

**Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road,
Buxhall Suffolk**

Planning application: 1186 & 1187/15

HER Ref: BUX 045

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(June 2016)

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

Site details for HER

Name: Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road, Buxhall, Suffolk, IP14 3DR

Client: Mrs V Angela

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1186 & 1187/15

Development: Erection of extension and two associated outbuildings

Date of fieldwork: 27 April, 2016

HER ref: BUX 045 (also BUX 002)

Event ref: ESF 23828

LBS ref: 279814

OASIS: johnnewm1-247209

Grid ref: TL 9867 5770

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Summary: Buxhall, Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road (BUX 045, TL 9867 5770) monitoring of ground works for a new extension at listed building of early Post medieval date located within a medieval moat revealed a demolished previous brick built extension with a sunken brick floor of 19th century date. In addition from a pocket of undisturbed subsoil a small number of medieval and early Post medieval sherds were recovered including an imported 16th century stoneware sherd (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mrs V Angela).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mrs V Angela 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 applications 1186 and 1187/15. 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 erection of an extension at Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road, Buxhall. The applications above also include a new log store and a link from the new extension to an existing outbuilding but as they would only cause superficial ground disturbance these works were not monitored.

1.2 Buxhall parish lies to the south west of Stowmarket in an area where the local soils are dominated by the heavier boulder clay or till deposits of central Suffolk. Cockerells Hall is located some 1500m west of the parish church in a landscape characterised by dispersed settlement along the roads and lanes and around the greens and tyes (formerly areas of common grazing). The site is just above the 65m OD contour in an isolated location close to the parish boundary with Rattlesden (see Fig. 1). Cockerell's Hall is recorded within the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Suffolk under the reference number BUX 002 as a moated site of medieval origin and the centre for one of the sub-manors within Buxhall parish. The moat is now represented by wet arms forming a south west corner and a separate portion of the western arm. A large pond also exists to the north east of the Cockerell's Hall itself which is located to the north- west side of what would have been the central part of the original moat island. The hall is grade II listed and described as a 'farmhouse, late 16th century with alterations....parallel rear range late 17th century.' On the northern side of the hall there is a large late 19th/early 20th outbuilding that was built by a former owner, W A Copinger, as a library between 1897 and 1910 (Copinger was an eminent Victorian lawyer, antiquarian and one of the founders of the Bibliographic Society).

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location within the area of a medieval moat (HER BUX 002), which had some status as the centre of one of the sub-manors in the parish, and abutting a listed building of early Post medieval date with the extension being on the northern side of the late 17th century extension.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring of the ground works for the foundation trenches, which were excavated using a mid-sized 360 machine, was carried out over two site visits under dry and sunny conditions and as the work progressed the upcast spoil was inspected closely. The raft foundation area was recorded in relation to nearby mapped features

and a number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 For this new extension a raft type foundation was planned beforehand and therefore the ground works comprised soil stripping across its footprint using a wide toothless bucket. At its north-eastern end a small extension of relatively recent date was demolished before ground works commenced while the central and south-western parts of the footprint area were under a grass cover. However it soon became apparent that much of the extension area had been disturbed in the later Post medieval period as below 100mm of topsoil a mix of mid brown clay subsoil, brick and tile rubble and mortar fragments was revealed and information from the owner soon established that a previous extension was known to have occupied at least 70% of the new build area (see Fig. 2). This previous extension covers the same area as the new one and it had been a structure with a sunken brick floor, which was still in situ at a depth of 700mm, with the floor bricks being 10in. x 5in. x 1.50in. (254mm x 127mm x 38mm) in a hard, pale pink fabric indicating a 19th century date.

3.2 As noted above a raft foundation had been planned for the new extension and therefore the existing 19th century sunken brick floor was left in place; however a small pocket of undisturbed subsoil was revealed at the north-eastern end of the footprint area and the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial pale brown clay deposit exposed in the raft-toe foundation at a depth of 600mm. While no archaeological features were exposed in this small area of undisturbed ground a few pottery sherds of pre-modern date were recovered from the upcast spoil from this area.

