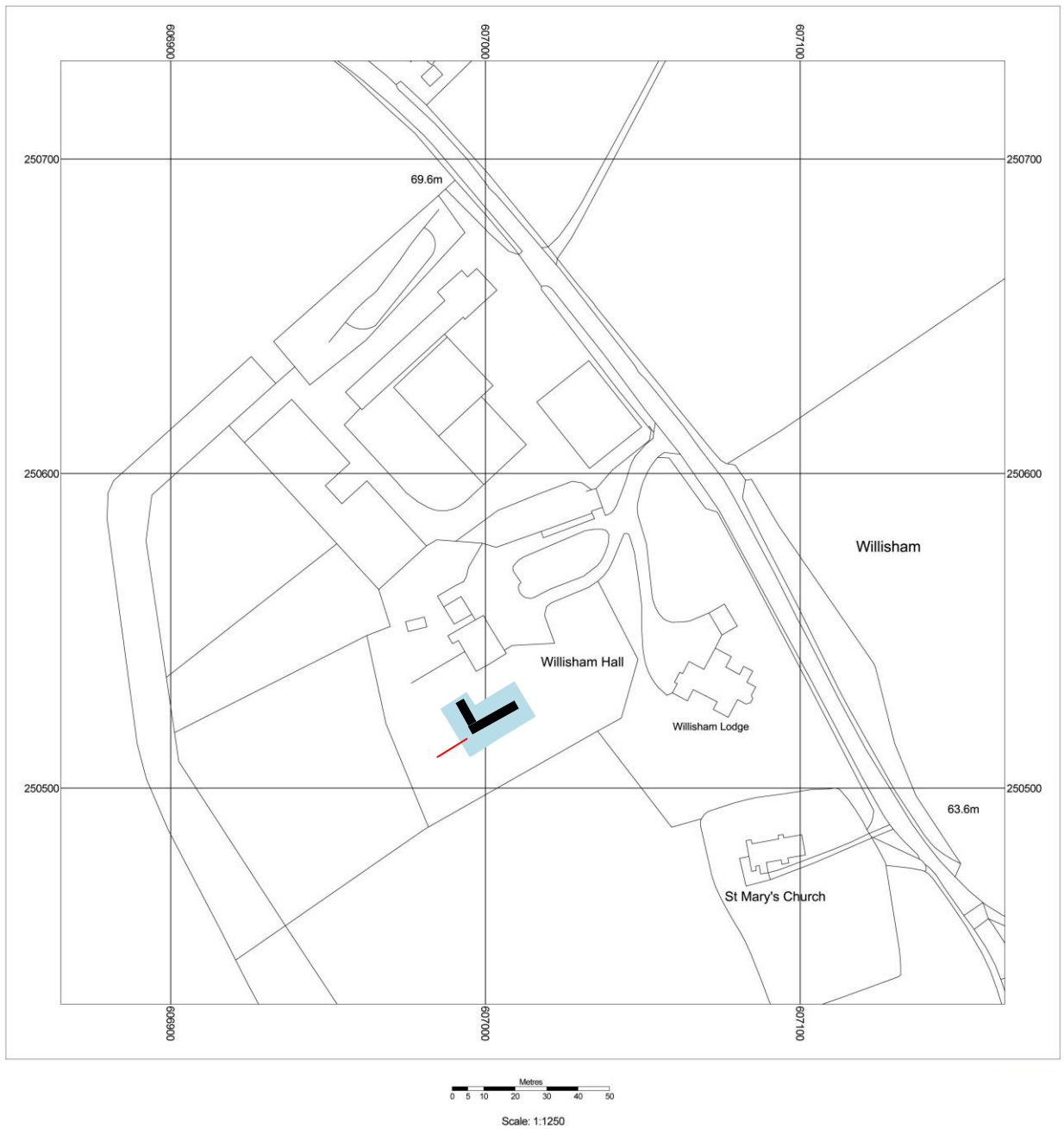
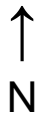
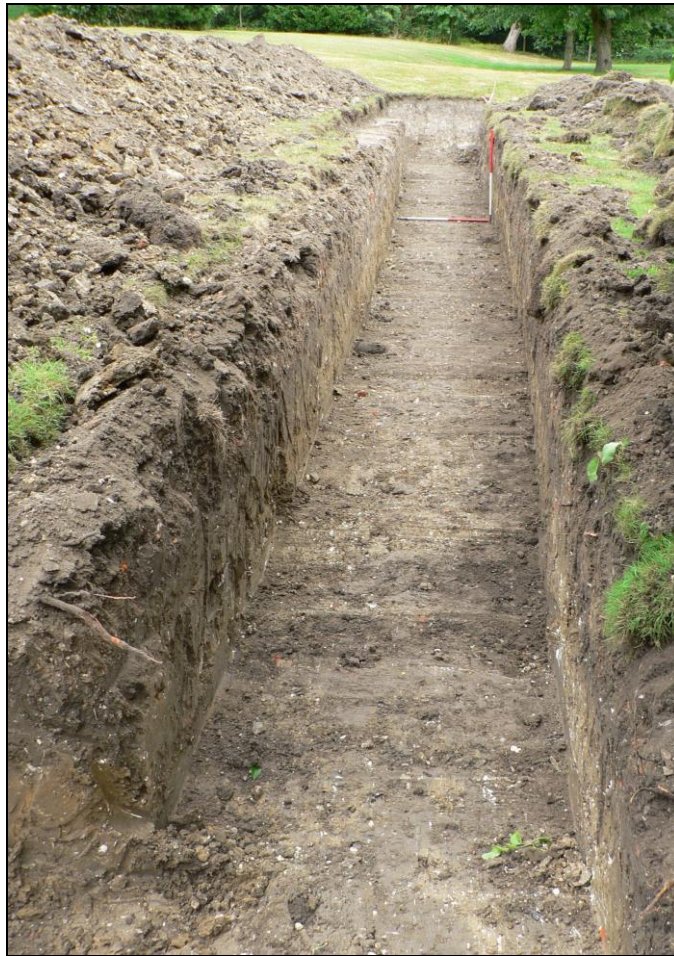


