

**Hall Farm, The Village,
Rushbrooke, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/17/2141/FUL

HER Ref: RGH 099

Archaeological Evaluation/Monitoring Report

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

(February 2018)

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Site details for HER

Name: Hall Farm, The Village, Rushbrooke, Suffolk, IP30 0ES

Client: Thurlow Nunn Standen for R C Browne & Son

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: DC/17/2141/FUL

Development: Erection of workshop building with hardstanding

Date of fieldwork: 2 February, 2018

HER ref: RGH 099

OASIS: johnnewm1-307615

Grid ref: TL 8870 6192

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Summary: Rushbrooke, Hall Farm, The Village (RGH 099, TL 8870 6190) while specified as a monitoring due to the works having to start with a substantial ground reduction the archaeological investigation was carried out as a trenched evaluation. By area 12% of the development area was sampled and this did not reveal any features except an anticipated filled-in pond containing material of 20th century date and the upcast spoil at the site only contained a few stray finds of a similar date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Thurlow Nunn Standen & R C Browne & Son).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Thurlow Nunn Standen on behalf of their client R C Browne & Son 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 notices for application DC/17/2141/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr H Cutler of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Schemes 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 agricultural workshop building with associated hardstanding at Hall Farm, The Village, Rushbrooke.

1.2 Rushbrooke parish is located to the south-east of Bury St Edmunds on the eastern side of the upper part of the River Lark. Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk depicts a parish with evidence of major change in the earlier Post medieval period with extensive parkland having been created around Rushbrooke Hall with the hall site being 700m south-east of Hall Farm. The creation of this park around a major country house, that was the seat of the Jermyn family in the 16th to 17th century period, in all likelihood leading to cottages and farms of medieval origin having to be relocated outside the parkland. The planned development site at Hall Farm (see Fig. 1) is on the western side of a farm complex that has seen development in the recent past and it is 750m north-west of the now isolated parish church.

1.3 The British Geological Survey describes the superficial deposits in this area as being chalky till of the Lowestoft Formation with outwash sands, gravels and silts with this site being at c70m OD in an area of gentle topography that drops away over c450m to the north-east where a small stream flows on a north-west to south-east direction.

1.4 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location within or close to the area defined in the Historic Environment Record (HER) of the site of a deserted medieval village (HER RBK 038) which has been recorded as earthworks in a pasture field and close to recorded scatters of medieval pottery sherds (HER RBK 011 & 012) also indicative of past settlement areas. These recorded sites in all likelihood having been abandoned when the park at Rushbrooke Hall was created in the earlier Post medieval period.

2. Monitoring/evaluation methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site and following discussion with the client's agent and the contractor it was agreed that evaluation type trenching rather than monitoring of ground works would be more appropriate and effective for the archaeological investigation as ground reduction by up to one metre across the site was planned to prepare it for the construction works. This trenching was carried out

on a grid basis using a large 360 machine equipped with a 1.80m wide flat bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Any indistinct areas in the trenches were examined by hand and the upcast spoil was scanned by eye and briefly with a metal detector for stray finds that might be indicative of past activity in the area. At all times conditions for site visibility were good. The trenches were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a number of digital images were taken in order to record the investigation (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 In summary the trenching results are summarised in Table 1 below (in addition see Fig. 2 and Appendix- Images).

| Trench | Orientation | Length (m) | Topsoil (mm) | Subsoil (mm) | Drift geology | Archaeological features and finds |
|--------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | North-south | 28 | 300 | 300 mid brown clay subsoil | Orangey-brown chalky clay with flints | No features or finds |
| 2 | East-west | 24 | 300 | 300 as T1 | As T1 with pockets of stiff light brown clay | Eastern half revealed an anticipated pond filled-in recently, only stray finds of 20 th C date |
| 3 | North-south | 6 | 300 | 300 as T1 | As T1 | No features or finds |
| 4 | East-west | 30 | 300 | 300 as T1 | As T1 | Moderate amount of tree root disturbance |
| 5 | North-south | 12 | 300 | 200 as T1 | As T2 | Northern end revealed southern edge of filled-in pond seen in T2 stray finds all of 20 th C date |
| 6 | North-south | 16 | 300 | 150 as T1 | As T2 | No features, only stray finds of 20 th C date |
| | | 116 (208.80m ²) | 300 | 150-300 | | |

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 Prior to the archaeological investigation 300mm of topsoil was removed from the site of the planned new building and associated hardstanding. Therefore the 116m of 1.80m wide trenching, which represents c12% by area of this development, only removed 150mm, in trench 6 on the eastern side, to 300mm of mid brown clay subsoil in most of the other trenches. Below the subsoil the natural glaciofluvial

deposit exposed proved to be orangey-brown chalky clay with flints and pockets of stiff light brown clay in places.

