Mill Green House, Mill Green, Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire

Planning application: S/1742/15/FL

HER Ref: ECB 4557

Archaeological Monitoring & Recording 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: Mill Green House, Mill Green, Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire, CB21 4QZ

Clients: Mr & Mrs J Hall

Local planning authority: South Cambridgeshire DC

Planning application ref: S/1742/15/FL

Development: Construction of swimming pool

Date of fieldwork: 21 September 2015

HER ref: ECB 4557

OASIS: johnnewm1-224279

Grid ref: TL 6233 4534

Contents

Summary: Shudy Camps, Mill Green House, Mill Green (ECB 4557, TL 6233 4534) monitoring of ground works for a new swimming pool close to a probable moat of medieval date revealed one pit of early to mid 20th century date and a few stray finds from the 19th to 20th century period plus one abraded sherd of medieval coarseware (John Newman Archaeological Services *for Mr & Mrs J Hall).*

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr J Hall commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application S/1742/FL. The archaeological monitoring and recording requirements were set out in a Brief set by Ms G Stewart of the Historic Environment Team (HET) at Cambridgeshire CC 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 new swimming pool in a small grassed plot to the west and rear of the back garden to Mill Green House, Mill Green, Shudy Camps.

1.2 Shudy Camps parish in the south-eastern part of Cambridgeshire has a dispersed settlement pattern with a small cluster of houses close to the parish church some 3 miles south-west of Haverhill on part of the Till plateau that extends from central Suffolk into Cambridgeshire and Essex in an area characterised by a gently rolling landscape on heavy clay soils. A number of other cottages and farms are scattered across the parish along the various lanes and roads that link with nearby villages and around former greens with Mill Green House being located c900m north-east of the parish church on the western side of the road that runs through Mill Green (see Fig. 1). Topographically the site sits in a generally flat landscape at c117m OD with the ground dropping away gently to the west and the River Granta which is just over 2000m from Mill Green House.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location within a landscape rich in recorded archaeological sites including a now filled-in moat (CHER MCB1518) immediately to the south-east of the planned pool area and two further moats (CHER MCB12259 & MCB1519) some 250m to the north (see Figs. 1 & 2). The possible moat that formerly surrounded Mill Green House has been described relatively recently (Holloway, 2000) and the new pool site is located c20m north-west of the north-western corner of this enclosure though the arms of this moat, if this interpretation of the now largely filled-in ditches is correct, are not totally convincing (see Fig. 2) in part due to the fact that the area around Mill Green House has been much altered in the last few hundred years. Mill Green House is also a listed building of Grade II status described as being 'timber framed and of late 16th and late 17th century date' though a RCHME report on the structure concludes that the earliest part, which is the northern wing, is of 15th century date with possible fragmentary parts of a south wing with later work giving rise to an early 17th century hall range (Anon. 1997). The presence of a relatively high status timber framed structure of later medieval, 15th century date, perhaps adding weight to the interpretation of the site as moat.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site to monitor the initial ground works for the planned pool with the soil stripping being undertaken by a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1200mm wide flat bucket. The machine was under continuous archaeological supervision with weather conditions being initially dry though heavy rain set in approximately halfway through the removal of the top and subsoil. The top and subsoil was removed sequentially from the pool site and the stripped area and upcast spoil was inspected closely as the work progressed and a metal detector scan of the site and spoil was commenced but could not be undertaken for long due to the heavy rain affecting the machine. Finally the exposed natural glaciofluvial deposit across the 10m by 4.50m area was carefully examined with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned and the single exposed archaeological feature was sectioned by hand and recorded. Finally the new pool area was recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a number of digital images and monochrome film photographs were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I) though this part of the recording process for the monitoring was also hindered by the wet conditions.

3. Results

3.1 As outlined above the plot where the new pool site is located is under a grass cover as an extension to the garden to the rear of Mill Green House (see Fig. 2). The soil stripping revealed a deposit profile comprising 300mm of topsoil above 100mm to 250mm of mid brown clay subsoil below which the locally occurring glaciofluvial deposit was pale brown chalky clay with flints.