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trench
(light blue- planned footprint area, red- drainage trench)
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Appendix I- Images



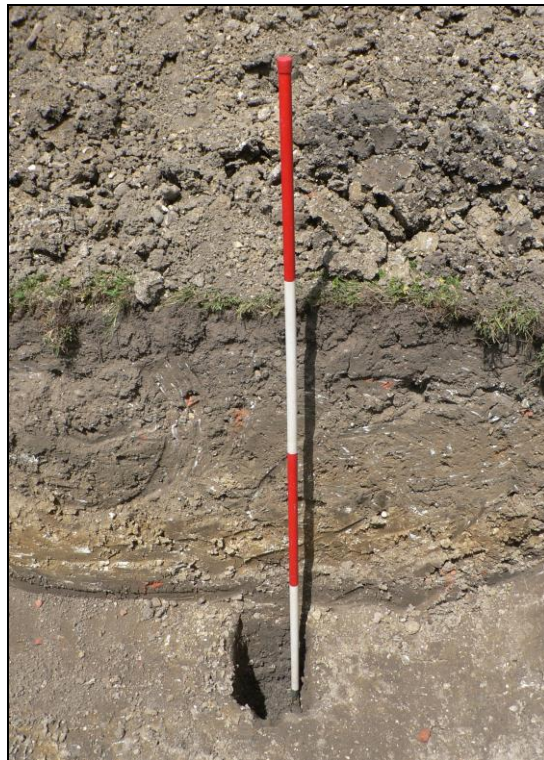
General view from northeast



East-west arm of trench from east



North-south arm of trench from north



Trench deposit profile



Trench deposit profile at eastern end



Drainage trench deposit profile

**Willisham Hall, Willisham Road,
Willisham, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site details

Name: Willisham Hall, Willisham Road, Willisham, Suffolk, IP8 4SL

Client: W D Chaplin Farms Ltd

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 2844/12

Proposed development: Erection of a single dwelling and cart lodge

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: SCCAS(RA)_Trenched Archaeological Evaluation Brief_ Willisham Hall_2844

Grid ref: TM 0700 5054

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Evaluation
5. Methodology
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Proposed location of trial trench

1. Introduction

1.1 Embrace Architecture Ltd on behalf of their client W D Chaplin Farms Ltd has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed single dwelling development that has received consent to go ahead. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application 2844/12 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 and cart lodge on part of the grounds of Willisham Hall, Willisham Road, Willisham.

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 Willisham is a small parish located 5 miles south of Stowmarket in central Suffolk which, historically, had a dispersed settlement pattern with Willisham Hall and church providing one focal point and Willisham Tye another one. The proposed development site (PDS) is located c90m to the north-west of the parish church within the grounds of a 20th century building called Willisham Hall as it lies partly over the site of the historic hall which burnt down in 1934. The historic Willisham Hall is described as having been a brick built structure of 16th century date with 11 hearths (East Anglian Miscellany 1918, p44) and as the main manor in the parish it can be traced back to c1182 when it was held by Albert Greilly (Goult, 1990). The PDS is located just to the south of the site of the historic hall and it has a gentle slope with a southerly aspect close to the 65m OD contour and is currently under a grass cover.

