

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

Planning application: 1948/15

HER Ref: BDF 015

Archaeological Excavation Report

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

(October 2015)

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

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: 1948/15

Development: Construction of a bathing pool

Date of fieldwork: 11 August, 2015

HER ref: BDF 015 (moat- BDF 001)

LBS ref: 281307 (Grade II*)

Event ref: ESF 23204

OASIS: johnnewm1-220023

Grid ref: TM 1924 6794

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Summary: Bedingfield. Flemings Hall (BDF 015, TM 1924 6794) a small scale excavation at the site of a planned bathing pool in the central part of the moat island and c25m north of the main range of Flemings Hall revealed a brick lined drain, which is probably contemporary with the standing 16th century Grade II listed hall building, and a small post hole of Post medieval date. (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs A Hill).*

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs A Hill commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological strip, map and excavate works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 1948/15. 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 construction of a bathing pool at Flemings Hall, Hall Road, Bedingfield (see Fig. 1) which is a grade II* listed brick built building of 16th century date that stands within a substantial moat of medieval date and which until relatively recently had an ancillary ditched enclosure on its eastern side.

1.2 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 on the moat island at Flemings Hall which, as noted above, is a grade II* listed building of 16th century date with a probable medieval core and 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 bathing pool (see Fig. 2) is c25m north of the main 16th century range of Flemings Hall and has most recently been used as a driveway and vehicle parking area with a rammed hard core surface. While being close to the main structure of the hall the bathing pool site is screened by a subsidiary range of more recent date and therefore does not visually impinge on the Grade II* listed building.

2. Strip, map and excavate methodology

2.1 The archaeological investigation for the planned bathing pool was undertaken on a single day under dry and sunny weather conditions giving good site visibility. The stripping of the overburden was undertaken using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1200mm wide flat bucket which was under continuous archaeological supervision and the upcast spoil was inspected closely and scanned with a metal detector as the work progressed. Exposed archaeological features were then cleaned manually and sectioned where appropriate before being recorded in

plan and section. Finally the bathing pool site was recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a number of digital images were taken in order to record the strip, map and excavate works and the features that were revealed (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 The planned new bathing pool will be 10m long and 3m wide giving a footprint area of 30m² and the overburden across this site proved to comprise 200mm of rammed stone and hardcore over 300mm of mid brown clay subsoil with the exposed natural glaciofluvial deposit being a stiff pale brown chalky clay with flints.

Context number	Type	Part of	Description	Date
0001	US finds	0001	Stray finds from upcast spoil, only small fragments of Post medieval brick and tile seen plus two small clay tobacco pipe stem fragments (6g)	
0002	Post hole	0002	Small probable post hole, 300mm in diameter and 180mm deep with a rounded base	
0003	Fill	0002	Mid to dark grey clay with charcoal flecks and small fragments of brick	Post medieval
0004	Drain	0004	Brick lined drain on a northeast-southwest alignment, bricks are dry lain with the drain sides being two courses and then further bricks were lain across the sides with their long axis at right angles to the drain run, the base of the drain was not lined, the drop of the drain is to the southeast at a shallow gradient. The drain had an internal width of 100mm and depth of 140mm, externally the width between the outer face of the sides was 320mm	Early Post medieval

Table 1: Context list

3.2 As outlined in Table 1 above two archaeological features were revealed at the site below the subsoil with the first being a small feature (0002, see Fig. 3 & Appendix I) in the south-eastern corner of the stripped area. This feature (0002) was 300mm in diameter and 180mm deep with a rounded base and a mid to dark brown clay fill (0003) that contained small fragments of Post medieval brick. It is interpreted as a probable post hole.

3.3 The second feature was more prominent and was a north-east to south-west orientated brick built drain (0004) that ran along the length of the stripped area (see Fig. 3). The bricks were dry lain with two courses forming each side, which cut into the natural clay, and more bricks forming the top with the latter having their long axis

at right angles to the drain run while the base of the drain was not lined. This feature had a shallow gradient with the lowest part being at its north-eastern end.