3.3 Apart from an old water pipe the only feature revealed in the trenching was an anticipated recently filled-in pond in the north-eastern quarter of the planned development area. This feature contained building and other debris of mid-late 20th century date.

3.4 The only finds in the upcast trench spoil were occasional pottery sherds and brick and tile fragments of 19th-20th century date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site is close to recorded evidence for the medieval settlement at Rushbrooke which was disrupted when the park associated with Rushbrooke Hall was created in the earlier Post medieval period this trenched investigation did not reveal any features or finds or pre-20th century date. Therefore archaeological involvement with this development was stopped at this point as the sample trenched area examined at 12% by area of the 1760m² site was in excess of the standard 5% by area normally required for specified evaluations and with a grid trench layout it can be concluded that this area is outside nearby areas of past medieval activity at Hall Farm, Rushbrooke.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Gary Palmer and everyone else on site for their close cooperation during the investigation)

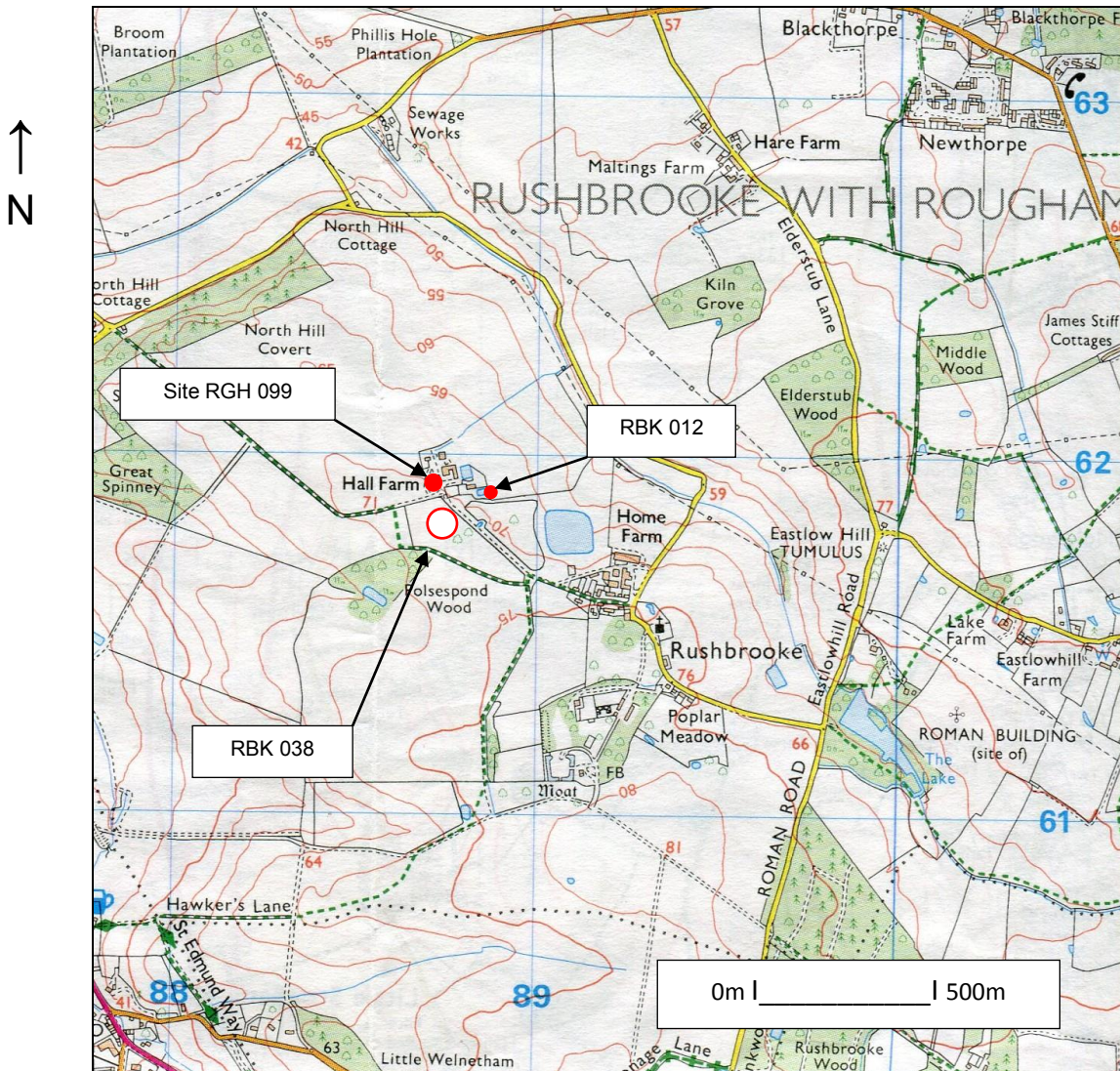


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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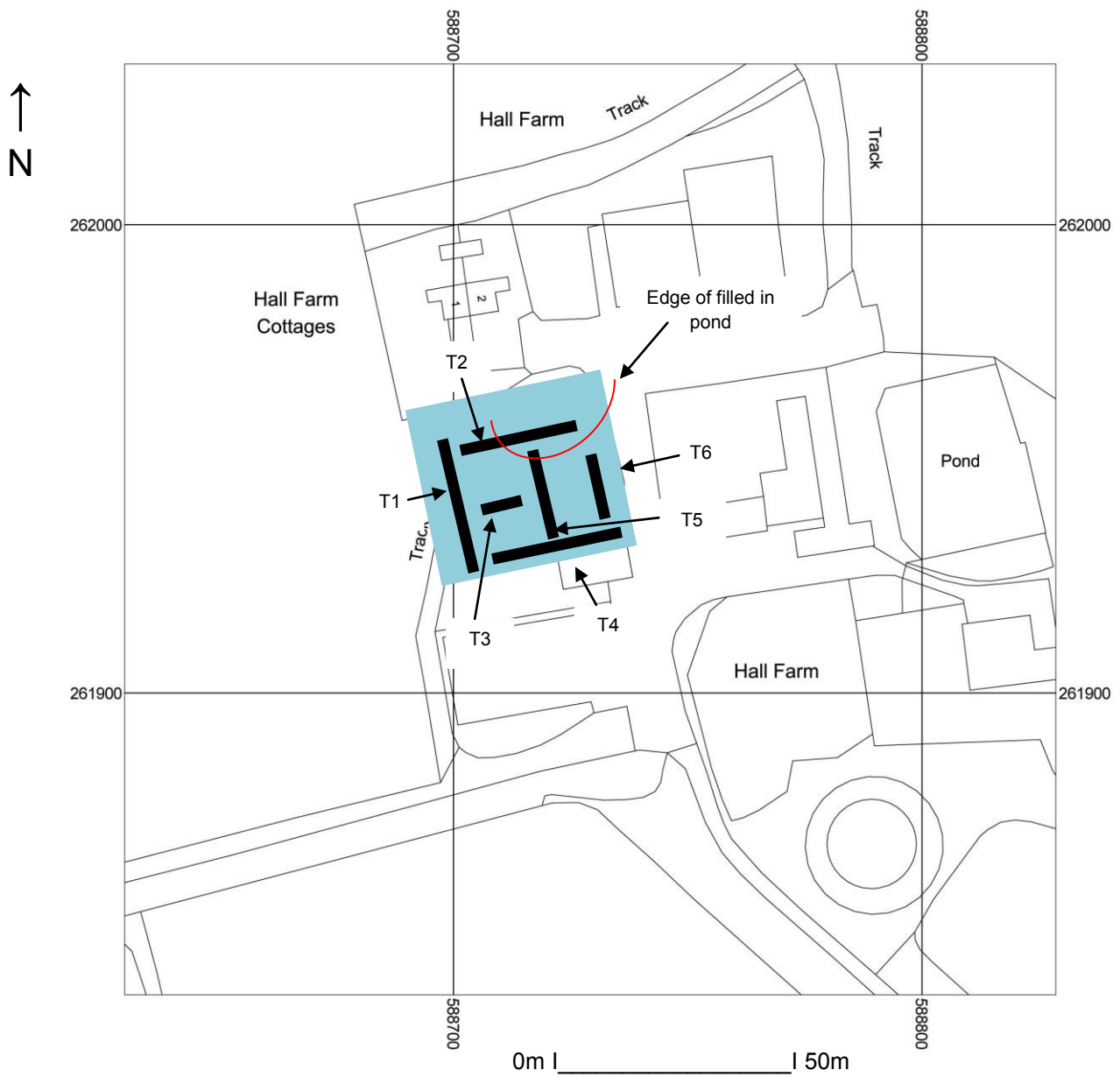