2.2 The PDS lies in an area of generally heavy soils derived from the locally occurring glaciofluvial till deposit of central Suffolk which is composed of heavy boulder clay with flints.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'This proposal lies in an area of high archaeological potential recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The proposed development is located between a medieval moated site (HER ref WLS 003) and the site of the medieval church of St Mary (HER ref WLS 002). 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 close to the parish church and to a now filled-in moat of medieval date, in addition to being close to the site of Willisham Hall, and therefore evidence for later Saxon, medieval and earlier Post medieval period settlement and related activities in particular may exist. 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 area 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 a single residential dwelling and cart lodge on what is soft ground on land at Willisham Hall, Willisham Road, Willisham.

5.2 The Brief requires 30m 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 Torgate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

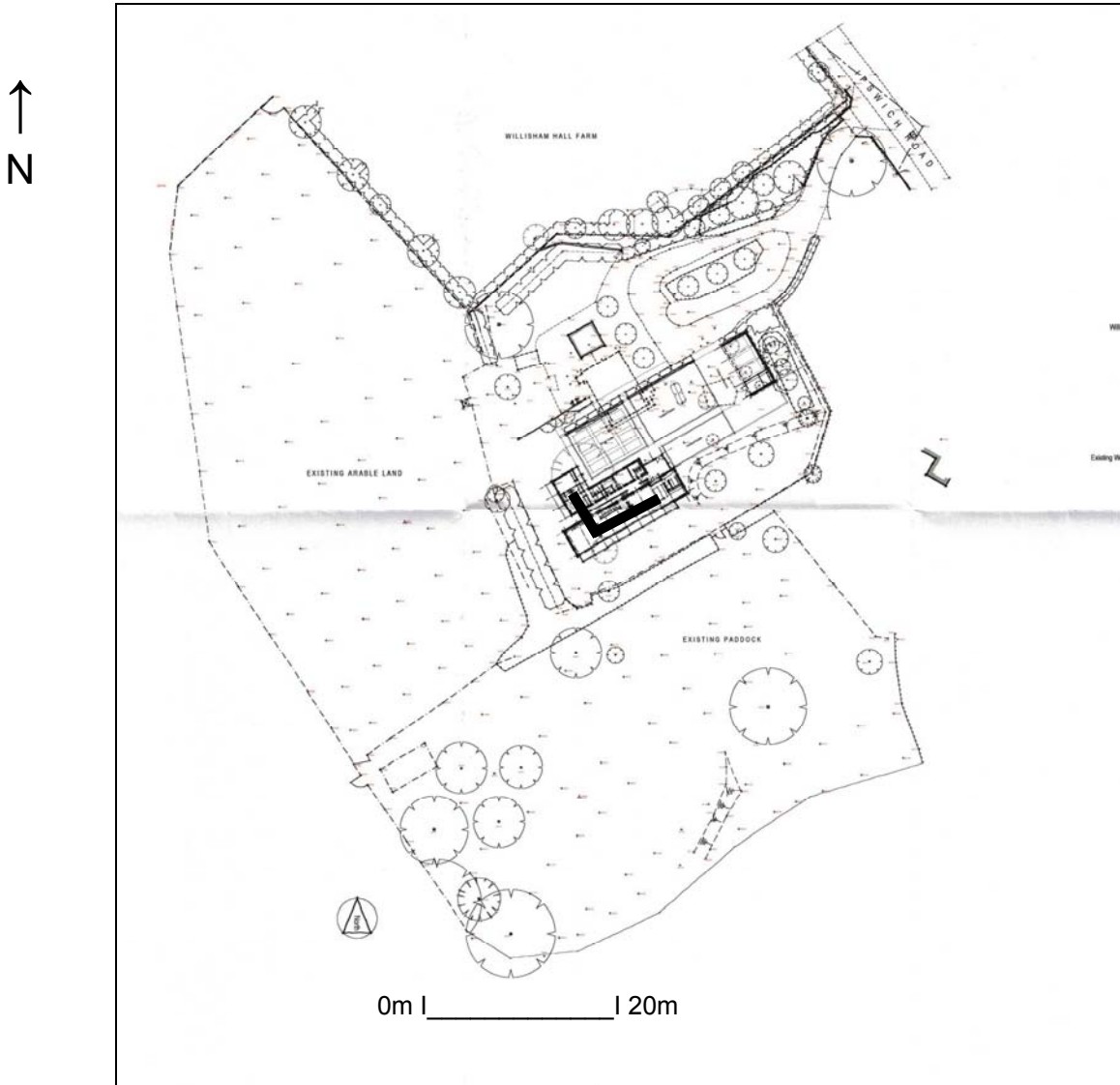
John Newman Archaeological Services

7. Specialists

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

Ref.