3.2 The only archaeological feature revealed during the monitoring was an elongated pit (0002 see Fig. 3) that was 1600mm long on its north-east/south-west axis but only 600mm wide in its central area and 400mm deep. The fill (0003) within this feature was mid brown clay which contained numerous charcoal fragments and also had a high ash content. While no pottery sherds were recovered from the fill (0003) of this pit type feature (0002) various iron fragments were found and these comprised corroded nails and screws and a medium sized sheet metal paint or oil type can with this assemblage indicating an early to mid 20th century date for the feature.

3.3 A small number of stray finds were recovered from the top and subsoil stripping and these comprised one abraded sherd (4g) of sandy medieval coarseware, three sherds (10g) of blue and white transfer printed pottery of later 19th/earlier 20th century date, two small clay tobacco pipe stem fragments (4g) of later Post medieval date and a fragment of a later Post medieval iron plough blade.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While the area for the new pool at 45m^2 was relatively small it did not reveal any evidence for medieval activity save a single abraded pottery sherd whose presence

can in all likelihood be attributed to the scattering of domestic debris during a past episode of manuring. Similarly the few stray later Post medieval finds probably derive from similar rural activities and the identification of a later Post medieval plough blade fragment points to at least occasional arable use of this small plot of land. Finally the single feature (0002) that was revealed is indicative that the pool area was a little way from contemporary settlement and therefore it was a suitable area for domestic and other debris to be disposed of. In conclusion it can be confirmed that the construction of the planned swimming pool will not impact on any features of archaeological significance as the area concerned has been peripheral to more intense areas of activity in the past.

References:

Anon. 1997 'Mill Green House, Mill Green, Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire' Royal Commission of Historical Monuments of England survey report

Holloway, J 2000 'A Possible Moated Site at Mill Green, Shudy Camps' in Journal of the Haverhill & District Archaeological Group Vol. 7, Part 2 pp94-98

Archive- to be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Archive Facility under the CHER ref. ECB 4557.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to James and Ruth Hall and to everyone from Letts Pools for their close cooperation during the monitoring)