4. The Pottery (Sue Anderson)

4.1 Seven pottery sherds (145g) were recovered as unstratified finds (0001). The pottery quantification is shown in Table 1 below.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	MCW	1	10	fine sandy greyware body sherd	12th-14th c.
	MCW	1	15	medium sandy greyware, partly oxidised, pierced before firing	12th-14th c.
	MCW or LMT	1	3	small body sherd, similar to the fine sandy MCW but possibly with ?unfused glaze internally	12th-M.16th c.
	GRIM	1	15	body sherd with applied brown slip lines and pellets	L.12th-14th c.
	LMT	1	11	abraded body sherd with brown slip line and incised horizontal lines	L.14th-M.16th c.
	GSW3	2	91	frilled base and body sherd of brown-glazed ?jug	L.15th-16th c.

Table 1. Pottery catalogue.

Key: MCW – medieval coarseware; GRIM – Grimston-type ware; LMT – late medieval and transitional ware; GSW3 – Raeren/Aachen stoneware

All sherds are of medieval or late medieval date and include locally-made coarseware vessels which show signs of sooting and were probably used as cooking

vessels, as well as glazed jugs which were probably used as table wares.

Grimston ware vessels were made at Pott Row, Grimston, near King's Lynn and are a frequent find across East Anglia and beyond. The sherd from this site is slightly different in appearance from the typical fabric found in the major towns of the region, but may still be a product of the site, as recent excavations have shown that sherds from the type-site itself are quite variable in terms of colour and sand inclusions (Anderson 2016).

Late medieval and transitional wares are typical finds in late 14th to mid-16th-century contexts across East Anglia and were made at a number of production sites across Norfolk and Suffolk, including a recently-identified site in Stowmarket (Anderson 2014) and a kiln site at Rickingham (Anderson *et al.* 1996).

A late medieval import was present in the group. German stonewares are again frequent finds of the period, although they are more common in urban contexts than rural ones. The presence of a jug of this type here reflects the status of the moated site in the 16th century.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While the new extension area is on a moat of sub-manorial status within Buxhall parish and abutting a listed building of early Post medieval date, which presumably replaced an earlier medieval hall, no deposits of archaeological significance were revealed with at least 70% of the new footprint area having been disturbed in the 19th century by a previous extension that had a sunken brick floor still in situ at a depth of 700mm. At the north-eastern end of the new extension area a small area of the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial clay was exposed in the toe for the raft foundation but no archaeological features were revealed. However a small number of pottery sherds of medieval and early Post medieval date were recovered from the upcast spoil in this area as stray finds with a date range from the 12th-14th century to the 15th-16th century period and it is noted above in section 4 that a German stoneware base sherd within this group reflects the known historical status of Cockerells Hall as such imported finds are more commonly found at urban sites and in particular in towns which are ports.

Refs.

Anderson, S., 2014, *81 Bury Street, Stowmarket (SKT 068): the pottery*. Archive report for SCCAS.

Anderson, S., 2016, *Pottery from Ashwicken Road, Pott Row (ENF140532)*. Archive report for NPS Archaeology.

Anderson, S, Breen, A., Caruth, J. and Gill, D., 1996, 'The late medieval pottery industry on the North Suffolk border', *Medieval Ceramics* 20.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Viki Angela and everyone from New England Buildings Services for their close cooperation during the monitoring, to Maddie Newman for processing the finds and to Sue Anderson for her specialist finds work)