Goult W 1990 Parish Survey of Suffolk (Suffolk CC)



Proposed location of trial trench

Appendix III- Record Office search (A Breen)

Willisham Hall

Introduction

The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich.

There is an extremely limited number of surviving records relating specifically to this site and in general for Willisham. The hall itself was destroyed by fire on 27 February 1934. A report published in the 'East Anglian Daily Times', the following day after the fire, stated 'Fortunately the direction of the wind saved the farm buildings and stacks, which practically touched the house', of the house itself 'only the two chimneys' remained. In addition to the loss of the house described as 'a fine building which was about 400 years old. Everything inside was lost, including books and the Willisham Church register'. The result of the fire is graphically illustrated in the published account with a photograph showing the remaining chimney stacks standing amidst the still smouldering ruins of the house.

Published Descriptions

Fortunately the house itself was described in considerable detail in an earlier article written by Edmund Farrer and published in the 'East Anglian Miscellany' in 1918 (No. 5,168). The article was the first of a series of items on Willisham Hall published in the magazine during that year. In a second piece (No 5,177) also written by Farrer he stated

'I do not think the history of the early site of the manor of Willisham would be the history of the house. There is no sign of a moat anywhere, whereas all such sites in the neighbourhood are thus encompassed. The Rev C. F. Parker, writing to D. E. Davy on April 13th, 1842 says: 'Did I mention to you that the field to the west of the present Willisham Hall has a square piece of 80 yards, surrounded by a moat, with two ponds, and, with the exception of the second moat, there is the greatest similarity to what I suppose to be the site of Sir Thomas Gresham's house in Ringshall. Beyond the ponds on each side are some pollard oaks of very great size, so that probably Sir Roger de Willisham lived within the moat'. I think it more likely that there were two manors in the parish in those far-off days, with which suggestion Dr Copinger agrees in his 'Manors of Suffolk' II., 376, and the fact is rather corroborated by the 1327 Subsidy List, which gives 'De Wilmo de la Mote 8s', and 'De Roberto de Wylaysham 2s'. However in 1488, the manor passed into the hands of the Greystock family, who had held it about 30 years and then according to Dr Copinger it must often have changed hands. In the 1524 Subsidy List we find an important gentleman owning it:- Jorge Denby in moveables £40 paying £2'. He is

also named in the anticipation as being likely to be worth that sum. Who he was I know not, nor is the name common in Suffolk’.

Though the house was believed to have been built later, when it was occupied by the Brownrigg family during the late sixteenth and seventeenth century, Farrer felt that the ‘Elizabethan stack of chimneys, and also the little mullioned window close to it, belong to the earlier date than this ownership of the Brownriggs. In fact they may belong to the time of George Denby’.

The Brownrigg family had purchased the hall and manor from Thomas Lord Windsor in 1622, though they had been residents in the parish before that date and were ‘probably tenants to Lord Windsor’.

W. A. Copinger in his ‘Manors of Suffolk’ offers further information of the earlier history of the site. The manor had been held by the Greilly family in the thirteenth century with Thomas Greilly being granted free warren that is the right to hunt, there in 1249. The last member of the Greilly had ‘no issue and sold the manor in 1304 to William de la Mote’.

‘In the Originalia Rolls for this year will be found a note of the fine paid by William de la Mote for having acquired the manor from Thomas Greilly, who held of the King, and on the Patent Rolls for the same year is a pardon to William de la Mote for having acquired the manor ‘in tail’ and a licence to retain. Both on the Originalia and Patent Rolls the name appears as ‘William de la More’, but in the inq. q.d. as ‘de la Mote’.

The inquisition ‘quod damnum’ was held in 32 Edw 1 (1303-1304). This document is held at the National Archives (ref. TNA C143/49/3).

‘From this William de la Mote the manor seems to have passed to another of the same name, and on the Close Rolls in 1314 we find a distinct statement that William de la Mote was ‘lord of Willardesham’. On his death in 1327 the manor passed to Isabel de la Mote, after whom it vested in Joan, wife of William de Ferrers. He granted the manor in 1376 to Peter Colbroke for life’.

