

**Land at Mount Pleasant Cottage, Church Hill,  
Walpole, Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/13/0417**

**HER Ref: WLP 028**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(July 2016)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Land at Mount Pleasant Cottage, Church Hill, Walpole, Suffolk, IP19 9AX

Client: Mr R Thickett

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/13/0417

Development: Erection of a new dwelling

Date of fieldwork: 17 & 22 February and 13 June, 2016

Event ref: ESF 23582

HER ref: WLP 028

OASIS: johnnewm1-243051

Grid ref: TM 3668 7448

Conservation area

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*Summary: Walpole, Mount Pleasant Cottage, Church Hill (WLP 028, TM 3668 7454) while the new dwelling at this site was constructed without any archaeological input subsequent examination of exposed sections where the site had been terraced plus examination of the upcast spoil enabled a small pottery group to be recovered. These sherds indicate activity at or close to the site from the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> century to the present time. In addition a trial trench was opened to the rear of the new dwelling and this revealed clean sand with red brick foundations from a 19<sup>th</sup> century outbuilding in the section at one end of the trench (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr R Thickett).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr A Stannard on behalf of his client Mr R Thickett commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the remedial archaeological monitoring of the site and upcast spoil following the construction of a new dwelling under application C/13/0417 without any archaeological input, as required by the relevant conditions, until the walls were close to the associated roof line and the ground floor base was also in place. In addition a trial trench was excavated under archaeological supervision to the back of the new dwelling before terracing for the new rear garden area was undertaken with the overall site being in the side garden on the eastern side of Mount Pleasant Cottage, Church Hill, Walpole.

1.2 Walpole is located in north-east Suffolk where, historically, settlement was mainly focused around the church and nearby main road in the northern part of the parish or scattered along the roads and lanes that criss-cross the parish. Mount Pleasant Cottage on Church Hill fronts onto this main road which runs along the southern side of the valley along the River Blyth through the village with this cottage being some 100m south of the edge of the floodplain as evidenced by a network of drains to the north. Mount Pleasant Cottage is also c50m south of the parish church and therefore this site lies within the area identified as the historic core of the village (HER WAL 016) where evidence for past activity of later Saxon, medieval and early Post medieval date might be anticipated.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 As outlined above archaeological input into this single new dwelling site did not commence until the main phase of ground works had been completed. Therefore it was agreed with Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) that remedial works should involve examination of exposed ground surfaces and sections at the site plus examination of the upcast spoil. In addition an evaluation type trench was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision across the area to the south and rear of the new dwelling prior to terracing works to lower the new rear garden area. To help complete the archaeological record for the site a number of digital images were taken during the site visits (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 As the site for the new dwelling slopes down from south to north the footprint area was terraced into the slope prior to ground works starting. This terracing exposed the local deposit profile with 300mm of topsoil above 300/350mm of mid brown sandy subsoil over the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial material which proved to be yellow sand with flints. While no archaeological features were visible in the exposed sloping sections a small number of pottery sherds were recovered from the subsoil level and from the stockpiled spoil from the build.

3.2 To the rear of the new dwelling footprint the 8m long and 1.80m wide trench on an east-west alignment revealed 400mm of topsoil above 400mm of clean mid brown

sandy subsoil above clean yellow sand. No archaeological features or finds of any age were revealed in the trench though the red brick foundation of a demolished outbuilding of 19<sup>th</sup> century date was revealed at the base of the topsoil at the eastern end of the trench (see Appendix I).

#### 4. The Pottery (Sue Anderson)

4.1 Thirteen pottery sherds (165g) were recovered as unstratified finds. The pottery quantification is shown in Table 1.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	MCW/THET	1	1	tiny body sherd of hard sandy greyware	10th-14th c.
	MCW	1	4	soft greyware, large Fe inclusions, similar to Leiston type	12th-14th c.
	HOLL	1	2	abraded body sherd	13th-14th c.
	GRE	4	41	body sherds, orange or orange-brown glaze	16th-18th c.
	GRE	1	53	large beaded rim of storage vessel, 260mm diameter, 8%, orange-brown glaze	16th-18th c.
	IGBW	1	20	rilled neck of tankard	16th-18th c.
	SPEC	1	3	speckled brown glazed sherd	17th-18th c.
	ESW	1	25	blacking bottle rim, 55mm diameter, 30%	19th c.
	YELW	1	7	flaring-sided bowl rim, 220mm diameter, 5%	L.18th-19th c.
	LPME	1	9	beaded ?plantpot rim with small flange on top, 130mm diameter, 8%	

Table 1. Pottery catalogue.

Key: THET – Thetford-type ware; MCW – medieval coarseware; HOLL – Hollesleyn-type coarseware; GRE – glazed red earthenware; IGBW – iron-glazed blackware; SPEC – speckle-glazed ware; ESW – English stoneware; YELW – yellow ware; LPME – late post-med unglazed earthenware.

This small assemblage covers up to nine centuries of pottery use, and includes sherds of possible Late Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern date. There is little abrasion, which indicates that the sherds have not moved far from their original place of deposition.