4. Report on a sample brick from the drain (Sue Anderson)

4.1 A complete post-medieval brick was recovered as a sample from the brick-built drain (0004). It was in a red-firing medium sandy fabric with sparse coarse flint inclusions. It measured 245 x 116 x 60mm (9¾" x 4½" x 2¼") and was handmade. Bricks of this type and thickness are present in parallels in East Anglia from the medieval period onwards, but are more common later. The closest in Lloyd's table (Lloyd 1925) are of 16th-century date but are from further south, at Stutton Hall, Suffolk (c.1520, 9¾" x 4½" x 2¼"), Pebmarsh church, Essex (early 16th c., 9½" x 4¾" x 2-2¼") and Beckingham Hall gatehouse, Tolleshunt, Essex (c.1546, 9½" x 4½" x 2¼-½"). Based on Lloyd's survey, bricks of over 9½" in length appear to be relatively unusual in this period, although Little Hautbois Hall in Norfolk (1555) is built of 10" long bricks.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While at 30m² the area of the planned bathing pool is small it does lie in a central location within the medieval moat at Flemings Hall and therefore had a high archaeological potential. However only two features were revealed and recorded of which one was a small post hole of Post medieval date which could be associated possibly with a former outbuilding, a former fence line or may have simply been a single feature for example holding a post for tethering animals. The second feature that was revealed is of more interest and this was a moderately substantial brick lined drain (0004). Examination of a sample brick from this drain suggests that it was of contemporary construction to the standing hall which is an attractive and substantial brick built building of 16th century date. With the construction of the present Flemings Hall at this date other works can be envisaged taking place across the moated area to create garden features to enhance the property as it was transformed from a medieval hall to a Tudor country house and it is therefore suggested that this drain (0004) formed part of this landscaping work by aiding local drainage.

5.2 In conclusion while the bathing pool site had a high archaeological potential the features that were revealed have been fully recorded and the results will be available within the Suffolk HER and further disseminated as a related summary in the county journal and the report will be available on line at the OASIS section of the Archaeology Data Service (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>).

Ref.

Lloyd, N., 1925, *A History of English Brickwork*. 1983 edition, Antique Collectors Club, Woodbridge.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Andy Hill for his close cooperation during the monitoring and to Sue Anderson for her specialist finds report and to Sue Holden for her illustration work)

(The site archive will be deposited within the Suffolk CC HER under its reference number: BFD 015)