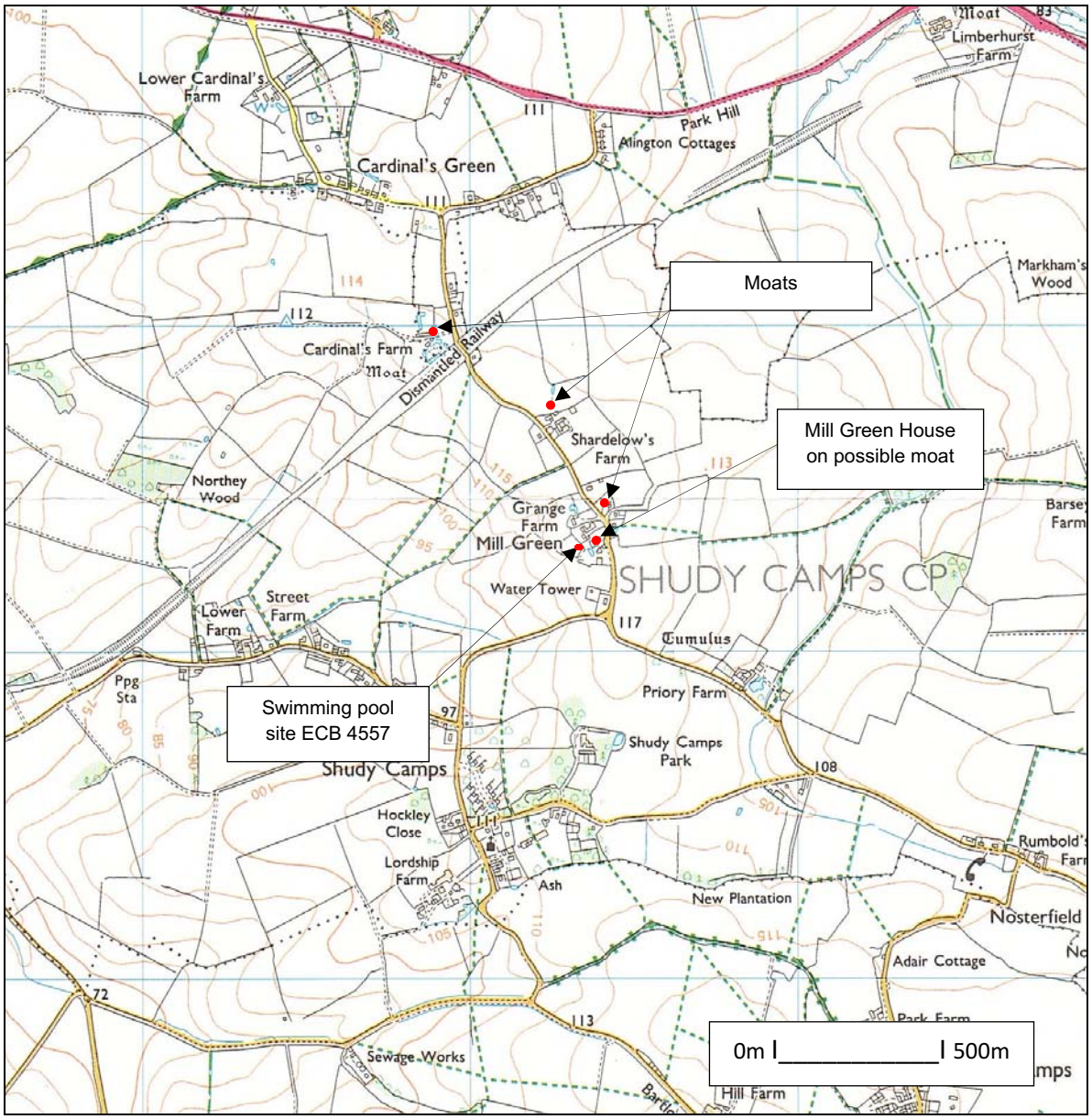

Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