There is then a gap in Copinger’s account until 1456. Amongst the references quoted by Copinger there were two Inquisitions post mortem. These were held not to determine the cause of death, but what revenues were due to the crown following the death of each lord. There are extents of the estate in the inquisition held in 1303-1304 and again in another held in 1363-1364, though the details of both are unlikely to contain details of the supposed moat site.

Sale Particulars

In 1934 the hall was in the occupation or ownership of Mr M. F. Fiske who may have purchased the property following the sale of Willisham Hall Estate at an auction held at the Great White Horse Hotel, Ipswich on 25 June 1912 (ref. fSC 468/1). The

particulars are of interest in that they list the outbuildings beginning with the stables which comprised of 'three stall, carriage house, harness room and chaff house with granary or hay loft above'.

'The Home Farm Premises comprise a brick, boarded and thatched Cart House Stable for eight horses with loose box, gear, house and chaff store, adjoining brick, boarded and tiled Cow House for six cows, with calves pens adjoining and hay loft over, timber and tiled Corn Barn with asphalt dressing floor, straw barn with two loose boxes adjoining, Stock Barn with loft over part, and Beet House, and mixing place, adjoining, clay and thatched three-bay Cart Shed and implement lodge, clay and thatched five-bay Cart Shed, three-bay Wagon Lodge and drill house with granary over, brick, timber and tiled Meal House with granary over, ranges of piggeries and poultry houses, horse and cow yard with open sheds therein'.

The general positions of the outbuildings are shown on the sale plan reproduced at a scale of 1:5000 'being 12.672 inches to a Statute Mile', however 'This Plan is believed to be correct, but accuracy is not guaranteed'.

On the plan the individual fields are numbered and named in a schedule in the sale particulars. The field between the supposed 'moat' and the road is numbered 77 and was then described as 'Pond Close' measuring 1 acre 22 perches. The ponds were numbered 76 and measured at 30 perches, and the field to the west numbered 78, was named as 'New Field' and was measured at 5 acres 36 perches. The entire farm was just 394 acres 3 roods and 16 perches. These parcel numbers are the same as were used on the 1904 edition of the 1:2500, Ordnance Survey Map (ref. Suffolk V.11). The buildings shown on the 1904 and 1912 maps have since been demolished.

According to a transcript of an advertisement that had appeared in 'Country Life' on 30 November 1972 'Willisham Hall Farm' consisted of '2 substantial farmhouses; 2 modernised cottages; modern farm buildings' and 598 acres. The farm, with other farms in the area, was offered for sale by the auctioneers Bidwells of Cambridge (ref. HD 2448/2/565). The record office does not have a copy of these later sale particulars.

In 1912 the sale conditions the title to the property only began with 'Indentures of Lease and Release made respectively the 6th and 7th November 1840'.

Tithe Map and Apportionment 1839

The deeds mentioned in the 1912 conditions of sale were probably a product of an earlier sale of the estate following the death of Thomas Myers. The tithe apportionment submitted to the Tithe Commission on 18 March 1841 had been prepared for a meeting held on 1 November 1839. In the apportionment Willisham Hall then a property of 377 acres 1 rood and 16 perches tenanted to a Charles Boby was in the ownership of the trustees of Thomas Myers named in the apportionment

as George Henry Nevill, Ralph Addison, Hugh Perkins and Daniel Rowland (ref. FDA291/A1/1a). Though sale of the property had been advertised in the 'Ipswich Journal' on 4 May 1839, it appears that the sale was not completed until November 1840.

The tithe map (see below), the work of S.W. Parkes of Ipswich, is dated December 1839 and date stamped by the tithe commission on 14 March 1840 (ref. FDA291/A1/1b). On this map the site of the hall is numbered 3 and was described in the apportionment as 'House buildings etc' measuring 2 acres 1 rood and 32 perches. The field to the north numbered 7 is described as 'Stackyard' then measured at 3 roods and 10 perches and to the southwest of the stack yard just beyond the site of the supposed moat, the small field numbered 6 has the curious name 'Hog Stye Green' measured at 3 roods and 33 perches. By 1904, this 'Green' had been incorporated into New Field. On the tithe map 'New Field' is numbered as 8 and was measured at 4 acres 1 rood and 10 perches. There is a pencil note at the front of the apportionment that states '377 a 1 r 16 p Lands belonging to the Trustees of the late Thomas Myers esqr is all tithe free, or taken as such'.

