

**Lodge Farm, Kirton,
Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/18/2879/FUL

HER Ref: KIR 067

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(January 2019)

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Site details for HER

Name: Lodge Farm, Kirton, Suffolk, IP10 0QE

Client: Kirton Farming Ltd

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application refs: DC/18/2879/FUL

Development: Erection of agricultural building

LPA Archaeological advisor: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Date of fieldwork: 7 & 8 November and 4 December, 2018

HER ref: KIR 067

OASIS: johnnewm1-332364

Grid ref: TM 2849 4100

Size: 800m²

Previous land use: Edge of farmyard/arable land

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Summary: Kirton, Lodge Farm (KIR 067, TM 2849 4100) monitoring of ground works for a new agricultural building in an area where evidence from aerial photographs indicate the presence of past field systems did not reveal any archaeological features though disturbance on any scale was limited to 18 small stanchion pits. However a small number of medieval pottery sherds indicative of activity in the area between the 11th and 13th/14th century were recovered as stray finds from the upcast spoil during the initial topsoil strip (John Newman Archaeological Services for Kirton Farming Ltd).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Allfarm Installations Ltd on behalf of Kirton Farming Ltd commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under conditions for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application DC/18/2879/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set by Dr H Cutler of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy these conditions 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 an agricultural building at Lodge Farm, Kirton (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Kirton parish is located on the northern side of the Felixstowe peninsula in south-east Suffolk with its eastern boundary being formed by the lower, tidal, reaches of the River Deben. Lodge Farm is in an isolated location in the northern part of the parish some 1250m north-east of the church and village centre and 500m south of where the Mill River runs into Kirton Creek on the western side of the River Deben.

1.3 Topographically Lodge Farm is close to the 25m OD contour in an area of gentle topography with the British Geological Survey describing the superficial deposits as being sands and gravel of the Kesgrave catchment indicating a freely drained area with light soils.

1.4 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location in an area where earthworks and cropmarks (HER KIR 003) of uncertain date have been recorded on aerial photographs. In addition the planned site for this building is 550m west of a farm reservoir site (HER KIR 055) where evidence for activity of Bronze Age date has been recorded.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Initially two site visits were made to monitor the stripping of overburden from the new build area followed by a further visit to monitor the excavation of the stanchion base pits for the planned building. This work was undertaken using a 360 machine which was under continuous archaeological supervision with weather conditions on each visit being dry and sunny giving good site visibility. During the monitoring of both the soil strip, which was done with a wide toothless bucket, and stanchion base pits any indistinct areas that impacted on the local natural glaciofluvial deposits were cleaned manually to aid interpretation and the upcast spoil was examined closely for archaeological finds. Finally the extent of the ground works 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) including a representative number of the stanchion pits.

3. Results

3.1 The initial soil strip was between 500mm at the western end of the planned footprint area and 300mm at the eastern end. This entailed the removal of 300mm of topsoil and 200mm of mid brown sandy subsoil over the western third of the site decreasing to just topsoil over the eastern quarter of the area. This soil strip revealed small areas of the underlying natural glaciofluvial yellow sand with flints in the western third of the site where the strip was at its deepest but no archaeological features though a small number of pottery sherds and a single coin were recovered as stray finds (see below) and a low density of brick and tile fragments of recent date was also noted.

3.2 Following the soil strip the new build area was covered with a geotextile membrane before being covered with a 150mm deep layer of hard core. Once this was in place the stanchion pad base pits were excavated across the footprint area (see Fig. 2) and this work was monitored during a third site visit. Eighteen stanchion pits in total were excavated with each being 1500mm by 1000mm and 800mm to 900mm deep. In the western third of the site these pits cut directly into the local natural sand with flints with the mid brown sandy subsoil deposit at the site increasing gradually to a depth of 300mm at the eastern end. Again no archaeological features or finds were revealed in this phase of the works.

3.3 Following consultation with Dr H Cutler of SCCAS it was agreed that given the largely negative results of this monitoring an HER search would not be required in this case.

4. The Finds

4.1 The only stray finds of any age recovered from this site were 6 sherds (wt. 30g) and the full report for this group by Sue Anderson is included as Appendix III below. In summary all of the sherds are small and range in date between the 11th century AD, with a Thetford type ware rim sherd, and the 13th/14th century AD period. All of the pottery types are typical for this part of the county though it is interesting to note that a Norfolk type unglazed sherd points to coastal trade.