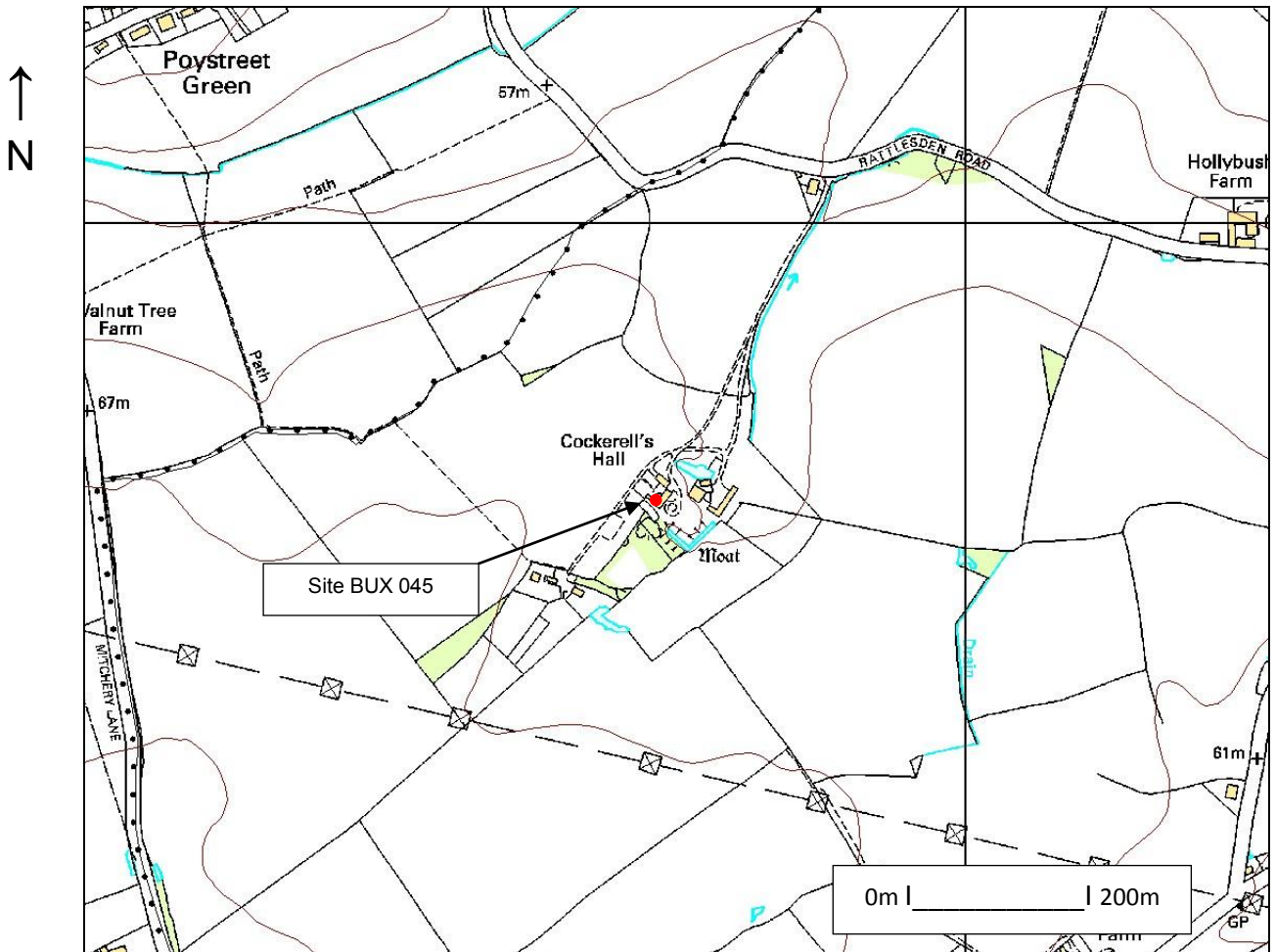


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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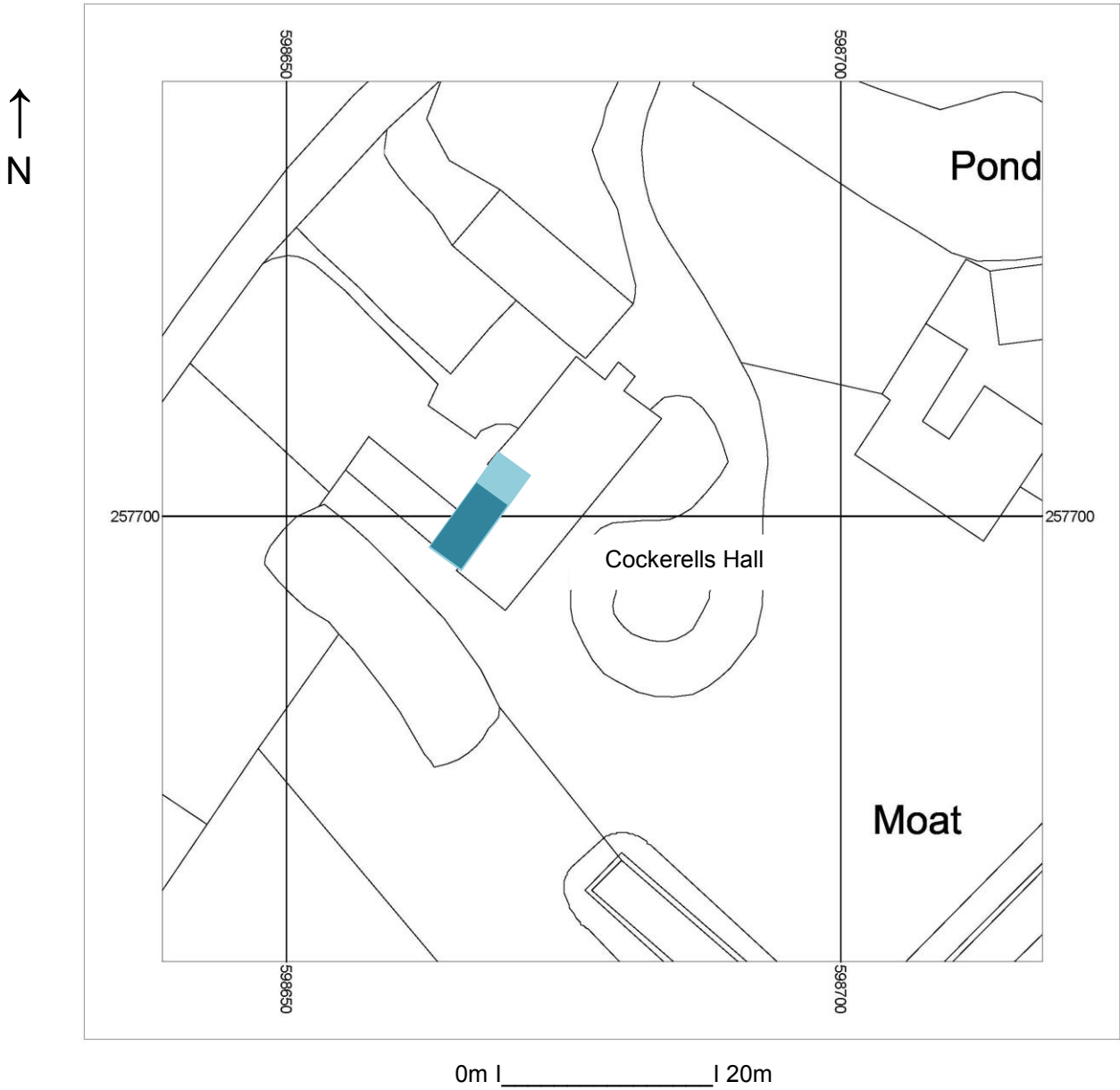


Fig. 2: Monitored extension area (darker blue- area of demolished 19th century extension)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from north-west



Sunken 19th century brick floor in south-western part of new extension area



Raft toe at north-eastern end of extension area

**Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road,
Buxhall, Suffolk**

Planning application: 1186 & 1187/15

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Continuous Archaeological Monitoring**

Site details

Name: Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road, Buxhall, Suffolk, IP14 3DR

Client: Mrs V Angela

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1186 & 1187/15

Proposed development: Erection of extension and two associated outbuildings

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

HER ref: BUX 002

LBS ref: 279814 (Grade II)

Grid ref: TL 9867 5770

Contents

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

1. Introduction

1.1 Mrs V Angela has 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 applications 1186 and 1187/15. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of an extension and two associated outbuildings at Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden, Buxhall (see below).