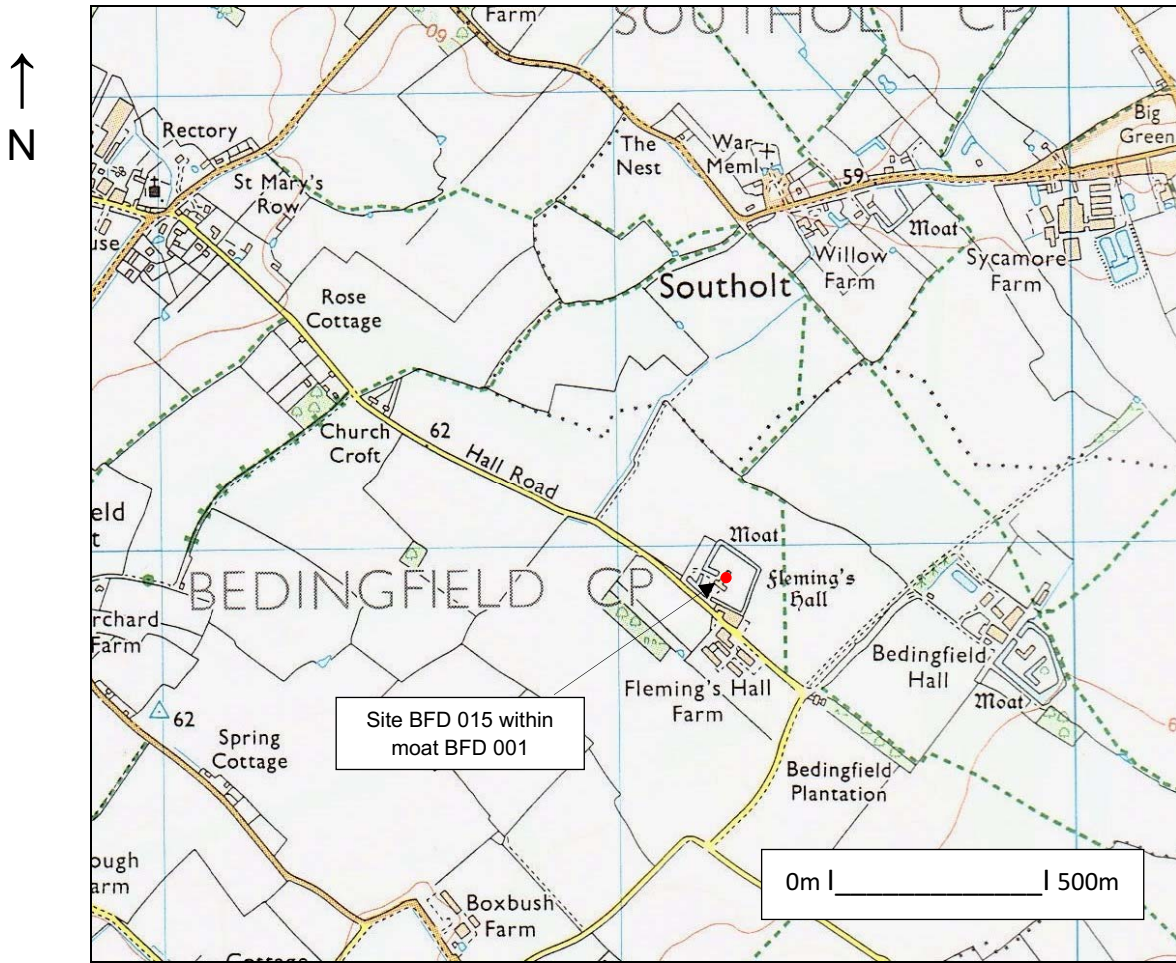


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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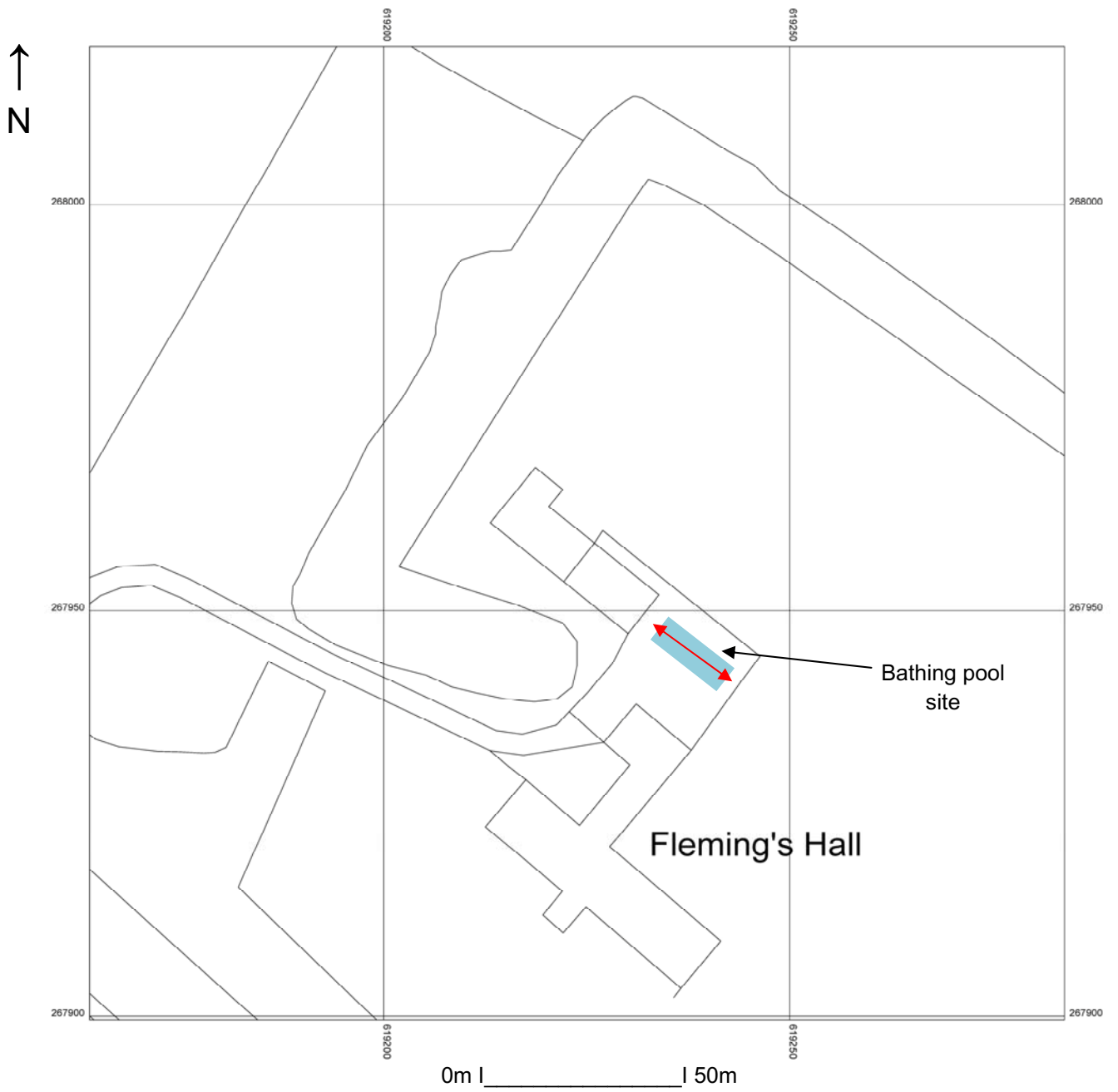
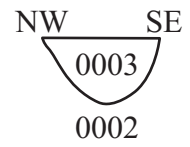
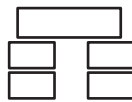