Three greyware sherds of possible Late Saxon and certain medieval date were recovered, suggesting some early activity on the site. The post-medieval redwares form the largest group (GRE, SPEC, IGBW) and are typical of the region in the 16th-18th centuries. The modern wares are all common types of later 18th to 19th-century date, including a blacking bottle, a yellow ware bowl and a plantpot.

#### 5. Conclusion

5.1 While it cannot be fully confirmed whether any archaeological deposits were disturbed when the new dwelling at Mount Pleasant Cottage was constructed the evidence from the area around the footprint suggest that past activity at this site was not intense. However a number of pottery sherds of 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered as stray finds indicating settlement or related activity at, or close, to this site over a long and apparently continuous period from the Domesday Book era to the present. This evidence supports the identification of this area near the parish church as part of the historic core of the village (HER WLP 016) and it

would be of archaeological value to examine any other developments of any scale that might be proposed in the future.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Alan Stannard and Richard Thickett for their cooperation, to Maddie Newman for processing the finds and to Sue Anderson for her specialist finds work)

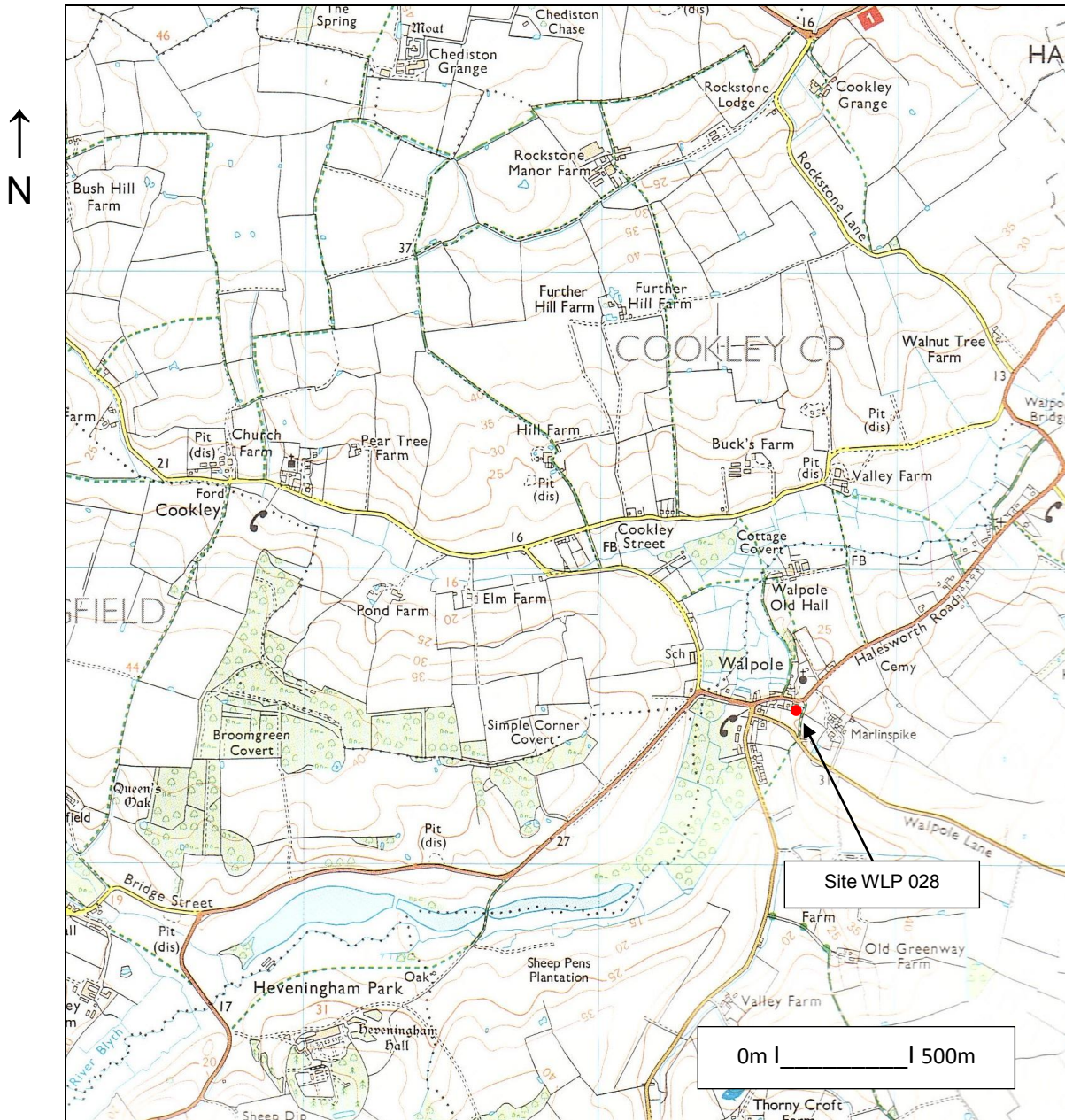


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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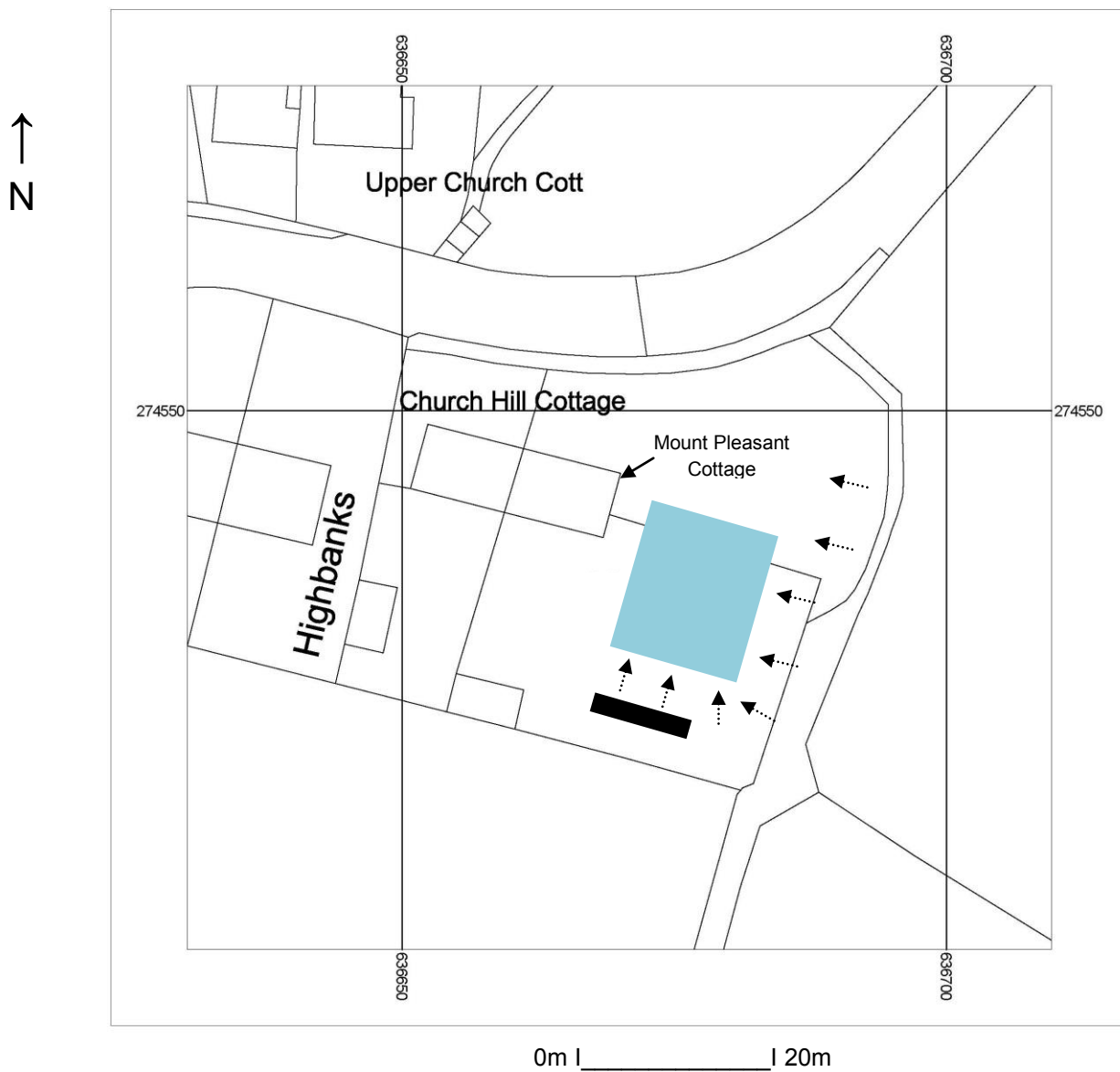


Fig. 2: Location of new dwelling footprint and trial trench  
 (Light blue- footprint area, black- trench, dashed arrows- exposed terrace sections)  
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## Appendix I- Images



General view from southwest with exposed edges around terraced area



Trench to rear of new dwelling from east





Trench deposit profile with brick foundation debris at base of topsoil

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-243051**

## Project details

Project name	Mount Pleasant, Church Hill, Walpole, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Walpole, Mount Pleasant Cottage, Church Hill (WLP 028, TM 3668 7454) while the new dwelling at this site was constructed without any archaeological input subsequent examination of exposed sections where the site had been terraced plus examination of the upcast spoil enabled a small pottery group to be recovered. These sherds indicate activity at or close to the site from the 10th/11th century to the present time. In addition a trial trench was opened to the rear of the new dwelling and this revealed clean sand with red brick foundations from a 19th century outbuilding in the section at one end of the trench.
Project dates	Start: 17-02-2016 End: 13-06-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23582 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	WLP 028 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	C/13/0417 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL WALPOLE MOUNT PLEASANT, CHURCH HILL
Postcode	IP19 9AX
Study area	60 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 3668 7454 52.317278135189 1.473094284531 52 19 02 N 001 28 23 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23m Max: 24m

### 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	Mount Pleasant Cottage, Church Hill, Walpole, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
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Description	Loose bound client report and pdf
Entered by	John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)
Entered on	25 July 2016

## OASIS:

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