4.2 The single coin that was recovered is a florin, that is two shillings, of George VI and dated to 1948.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While the site for the new farm building is in an area where evidence from aerial photographs indicates the presence of former field boundaries no features were recorded in the soil strip, which only exposed small areas of natural deposits, or in the 18 stanchion pits. However the 18 stanchion pits represent a small proportion, at 3.4% by area, of the new build footprint and therefore it is possible that archaeological features cross the site but in this case were not exposed in the limited disturbance that went below the subsoil level.

5.2 However the small group of 11th to 13th/14th pottery sherds is of interest as they suggest that a farm or small hamlet of this date existed in this remote part of Kirton parish in the Lodge Farm area.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to everyone on site for their close cooperation during the monitoring and to Sue Anderson for her specialist finds work)

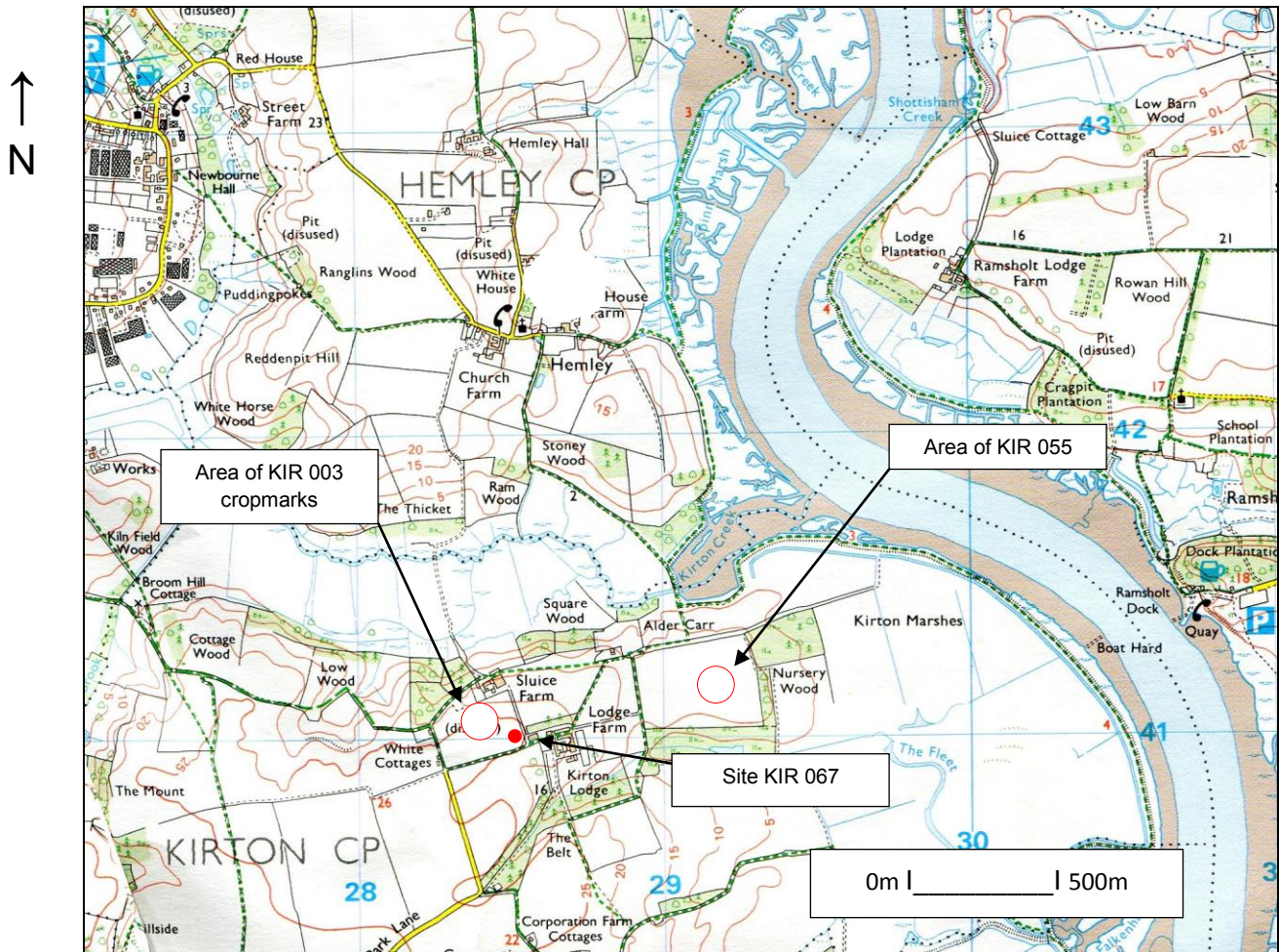


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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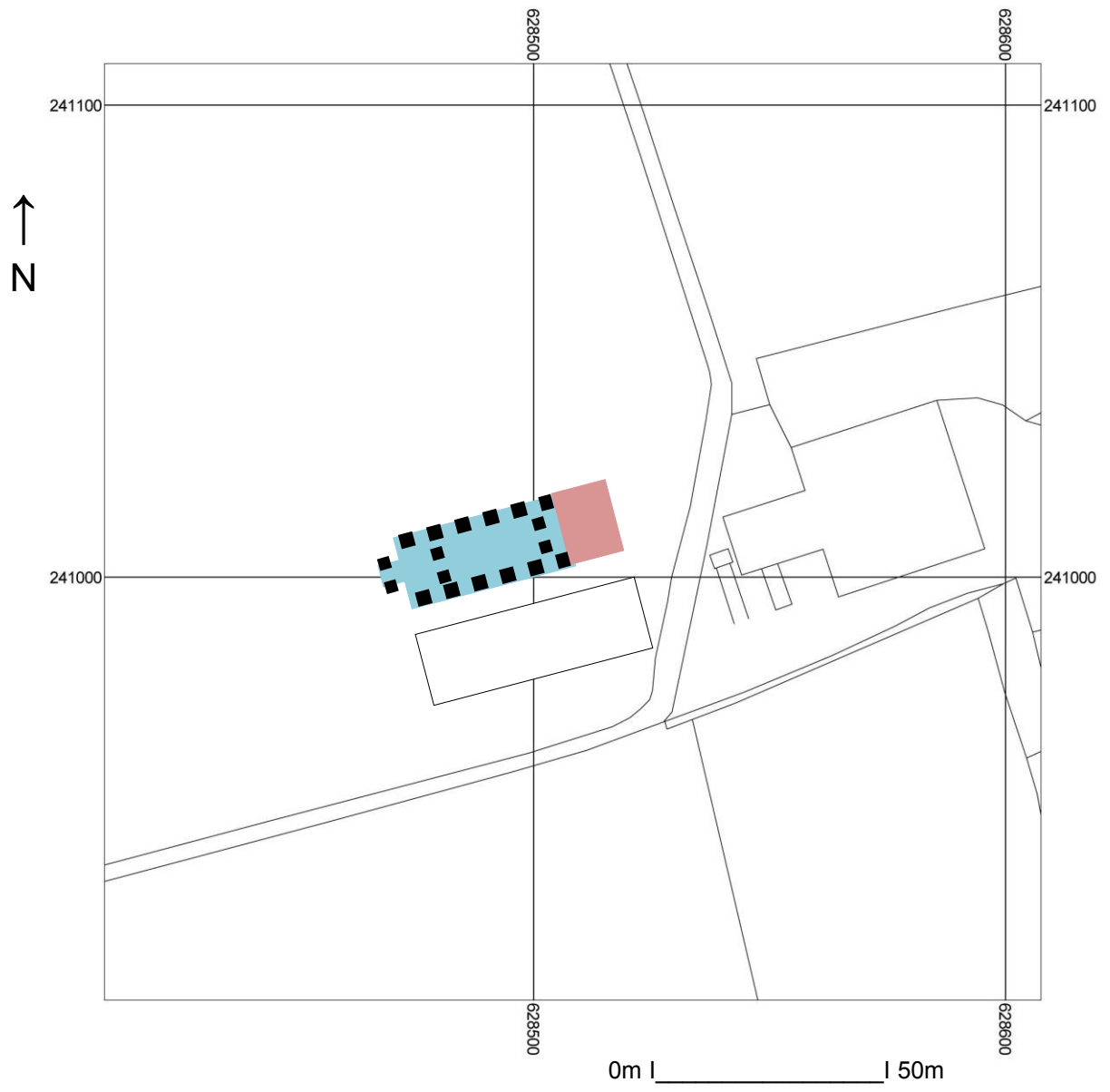


Fig. 2: Monitored area with stanchion pits
(light blue- footprint area, mauve- yard area)
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2019 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



General view from southwest during soil strip



Stanchion pit at east end



Stanchion pit at west end



Stanchion pit on north side



Stanchion pit on south side

**Lodge Farm, Kirton,
Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/18/2879/FUL

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

Site details

Name: Lodge Farm, Kirton, Suffolk, IP10 0QE

Client: G H & J G Paul

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/15/2536/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of an agricultural building

Brief ref: SCCAS (HJC)_Brief for continuous archaeological recording_Lodge Farm, Kirton_2018_2879(1)

Proposed date for ground works: November/December, 2018

Grid ref: TM 2849 4100

Current land use: Edge of farmyard

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2. Location, Topography & Geology
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1. Introduction

1.1 Allfarm Installations Ltd on behalf of their client G H & J G Paul 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 application DC/18/2879/FUL. 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 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 building at Lodge Farm, Kirton.