In 1878 'by the aid of the late Mr W. Boby of Willisham Hall and supplemented by members of his family, a new church' had been built at Willisham, as the 'old church was totally unfit for services and it was closed and apparently abandoned to the sheep and birds' (ref. HD 2448/2/565).

Earlier Deeds

Copinger mentions an earlier sale of the house and manor as advertised in the 'Ipswich Journal' on 25 April 1812 and the deeds for this exchange have survived in the form of a lease and release dated 2 & 3 July 1813 (ref. HD 1681/4 & 5). The conveyance was from Abbot Upcher of Sheringham, Norfolk and Thomas Myers of St George's, Hanover Square, then in Middlesex. In both the lease and release the house is described as 'All that capital messuage called or known by the name of Willisham otherwise Willisham Hall' and then all the fields linked to the hall or 'used occupied and enjoyed' are named. Though various fields are listed, of those close to the site of the house only New Field is mentioned, then measuring five acres one rood and twenty five perches, the other parcels being part of the site of the hall itself.

The release does not include a lengthy recital clause listing earlier exchanges of the property which was sold in fee simple that is as a freehold. The conveyance also included the manor of Willisham and the avowsons and patronage of the rectory of the parish.

Amongst the deeds in this collection another dated 1 & 2 January 1833 was for the appointment of new trustees for the marriage settlement of Thomas Myers. The new trustees were Ralph Addison, Hugh Parkin and Daniel Rowland. Thomas Myers had married Lady Mary Catherine Nevill, the daughter of Henry, earl of Abergavenny in 1801.

Other Sources

John Brownryg or Brownrigg, merchant of 'Wyllinsham', did not mention Willisham Hall in his will, written on 8 October 1585 and proved on 11 May 1586, his widow, Elizabeth Brownrigg of Willisham, in her will written 13 June 1596 and proved in 7 November 1586 did bequeath various items of furniture to her three sons. The furniture was in Willisham Hall and various rooms are mentioned in the will, but not any of the out buildings. Both wills are available online through the National Archives website (ref. PROB 11/69/261 & 11/69/623). There is also an inventory of the goods of John Brownrigg of Willisham dated 5 May 1662 at the National Archives (ref. PROB 4/12749), but this document is not available on line. A copy of the will of Robert Brownrigg of Willisham dated 1695 part of evidence of title is in a further bundle of deeds held at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich (ref. HD 1823/1). The wills and inventory are likely to be relevant to the site of the former Hall, not the site of the supposed moat.

Deeds of conveyance dated 20 August 1624 of the manors of Willisham, Taston Hall and Godlesford Canon Lee ... and the rectory and advowson of the parsonage of Willisham' are in the Crutchley Muniments held at the University Library, Manchester (ref. CRU/857). The deeds are part of a small collection of documents dating 1613-1629 relating to the title of the manor (ref. CRU/855-858).

The Manorial Documents Register lists a reeve's account for the manor of Willisham dated 1349-1350 held in the Badley Parish collection at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich (ref. FB1/A1/1). As such accounts mention expenses of a manor and often contain references to specific buildings this document has been examined for this report. The catalogue listing is incorrect this is an account of the manor of Witnesham, not Willisham and the record office have been asked to change their description of this document.

There are additional records for the manor of Willisham but these relate to the land held of the manor not the site of the manor itself.

Conclusion

Though the earlier hall was destroyed by fire in 1934, it is unlikely that any earlier deeds for the property beyond those of 1840 were kept there. In 1840 the trustees for Thomas Myers sold the estate that had been acquired from Abbot Upcher of Sheringham in 1812. It is likely that the property had been acquired as part of a marriage settlement and as such entrusted to the trustees. Such trustees were appointed under marriage settlements to protect the real estate interests of a family should a marriage fail to produce issue. The deeds of 1813 do contain a list of field names of the lands then attached to Willisham Hall but not a description of the site of the hall itself. The property description is likely to have been copied from earlier deeds, that part from the deed of conveyance of 1624, have not survived.

The evidence for the moat rests of the observations made in the nineteenth century by the Ordnance Survey and by Rev C. F. Parkerin his letter of 1842. The letter compares the site with another at Ringshall.

The earlier evidence of the moat is suggested by the topographic surname of William de la Mote. Such topographic surname would be relevant, if William was living at or near to the moat in Willisham when he first obtained the title to the manor. If he or his family already had the surname 'de la Mote' before moving to Willisham then the surname is not evidence for the existence of a moat on this site.

There appears to be no scope for additional documentary research relating to the specific site of the supposed moat.