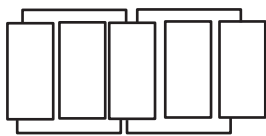
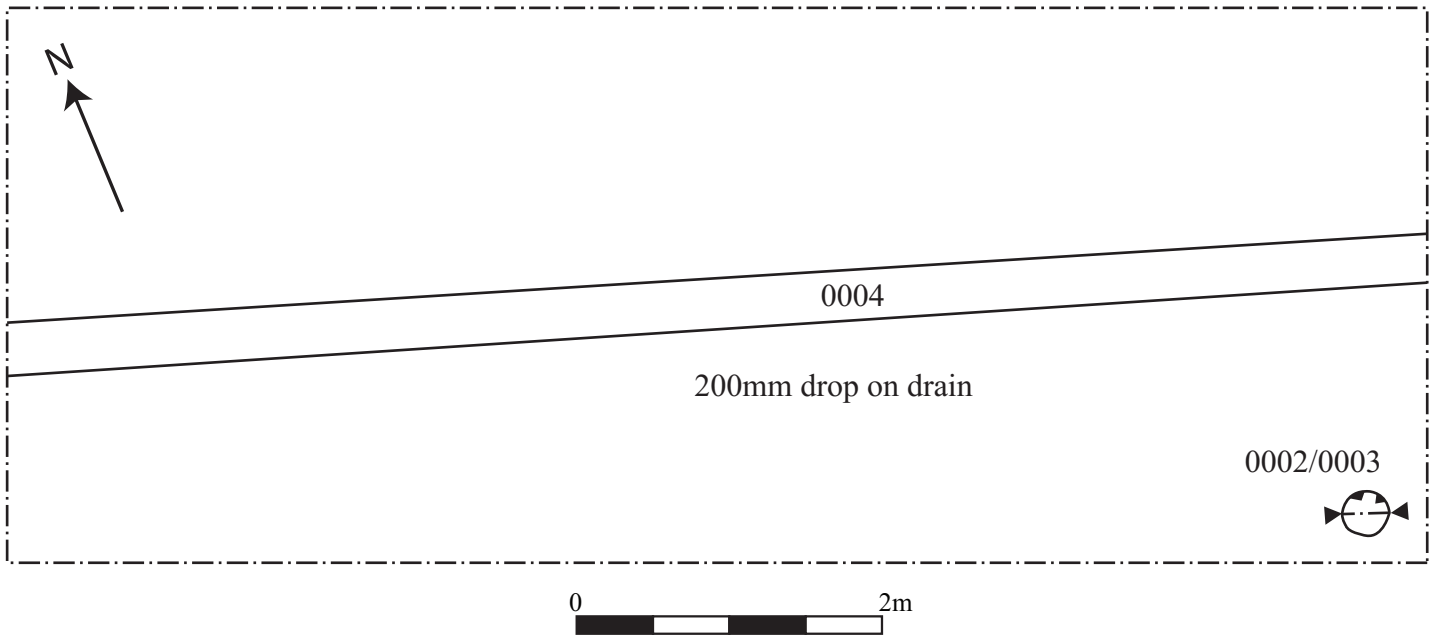


Fig. 2: Location of bathing pool site (red- brick drain alignment)
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Typical plan and section of brick drain 0004



Fig. 3: Plans and sections.