Fig. 2: Location of investigated area with evaluation trenches (light blue- development area)
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2018 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

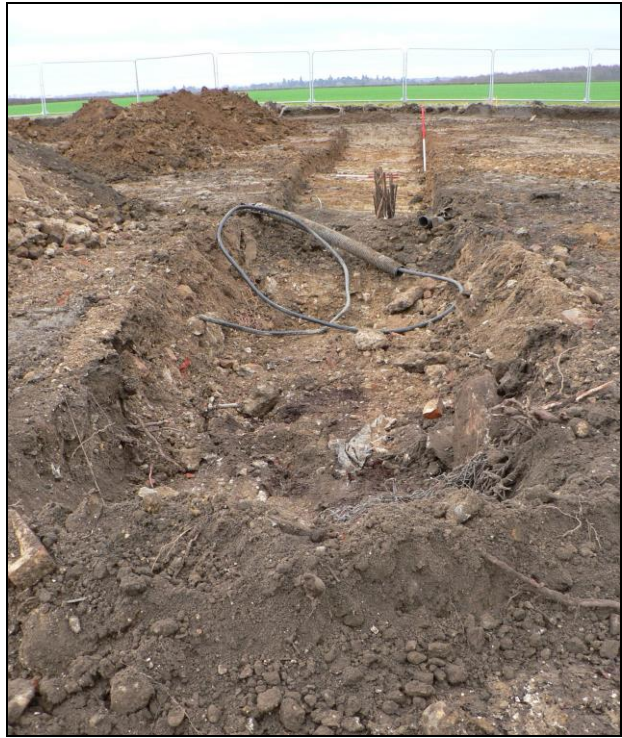
Appendix I- Images



General view from northwest



Trench 1 from south



Trench 2 from east with filled-in pond in foreground



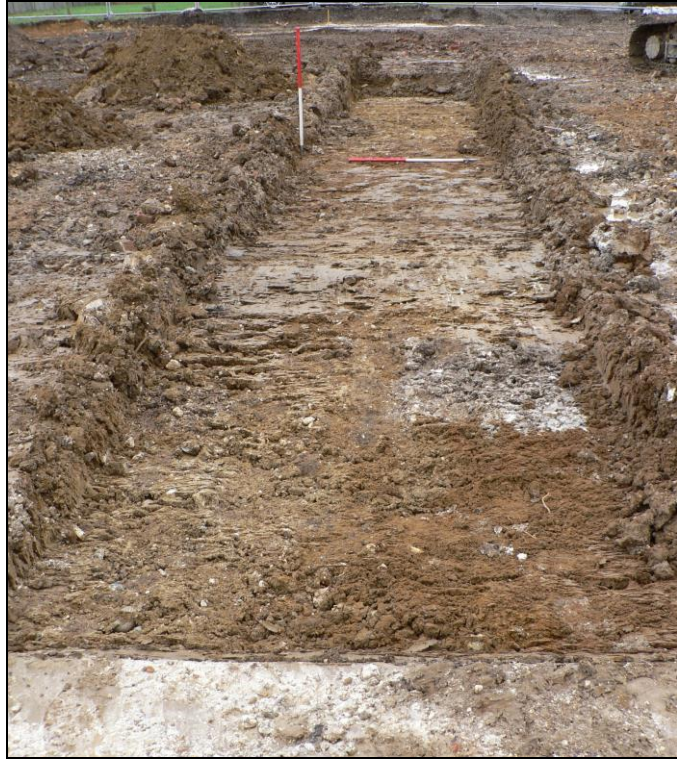
Trench 3 from west



Trench 4 from west



Trench 5 from north



Trench 6 from north dropping into former pond at far end

**Hall Farm, The Village,
Rushbrooke, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/17/2141/FUL

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

Site details

Name: Hall Farm, The Village, Rushbrooke, Suffolk, IP30 0ES

Clients: Thurlow Nunn Standen for R C Browne & Son

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: DC/17/2141/FUL

Proposed development: erection workshop building with hardstanding

Proposed date for ground works: wb 22 January, 2018

Brief ref: tbc

Grid ref: TL 8870 6190

Area: c1300m²

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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 Thurlow Nunn Standen on behalf of their client R C Browne & Son have 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 DC/17/2141/FUL. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for monitoring set by Dr H Cutler of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of an agricultural workshop building with associated hardstanding area at Hall Farm, The Village, Rushbrooke.