Anthony M Breen

July 2015References

Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich

Maps

fSC 468/1 Sale particulars Willisham Hall Estate 1912

1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map sheet number Suffolk LXV.11 published 1904

FDA291/A/1a & b Tithe apportionment and Map Willisham 1839

HD 2448/2/565 Peter Northeast collection of Ephemera 'Willisham'

Photographs

HD78:2671 Farrer Collection Willisham

HD 1681/4 & 5 Deeds Willisham Hall 2 & 3 July 1813

HD 1823/1 Copy of the will of Robert Brownrigg of Willisham dated 1695

National Archives, Kew

Wills

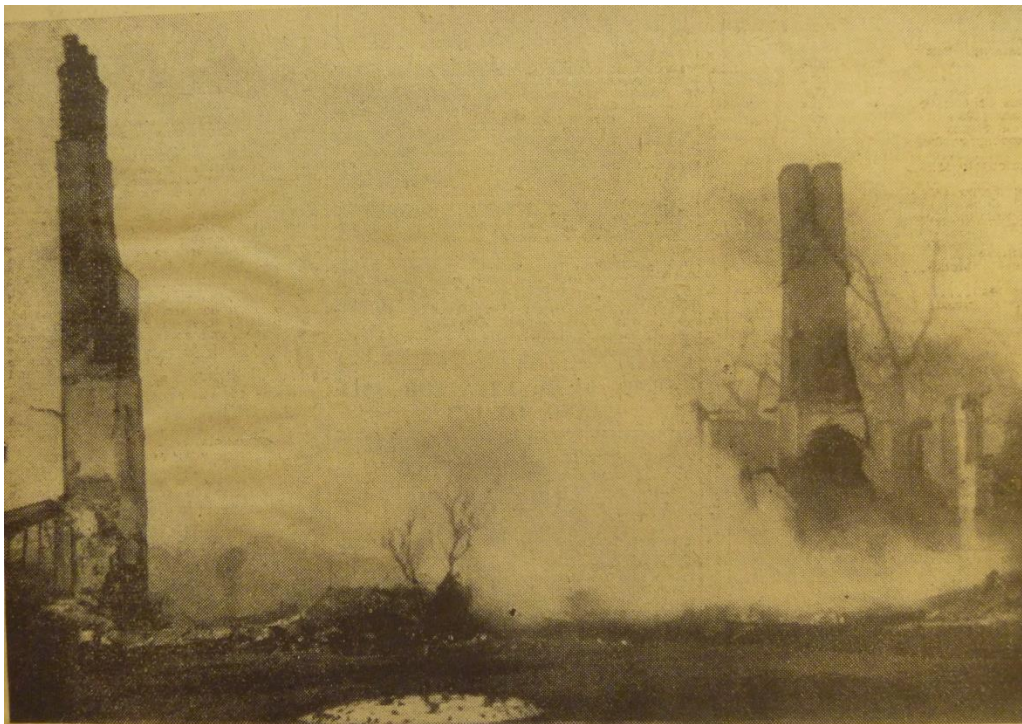
PROB 11/69/261 John Brownryg or Brownrigg11 May 1586

PROB 11/69/623Elizabeth Brownrigg7 November 1586

Published Sources

Edmund Farrer 'Willisham Hall', 'East Anglian Miscellany', 5,168, 5,177 & 5,180 Part II April-June 1918

William A. Copinger 'Manors of Suffolk: Notes on their History and Devolution, The Hundreds of Blything, and Bosmere and Claydon' Manchester 1908



WILLISHAM: The ruins of the Hall, one of the historic houses in Suffolk, which was totally destroyed by fire in the early hours of Tuesday morning. About 400 years old, it contained a lot of beautiful old oak, and this, together with the whole of the contents has been lost in the fire. The Hall was the residence of Mr. M. F. Fiske. (Photo by C. W. Beales, Oulton.)



Tithe map extract

Appendix IV- The Ceramics

Willisham Hall, Suffolk (WLS 007): ceramics

Sue Anderson, December 2019.

Pottery

Thirteen sherds of pottery weighing 270g were collected from two contexts – the majority were from spoil 0001, with only one sherd (PMRW) from layer 0002. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue is included as Appendix 1.