Appendix I- Images



Pool area from north



Stripped pool area with brick drain 0004 from southeast



Deposit profile and side of drain 0004 from northeast



Detail of drain 0004 from southeast



Small post hole 0002 from north

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

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Strip/Map/Excavate**

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

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

Site details

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

Client: Mr A Hill

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1948/15

Proposed works: Construction of outdoor swimming pool

Proposed date for archaeological works to start: 11 August, 2015

Grid ref: TM 1924 6794

LBS ref: 281307 (Grade II*)

HER ref: BDF 001 (moated site)

Current land use: part of garden/drive/parking, area mainly under hard core surface

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1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Excavation
5. Methodology
6. Risk Assessment
7. Specialists

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr A Hill has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological strip/map/excavation works required prior to the construction of an outdoor swimming pool at Flemings Hall, Hall Road, Bedingfield. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application 1948/15 and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Strip/Map/Excavation set by Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Conservation Team (SCCASCT).

1.2 The excavation 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 Excavation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 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 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location within the main moat area at Flemings Hall which 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 proposed outdoor swimming pool as indicated above is within the area of the main moat and is some 40m north of the main structure of Flemings Hall in an area that has more recently been used for car parking and is under a cover of hard core and gravel. Nearby to the moated site 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

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 As outlined in section 2 above the proposed swimming pool site lies in a location with high archaeological potential to contain evidence of medieval and earlier Post medieval activity. This strip/map/excavate exercise will aim to fully investigate, record, and then report on any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed pool before any other ground works commence so a full record for the c30m² area is completed and archived to the relevant depositories and web sites for future reference.

4. Aims of the Excavation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the extension area is with regard to what may be revealed relating to the medieval and earlier Post medieval periods in the immediate curtilage of a moated site of high status. The primary aim of the strip/amp/excavation is therefore to investigate and record any archaeological deposits and finds that exist within the proposed pool area before they are disturbed by future ground works.

5. Methodology

5.1 The area for the proposed pool will be stripped to the level where any potential archaeological deposits might be exposed using a wide 1000-1200mm flat bucket on a medium sized 360 machine under archaeological supervision.

5.3 The excavation will be under the direction of John Newman in the field and the relevant machine and operator will be provided by the client. Allowance has been made initially for 2-3 person days for the clearance of the pool footprint area down to the top of the uppermost archaeological deposits and the relevant SCCASCT Officer will be informed of the relevant results.

5.4 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 close to the excavation area with top and sub soil kept separate. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the excavation. 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.

5.5 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an 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 of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.6 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. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will be fully investigated and recorded in plan and section if they cannot be left in situ. 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 SCCASCT Officer will be informed and 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 excavation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial is assessed as being low at this location).

5.7 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCCASCT 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 relevant museum depository under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCCASCT 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 SCCASCT Officer.

5.8 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 SCCASCT Officer (and English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor 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. 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 excavation 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 pottery production or iron working (contributing to the fullest interpretation of the excavation results)
- What is the concentration of macro-remains
- Can any patterning or similarities/differences be ascertained between deposits from different periods represented on site
- 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 Regional Scientific Advisor will also be consulted in such cases in conjunction with the relevant SCCASCT Officer

5.9 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 SCCAS within 6 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the relevant guidelines. As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the excavation and reporting works.

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

5.10 Any interpretation of the findings will be clearly separated from the objective account of the excavation and its results and these will be discussed with the relevant SCCASCT Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following the relevant site meeting. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site excavation 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). A draft hard copy of the report will be presented to Suffolk CC following completion of the site works. Once accepted a final bound hard copy will be sent for the County HER. The excavation 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 Suffolk CC 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 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.

John Newman Archaeological Services

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 excavation will be passed to finds and environmental specialists.