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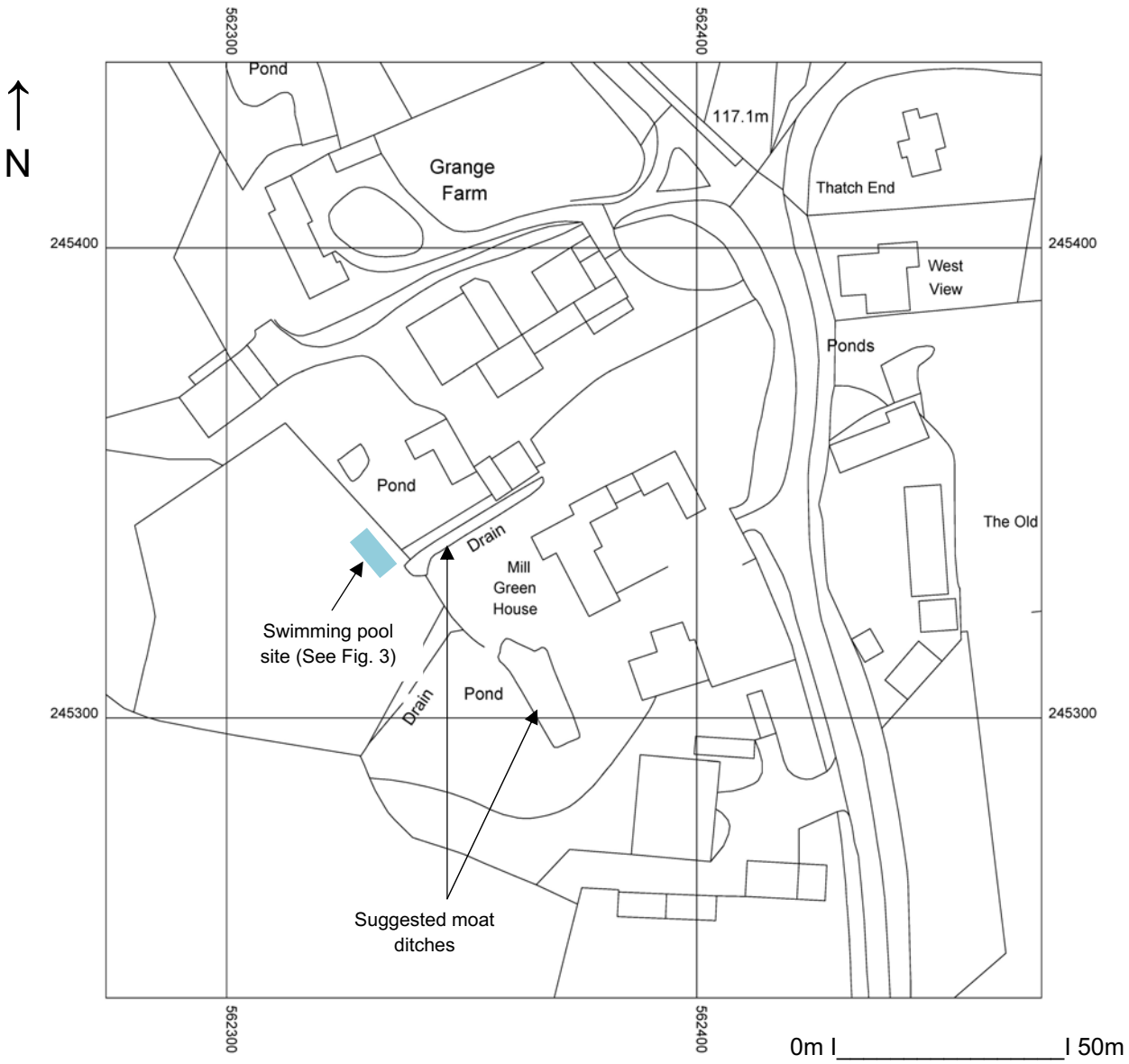