Description	Fabric	Date range	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
Roman greyware	RBGW	1st-4th c.	1	15		1
Much Hadham ware	MHAD	3rd-4th c.	1	16	0.15	1
Ipswich Thetford-type ware	THETI	L.9th-11th c.	1	2		1
Early medieval ware	EMW	11th-13th c.	2	15		1
EMW Essex-type micaceous	EMEMS	11th-13th c.	1	18		1
Colchester-type ware	COLC	13th-15th c.	1	8		1
Late Grimston-type ware	GRIL	14th-15th c.?	1	8		1
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	16th-18th c.	4	172	0.29	3
Post-medieval redware	PMRW	17th-19th c.	1	16		1
<i>Totals</i>			<i>13</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>0.44</i>	<i>11</i>

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk post-Roman fabric series (Anderson 2019). Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes. The results were input directly onto an Access database, which forms the archive catalogue.

Two sherds were of Roman date. One was a fine greyware base sherd of footstand form, and the other was a Much Hadham redware cavetto bifid rim from a narrow-necked jar in a fine oxidised fabric with traces of red slip on the surfaces.

One small body sherd of Late Saxon Thetford-type ware was recovered, and there were three sherds of early medieval date, one in a fine sandy fabric and the other a coarser micaceous ware more typical of Essex. A body fragment of medieval Colchester-type ware was also found.

A reduced body sherd with green glaze on both surfaces is likely to be of late medieval date and was similar to Grimston-type late medieval ware. However, it may simply be a reduced fragment of a glazed red earthenware vessel of post-medieval date. Four other sherds of this ware were found, of which two were base fragments from flatware vessels and two were joining sherds of a jar with a collared rim. A body sherd of post-medieval redware with spots of clear glaze externally was the only sherd from layer 0002.

Ceramic building material

Four pieces (621g) of CBM were recovered from layers 0001 and 0002 (Appendix 2). From 0001 there was a single fragment of plain roof tile in a fine sandy grog-tempered fabric, with white fine sandy lime mortar all over. From 0002, there were two pieces of plain roof tile in fine sandy ferrous fabrics, one of which had patches of lime mortar on the surface, and a heavily abraded fragment of brick in a fine sandy fabric with flint

inclusions. The brick was 50mm thick. All fragments were of post-medieval date.

References

Anderson, S., 2019, *Suffolk Fabric Series*. Access database, unpublished.

MPRG, 1998, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1.

MPRG, 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2.

Appendix 1: Pottery catalogue

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Notes	Spot date
0001	COLC	U	1	8	1			v hard, reduced	13-15
0001	EMEMS	U	1	18	1			v similar to sherds from PSM 056	11-13
0001	EMW	U	2	15	1			unwashed	11-12
0001	GRE	R	2	103	1	jar	collared		16-18
0001	GRE	B	2	69	2				16-18
0001	GRIL	D	1	8	1			finer than typical, poss just reduced GRE	14-15
0001	MHAD	R	1	16	1	jar	cavetto, bifid		3-4
0001	RBGW	B	1	15	1				1-4
0001	THETI	U	1	2	1				L9-11
0002	PMRW	U	1	16	1			poss plantpot, but spots of glaze ext	17-19

Type: R – rim; U/D – undecorated/decorated body sherd; B – base.

Appendix 2: CBM

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt	Abr	L	W	T	Mortar	Date
0001	fsg	RTP	1	54					fs white all over	pmed
0002	fsfe	RTP	1	13						pmed
0002	fsfe	RTP	1	108					patches fs white	pmed
0002	fsf	LB	1	446	++			50		16-18

Key. Fabric: fsg – fine sandy with grog; fsfe – fine sandy with ferrous pieces; fsf – fine sandy with flint.

Form: RTP – post-medieval plain roof tile; LB – post-medieval brick.

Appendix V- OASIS Summary Form

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-216801

Project details

Project name	Willisham Hall, Willisham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Willisham, Willisham Hall, Willisham Road (WLS 007, TM 0700 5026) evaluation trenching for a single dwelling development close to the former site of Willisham Hall revealed deep deposits reminiscent of a filled in water feature such as a pond or moat. However a record office search did not find historic cartographic evidence for a water feature in this area. The few stray ceramic finds indicative of past activity were pottery sherds of Roman, medieval and Post medieval date.
Project dates	Start: 06-07-2015 End: 06-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	WLS 007 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	2844/12 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	POND/MOAT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
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 MID SUFFOLK WILLISHAM WILLISHAM

	HALL
Postcode	IP8 4SL
Study area	300 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0700 5026 52.111343491777 1.023419888543 52 06 40 N 001 01 24 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 65m Max: 66m
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	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
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)
Title	Willisham Hall, Willisham Road, Willisham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J

Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henely, Suffolk
Description	Report in loose bound format and pdf
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