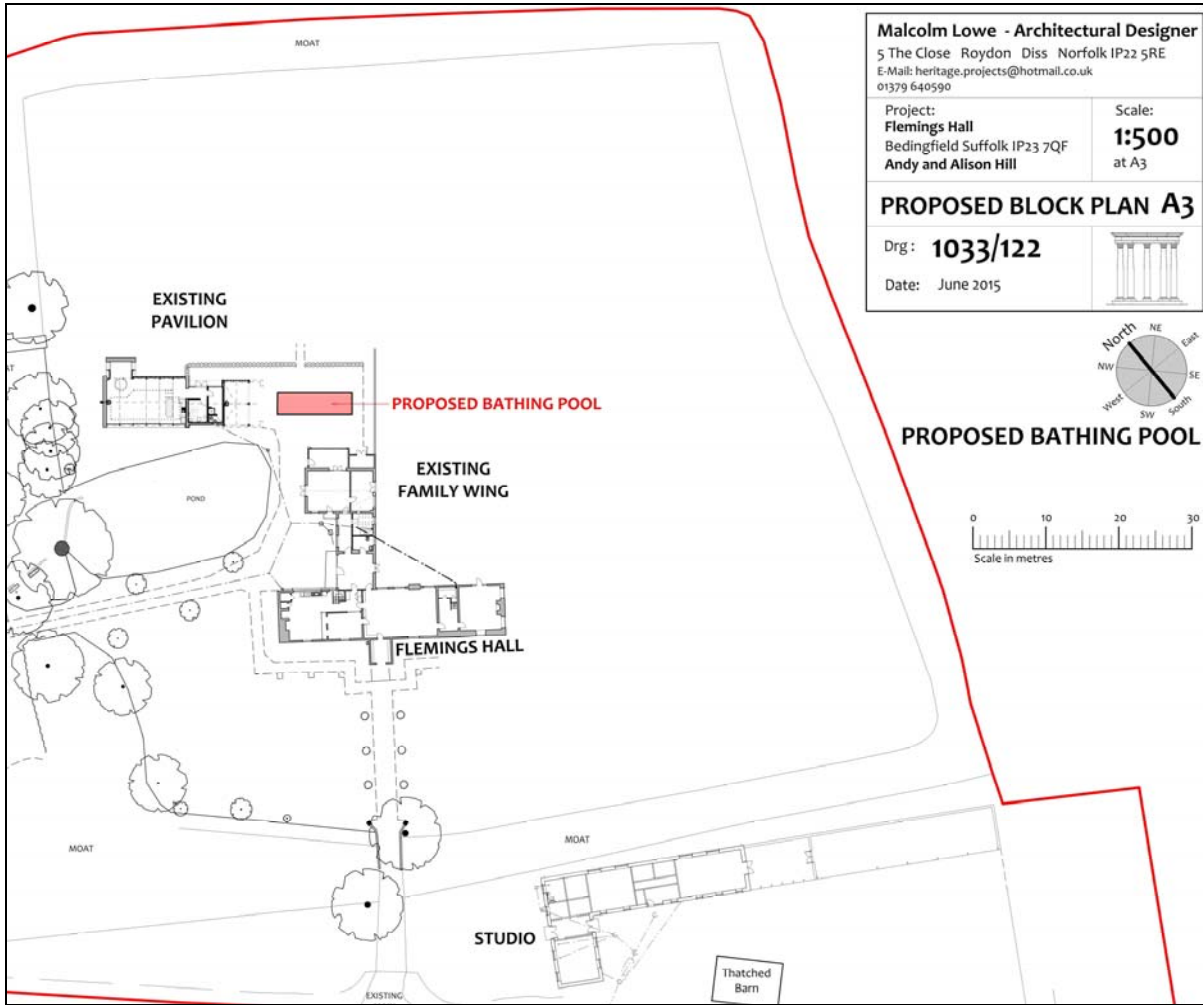
6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 It is unlikely that any 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 or shoring will be employed.

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

7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (Freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



Proposed swimming pool area

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-220023

Project details

Project name	Flemings Hall, Hall Road, Bedingfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Excavation Report
Short description of the project	Bedingfield. Flemings Hall (BDF 015, TM 1924 6794) a small scale excavation at the site of a planned bathing pool in the central part of the moat island and c25m north of the main range of Flemings Hall revealed a brick lined drain, which is probably contemporary with the standing 16th century Grade II* listed hall building, and a small post hole of Post medieval date.
Project dates	Start: 11-08-2015 End: 11-08-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	281307 - LBS No.
Any associated project reference codes	1948/15 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23204 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BFD 015 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	POST HOLE Post Medieval
Monument type	DRAIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Open-area excavation""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK BEDINGFIELD FLEMINGS HALL, HALL ROAD
Study area	30 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1924 6794 52.265318676674 1.213335378201 52 15 55 N 001 12 48 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 61m Max: 62m

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Flemings Hall, Hall Road, Bedingfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Excavation 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 client report and pdf
Entered by	John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)