Fig. 2: Monitored swimming pool area

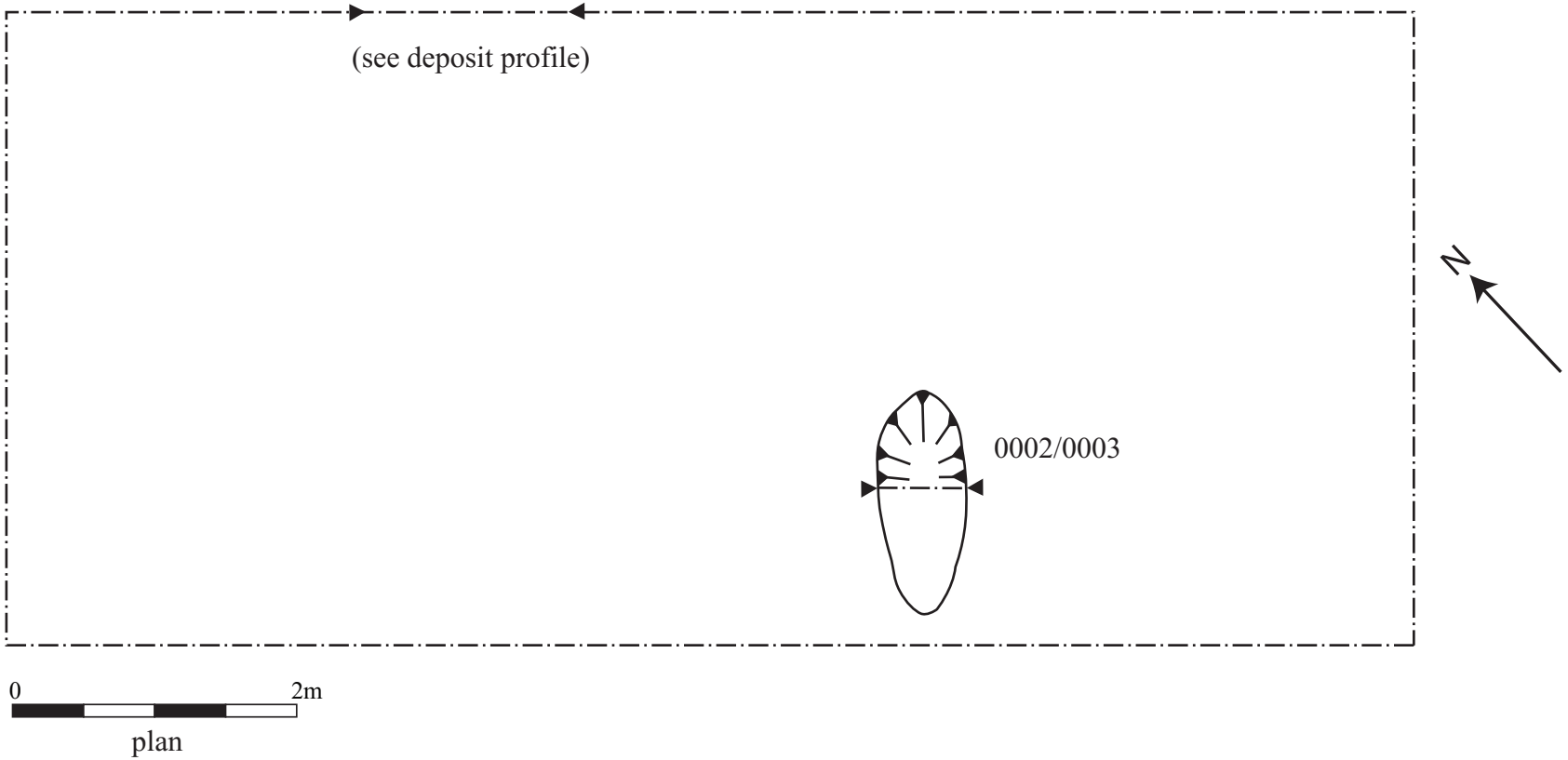

Fig. 3: Plan and sections.

Appendix I- Images

Front of Mill Green House from east

Stripped pool site from southeast

Feature 0002 and west side of pool site from northeast

Feature 0002 from northeast

Stripped pool site from northwest

East side of pool site from southwest

Mill Green House, Mill Green, Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring & Recording

HER Ref: ECB 4557

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

Site details

Name: Mill Green House, Mill Green, Shudy Camps, CB21 4QZ

Client: Mr J Hall

Local planning authority: South Cambridgeshire DC

Planning application ref: S/1742/15/FL

Proposed works: Construction of swimming pool

Proposed date for archaeological works to start: 21 September, 2015

Grid ref: TL 6232 4533

CHER ref: DCB4739 (Grade II listed building)

LBS ref: 1127951 (Grade II)

HER event ref: ECB 4557

Brief ref: Mill Green House, Mill Green, ShudyCampsMonitoring & Recording brief and CHER data.pdf (dated 10 August, 2015)

Current land use: part of garden

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr J Hall has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring and recording works required during the construction of a swimming pool at Mill Green House, Mill Green Shudy Camps. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application S/1742/15/FL and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the brief for archaeological monitoring and recording set by Ms G Stewart of the Historic Environment Team (HET) at Cambridgeshire CC.

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 Shudy Camps parish in the south-eastern part of Cambridgeshire has a dispersed settlement pattern with a small cluster of houses close to the parish church some 3 miles south-west of Haverhill on part of the Till plateau that extends from central Suffolk into Cambridgeshire and Essex in an area characterised by a gently rolling landscape on heavy clay soils. A number of other cottages and farms are scattered across the parish along the various lanes and roads that link with nearby villages and around former greens with Mill Green House being located c900m north-east of the parish church on the western side of the road that runs through Mill Green. Topographically the site sits in a generally flat landscape at c117m OD.