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 Kirton parish is located on the northern side of the Felixstowe peninsula in south-east Suffolk with its eastern boundary being formed by the lower, tidal, reaches of the River Deben. Lodge Farm is in an isolated location in the northern part of the parish some 1250m north-east of the church and village centre and 500m south of where the Mill River runs into Kirton Creek on the western side of the River Deben.

2.2 Topographically the Lodge Farm is close to the 25m OD contour in an area of gentle topography with the British Geological Survey describing the superficial deposits as being sands and gravel of the Kesgrave catchment indicating a freely drained area with light soils.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant brief 'This site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the County Historic Environment Record. Cropmarks and earthworks visible on aerial photographs are directly adjacent to the site (KIR 003) which is also away from the field edge, suggesting less potential for disturbance. Thus, there is high potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance within this area, and groundworks associated with the development have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains which exist.'

3.2 The archaeological advice 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.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above Lodge Farm lies in a location with high archaeological potential to contain evidence for past activity as indicated by evidence recorded on aerial photographs of this area showing cropmarks representing past activity of uncertain date though a prehistoric to Roman date seems likely. 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 representing multi-period past land use.

5. Methodology

5.1 To inform any positive results from the monitoring a search will be commissioned from the County HER covering the area within 500m of the PDS with the relevant invoice number noted in the report.

5.2 Initial works at the site will be a shallow topsoil strip which will be monitored as it is undertaken. Following this a layer of stable material will be laid down and then the stanchion pits for the planned structure will be excavated. Again this excavation work will be monitored as the pits are opened with allowance to enter them and investigate any exposed deposits. 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 and to scan the exposed surface and later the upcast spoil and the stanchion pits with a metal detector in addition to visually examining the surface and spoil for stray finds.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under an 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 sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover with the monitored stanchion pits 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.

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated (contained features half sectioned within the constraints of the pits and linear features examined with 1m wide slots if possible and bonded features cleaned and recorded and sectioned if they cannot be left in situ) and recorded with sections recorded related to the stanchion pit sides with levels OD. Even if no archaeological

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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 at the site. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litres) 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 and the Coroner 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).

5.5 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 under the '*Archaeological Archives in Suffolk- Guidelines for preparation and deposition*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2015). If this is not possible then the relevant 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.

5.6 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 4 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. As necessary the site digital archive will deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.7 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 site visibility. 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). A draft .pdf 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 for the County HER, a pdf copy will also be sent to the client's agent 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

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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.

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.

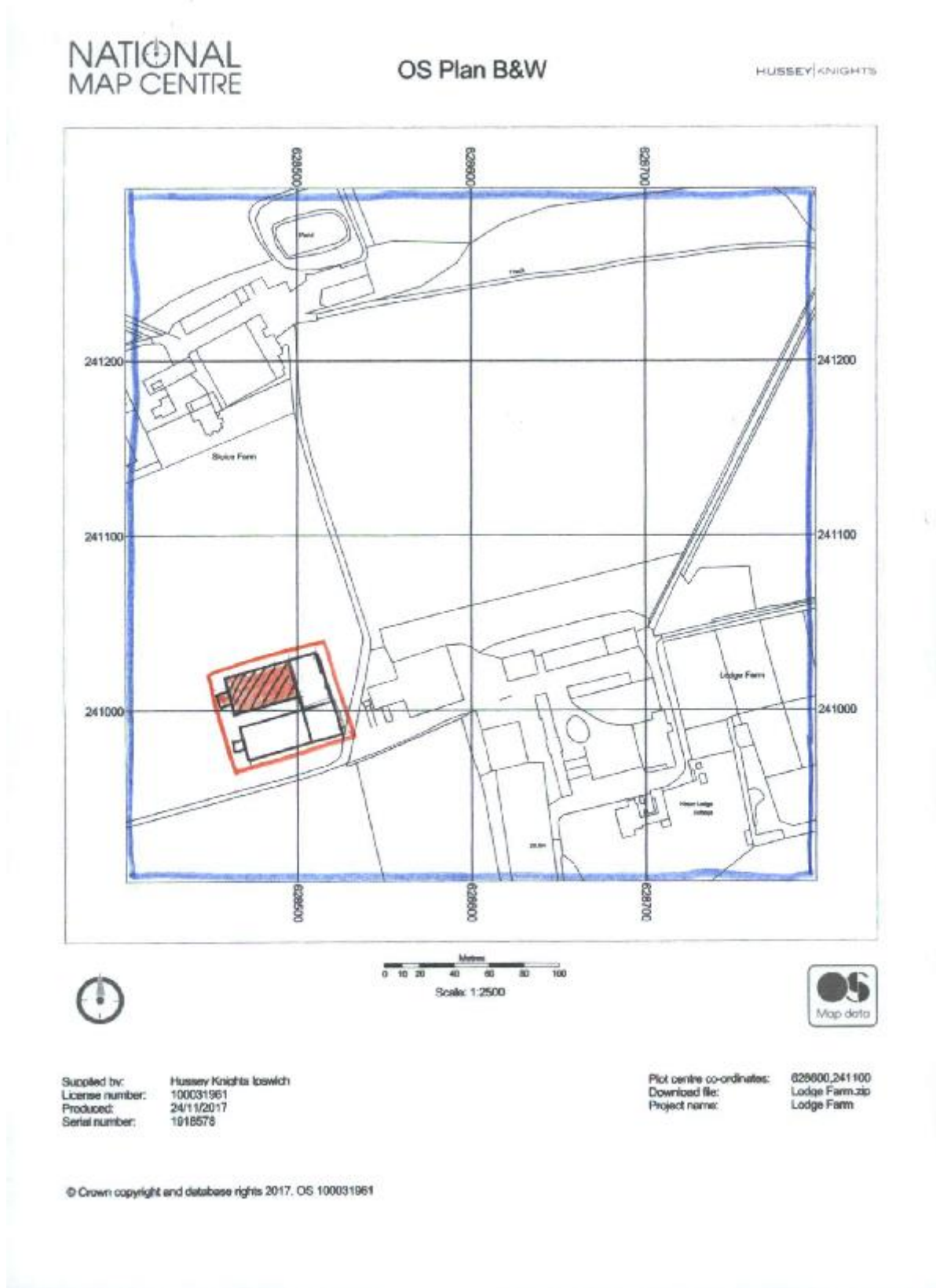
6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