1.2 The monitoring 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 Watching Briefs (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 & reissued 2014)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Buxhall parish lies to the south west of Stowmarket in an area where the local soils are dominated by the heavier boulder clay or till deposits of central Suffolk. Cockerells Hall is located some 1500m west of the parish church in a landscape characterised by dispersed settlement along the roads and lanes and around the greens and tyes (formerly areas of common grazing). The site is just above the 65m OD contour in an isolated location close to the parish boundary with Rattlesden. Cockerell's Hall is recorded within the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Suffolk under the reference number BUX 002 as a moated site of medieval origin and the centre for one of the sub-manors within Buxhall parish. The moat is now represented by wet arms forming a south west corner and a separate portion of the western arm. A large pond also exists to the north east of the Cockerell's Hall itself which is located to the north west side of what would have been the central part of the original moat island. The hall is grade II listed and described as a 'farmhouse, late 16th century with alterations....parallel rear range late 17th century.' On the northern side of the hall there is a large late 19th/early 20th outbuilding that was built by a former owner, W A Copinger, as a library between 1897 and 1910 (Copinger was an eminent Victorian lawyer, antiquarian and one of the founders of the Bibliographic Society).

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological interest, within a medieval moated site recorded in the County Historic Environment Record as BUX 002. As a result, there is high potential for encountering heritage assets at this location.'

3.2 The Brief then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording as ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting.

3.3 The area for the new extension is to the south-west of a recently constructed orangery (HER BUX 029) where archaeological monitoring recorded brick wall foundations of Post medieval date from a demolished outbuilding and a probable garden soil with the natural boulder clay being exposed at a depth of 550mm (Newman, 2010).

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the new cart lodge site lies in a location with high archaeological potential to contain evidence of medieval and earlier Post medieval activity. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to the depth of overburden and evidence, character and date of any past activity that is revealed with the primary aim of gaining more information relating to past activity of prehistoric date.

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be trench foundations. The excavation of the trench footings and any related service trenches will be observed once they are underway and then through to completion and any up cast spoil examined for finds. Notice of ground works starting and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to hand clean sections as necessary and investigate any possible archaeological deposits.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under overall site event and HER numbers supplied by Suffolk CC. 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 with the monitored footings shown. 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.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the trench foundations with sections recorded related to the trench sides, if possible, and with levels OD. Even if no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land use and topography in the town. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litre if possible) will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (the potential of this site to contain burials is assessed as being low).

5.4 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological 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 SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

5.5 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2) and particularly Appendix 3 and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. 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.

5.6 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 4) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 2 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). An unbound draft copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided plus another for the County HER, a copy will be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before site works start 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.

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 contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and 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 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and any ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

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

John Newman Archaeological Services

6.5 Deep holes/trenches will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

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.