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 Rushbrooke parish is located to the south-east of Bury St Edmunds on the eastern side of the upper part of the River Lark. Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk depicts a parish with evidence of major change in the earlier Post medieval period with extensive parkland having been created around Rushbrooke Hall with the hall site being 700m south-east of Hall Farm. The creation of this park around a major country house, that was the seat of the Jermyn family in the 16th to 17th century period, in all likelihood leading to cottages and farms of medieval origin having to be relocated outside the parkland. The proposed development site (PDS) at Hall Farm is on the western side of a farm complex that has seen development in the recent past and it is 750m north-west of the now isolated parish church.

2.2 The British Geological Survey describes the superficial deposits in this area as being chalky till of the Lowestoft Formation with outwash sands, gravels and silts with the PDS being at c70m OD in an area of gentle topography that drops away over c450m to the north-east where a small stream flows on a north-west to south-east direction.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Advice from the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service has highlighted the archaeological potential of this site as it lies near or within the area defined in the Historic Environment Record (HER) of the site of a deserted medieval village (HER RBK 038) which has been recorded as earthworks and pottery scatters during field walking in the late 1970s (HER RBK 011 & RBK 012). The advice then confirms that

the disturbance caused by the relevant ground works for this development can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation by the building contractor.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential, in this case to reveal evidence of medieval settlement activity within the area of the former historic village area. Site monitoring arrangements with the relevant ground works contractor will allow for unimpeded access to the foundation works before other works progress to allow for detailed investigation and recording work. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details related to the exposed overburden and depth of deposit as revealed within the ground works and evidence for the character and date of any past activity that is exposed.

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be the excavation of stanchion pits. In addition any ground reduction works will be monitored, this will be carried out using a flat bucket. These ground works will be monitored during and after excavation and the upcast spoil will be examined for finds. Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office as well as in notice of when the site works are scheduled to start. A search will also be commissioned from the County HER for an area within 250m of the site to inform any positive monitoring results (with the associated invoice reference included in the report).

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under the HER number 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 related to the proposed development, 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 any exposed features.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording and as appropriate a metal detector search will be carried out. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the stanchion pits with sections at appropriate points with adequate being given to carry out these investigations. 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. Where appropriate 40 litre palaeoenvironmental samples 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 relevant SCC Archaeological

John Newman Archaeological Services

Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains. Any such work will incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (in this case the possibility of finding 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 *MoRPHE* and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 6 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 *MoRPHE* 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 4 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 and pdf version will be sent to the County HER in addition to a pdf version for the client for submission to the relevant LPA. The site monitoring will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before works on site 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 and, if appropriate, a vector plan in .dxf format will be provided showing the area examined. The reporting will be commensurate with the findings from the monitoring and at its most basic level will detail the location, circumstances and characteristics of the deposits exposed and any finds that are revealed.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, and ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil. 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 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.

6.5 Close liaison will be maintained with the contractor on site with regard to the depth and stability of the footing trenches and any potential health and safety considerations.

6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Tovergate 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 small finds: | N Crummy (Freelance) |
| Roman pottery & CBM | S Benfield (CAT) |
| Post Roman small finds: | JNAS |

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-307615

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | Hall Farm, The Village, Rushbrooke, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation/Monitoring Report |
| Short description of the project | Rushbrooke, Hall Farm, The Village (RGH 099, TL 8870 6190) while specified as a monitoring due to the works having to start with a substantial ground reduction the archaeological investigation was carried out as a trenched evaluation. By area 12% of the development area was sampled and this did not reveal any features except an anticipated filled-in pond containing material of 20th century date and the upcast spoil at the site only contained a few stray finds of a similar date. |
| Project dates | Start: 02-02-2018 End: 02-02-2018 |
| Previous/future work | Yes / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | RGH 099 - HER event no. |
| Any associated project reference codes | DC/17/2141/FUL - Planning Application No. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Other 3 - Built over |
| Monument type | POND Modern |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Investigation type | ""Watching Brief"" |
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Project location | |
| Country | England |
| Site location | SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY RUSHBROOKE WITH ROUGHAM HALL FARM, THE VILLAGE |
| Postcode | IP30 0ES |
| Study area | 600 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TL 8870 6190 52.222460878273 0.762955880625 52 13 20 N 000 45 46 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 69m Max: 70m |
| 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 | Discarded |
| 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 | Hall Farm, The Village, Rushbrooke, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation/Monitoring Report |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Newman, J |
| Date | 2018 |
| Issuer or publisher | John Newman Archaeological Services |
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| Description | Loose bound client report and pdf |
| Entered by | John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com) |
| Entered on | 20 February 2018 |