2.2 The planned swimming pool site is located on soft ground 40m west of Mill Green House on the western side of a ditch or drain that links a pond to the south to other water features to the north.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location within a landscape rich in recorded archaeological sites including a now filled-in moat (CHER MCB1518) 50m to the south-east of the planned pool area and two further moats (CHER MCB12259 & MCB1519) some 250m to the north. The east of England is characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern with, as noted above, cottages and farms scattered across many of the parishes and these often cluster round the edges of the numerous medieval greens. In this

context it is also of interest to note that Mill Green House is a grade II listed building described as being timber framed and of late 16th and late 17th century date and in all likelihood fronting onto former area of Mill Green.

3.2 As outlined in section 3.1 above the proposed swimming pool site lies in a location with high archaeological potential to contain evidence of medieval and earlier Post medieval activity in particular. This archaeological monitoring and recording 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 40m^2 area is completed and disseminated in a manner commensurate with the results and it is also archived as required in the relevant brief.

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 curtilage of a building of early Post medieval date and close to a recorded moated site. The primary aim of the archaeological monitoring is therefore to identify, 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 360 machine (8 or 13 tonne) under continuous archaeological supervision. Initially the top soil will be removed and the stripped area examined before the subsoil is subsequently removed to expose the top of the locally occurring glaciofluvial deposits.

5.2 The excavation will be under the direction of John Newman in the field and the relevant machine and operator will be provided by the contractor. Allowance has been made initially for 2 person days for the clearance of the pool footprint area down to the top of the uppermost archaeological deposits and the relevant HET Officer will be informed of the relevant results as site work progresses so a site visit can be arranged if required.

5.3 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 and will stay on site. A metal detector search will be carried out at all stages of the excavation without any discrimination against ferrous objects. The up cast spoil will also be closely examined, both visually and with a metal detector, 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.

5.4 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site event HER number obtained from the Cambridgeshire 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 and in monochrome film to record significant archaeological features.

5.5 As necessary 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 HET Officer and the local Coroner will be informed and no further investigation will be carried out beyond what is necessary to establish its date, condition and character. While any consultation is underway the human remains will be suitably screened and protected from further disturbance. If the human remains have to be removed there will be full consultation with the HET Officer and everyone concerned with the project on site and a Ministry of Justice exhumation 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).

5.6 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant HET 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, with due transfer of title, to the County Archaeological Store along with the full archive under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference and note is made of the relevant archive deposition costs. If this is not possible then the HET 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 HET Officer. Any potential finds that qualify as Treasure under the relevant Act will be reported immediately to the local Finds Liaison Officer and, if possible, will be excavated, fully recorded and removed on the day of discovery in accordance with the Act. If finds that qualify under the Treasure Act cannot be excavated on the day of discovery suitable security arrangements to safeguard the find(s) and site will be made with the landowner and contractor and confirmed with the HET Officer and the finds will excavated and removed as soon afterwards as possible.

5.7 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 *'Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation'* (English Heritage, 2011, 2nd ed). 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 HET Officer (and Historic England 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 HET Officer

5.8 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the guidelines in and section 2 of MoRPHE (English Heritage, 2006). This archive will be deposited with HET within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the relevant guidelines. As necessary the site digital archive will deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the excavation and reporting works.

5.9 As noted above the post excavation procedures will be consistent with the guidelines in MoRPHE and the 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 HET Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following the relevant site meeting. A report on the findings of the monitoring will be sent to the relevant HET Officer within two weeks of the completion of site works.