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)
Roman period small finds	N Crummy

Post Roman small finds:

JNAS



Proposed new agricultural building

Appendix III-The Pottery

Lodge Farm, Kirton (KIR 067): pottery

Sue Anderson, January 2019

Six sherds (30g) of medieval pottery were recovered as unstratified finds; all sherds were abraded. One rim fragment was from a Thetford-type ware jar (THET; Anderson 2004 type 6) of probable 11th-century date. One small body fragment was a thin-walled early medieval ware (EMW), and there was a body sherd of Norfolk-type local medieval unglazed ware (LMU). There were three body sherds of Hollesley ware (HOLL; L.13th-14th c.). The presence of Hollesley ware is not unexpected given the proximity of the production site, and Hollesley-type wares predominated at nearby Trimley (Blofield Hall; Anderson 2001). Norfolk-type LMU is found in north-east Suffolk at sites along the Waveney Valley and occasionally occurs at sites along the coast. On this site it is likely to pre-date the production of Hollesley wares.

Although this is a small assemblage, very little medieval pottery has been recovered from fieldwork in Kirton in recent times, and the material should be retained in the archive.

References

Anderson, S., 2001, *Post-Roman Pottery from Trimley St. Mary (Sites TYY 021, 026, 027, 029)*. Archive report for SCCAS.

Anderson, S., 2004, 'The Pottery', in Wallis, H., *Excavations at Mill Lane, Thetford*, East Anglian Archaeology Report No. 108, 67–86.

Appendix: summary catalogue of pottery

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Spot date
0001	THET	R	1	9	1	medium AB jar	6	11th c.
0001	EMW	U	1	2	1			11th-12th c.
0001	LMU	U	1	4	1			11th-14th c.
0001	HOLL	U	3	15	3			L.13th-14th c.

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-332364

Project details

Project name	Lodge Farm, Kirton, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Kirton, Lodge Farm (KIR 067, TM 2849 4100) monitoring of ground works for a new agricultural building in an area where evidence from aerial photographs indicate the presence of past field systems did not reveal any archaeological features though disturbance on any scale was limited to 18 small stanchion pits. However a small number of medieval pottery sherds indicative of activity in the area between the 11th and 13th/14th century were recovered as stray finds from the upcast spoil during the initial topsoil strip.
Project dates	Start: 07-11-2018 End: 04-12-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	KIR 067 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/18/2879/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Modern
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL KIRTON LODGE FARM
Postcode	IP10 0QE
Study area	800 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 2849 4100 52.019714998376 1.330556873498 52 01 10 N 001 19 50 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23m Max: 24m
Project creators	
Name of	John Newman Archaeological Services

Organisation	
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","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Lodge Farm, Kirton, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henley, Suffolk
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