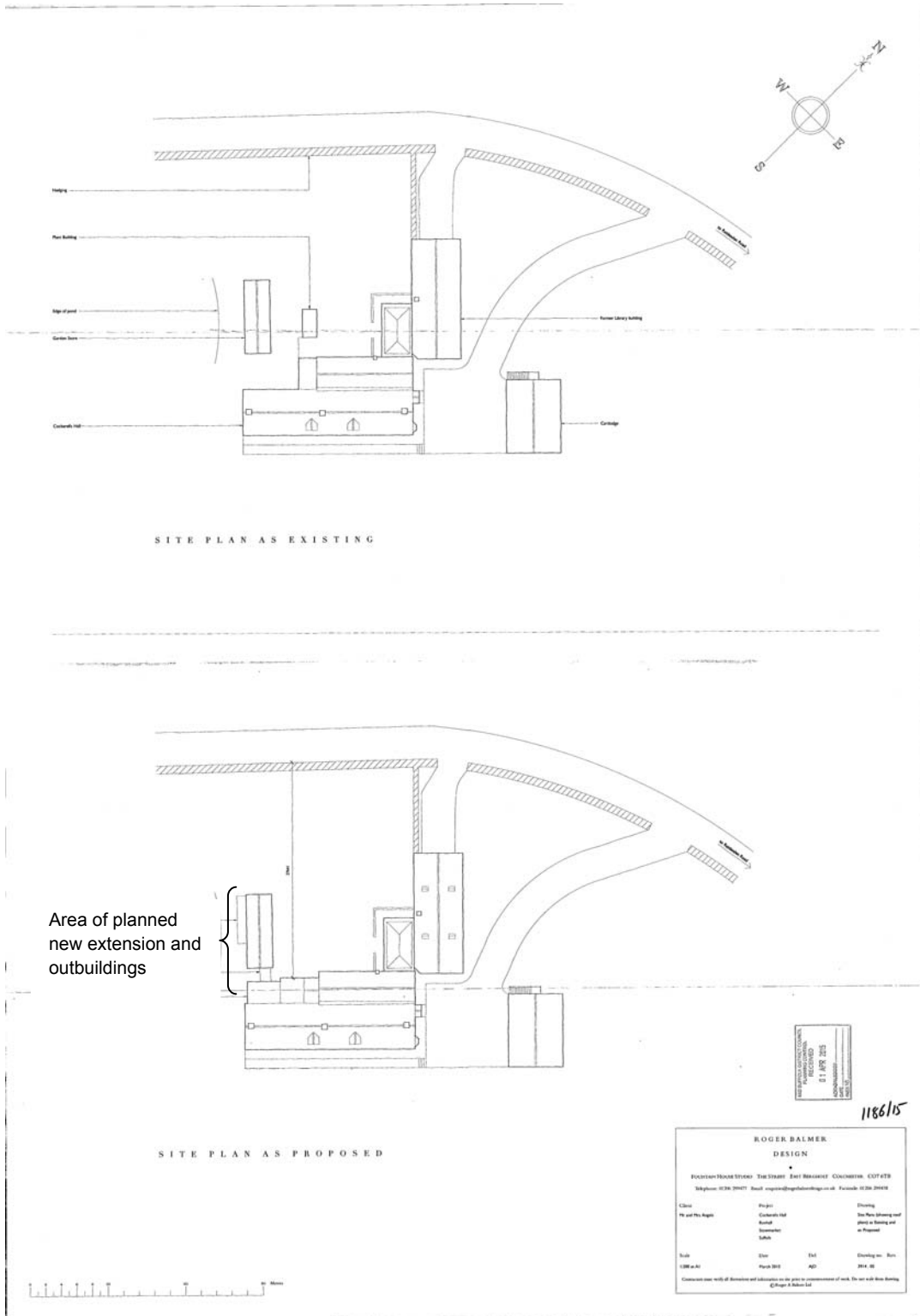
7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

Reference

Newman, J 2010 Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road, Buxhall- Archaeological Monitoring Report

John Newman Archaeological Services



SITE PLAN AS EXISTING

Area of planned new extension and outbuildings

SITE PLAN AS PROPOSED

RECEIVED
11 APR 2023
CITY OF PERTH
CITY ENGINEER

118615

**ROGER BALMER
DESIGN**

FOURTH FLOOR STUDIOS THE STRAID EAST BRIDGEWATER COVENTRY, CV3 4TB
Telephone: 01203 294477 Email: rbalmer@rogerbalmerdesign.co.uk Fax: 01203 294478

Client	Project	Drawing
Perth City Council	Cultural Hall	Site Plan, Existing and Proposed
Perth City Council	Senior Library	Site Plan, Existing and Proposed
Perth City Council	Canteen	Site Plan, Existing and Proposed

Date	Drawn	Scale	Drawing no.	Rev.
11/04/23	RBD	AS1	001	01

Client to check all dimensions and tolerances on the plan to commencement of work. The set will show bearing @ Page 3 of 3 sheets.

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Printable version

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-247209

Project details

Project name	Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road, Buxhall, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Buxhall, Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road (BUX 045, TL 9867 5770) monitoring of ground works for a new extension at listed building of early Post medieval date located within a medieval moat revealed a demolished previous brick built extension with a sunken brick floor of 19th century date. In addition from a pocket of undisturbed subsoil a small number of medieval and early Post medieval sherds were recovered including an imported 16th century stoneware sherd.
Project dates	Start: 27-04-2016 End: 03-05-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23828 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BUX 045 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	1186 and 1187/15 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	279814 - LBS No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	BRICK FLOOR 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 MID SUFFOLK BUXHALL COCKERELLS HALL, RATTLEDEN ROAD
Postcode	IP14 3DR
Study area	40 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9867 5770 52.181224307887 0.906275334114 52 10 52 N 000 54 22 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	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	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Cockerells Hall, Rattlesden Road, Buxhall, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2016
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	29 June 2016

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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