5.11 The full report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local CHER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). The report will include a figure showing the location of the area examined in relation the house and nearby features on an Ordnance Survey map extract with full National Grid referencing. An unbound copy, marked draft, of the report will be presented to the HET within four weeks of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a final bound hard copy will be sent for CHER. The excavation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format once it has been approved and the report will contain the relevant OASIS reference and data summary form. A CHER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual county 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.

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.

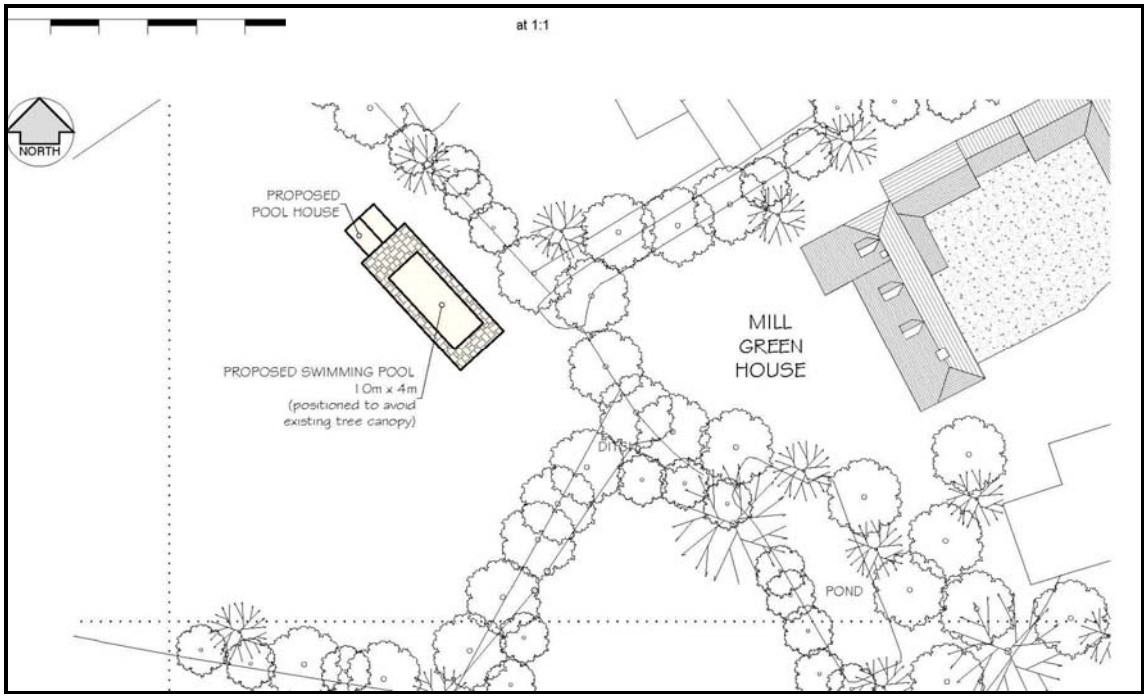
6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

7. Specialists

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

Reference

English Heritage 2006 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide



Swimming pool in relation to the house

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-224279

Project details

Project name	Mill Green House, Mill Green, Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Shudy Camps, Mill Green House, Mill Green (ECB 4557, TL 6233 4534) monitoring of ground works for a new swimming pool close to a probable moat of medieval date revealed one pit of early to mid 20th century date and a few stray finds from the 19th to 20th century period plus one abraded sherd of medieval coarseware.
Project dates	Start: 21-09-2015 End: 21-09-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 4557 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	1127951 - LBS No.
Any associated project reference codes	S/15/1742/FL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Modern
Significant Finds	IRON VESSEL Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	'"Watching Brief"'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England

Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE SHUDY CAMPS MILL GREEN HOUSE, MILL GREEN
Postcode	CB21 4QZ
Study area	50 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 6233 4534 52.08212605155 0.369317316128 52 04 55 N 000 22 09 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 117m Max: 118m

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","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire CC HER
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire CC HER
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Mill Green House, Mill Green, Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire- Archaeological Monitoring and Recording 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)
Entered on	6 October 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice