

LAND OFF NOYES AVENUE, LAXFIELD, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report Number: 1108 August 2015



LAND OFF NOYES AVENUE, LAXFIELD, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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August 2015

Site Code	LXD 081	NGR	TM 294 722	
Event Number	ESF 23186	NGK	111 254 722	
Planning Ref.	3997/14	OASIS	britanni1-218590	
Approved By:	Matt Adams	Date	August 2015	



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Abstract

On the 17th August 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation on Land off Noyes Avenue, Laxfield, Suffolk (TM 294 722), (Fig. 1) in advance of the construction of two dwellings, four flats and associated works.

The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for medieval and post medieval features and finds relating to the medieval core of the village. No archaeological features were encountered in either of the trenches.

The evaluation revealed only two phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site was Made Ground layer 1000 relating to the construction of the 1970's buildings on the sites western boundary.

The second and final phase of activity relates to subsoil layer 1002, which was encountered in Trench 2 and was only present in the southern area of the site. It is likely that subsoil 1002 relates to a former agricultural plough soil present on the site when the area was formerly fields before the villages expansion in the mid-20th century.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 17th August 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation on Land off Noyes Avenue, Laxfield, Suffolk (TM 294 722), (Fig. 1) in advance of the construction of two dwellings, four flats and associated works. A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Antrobus, A. Dated 7th July 2015) required a total of two trial trenches, one measuring 15.00m x 1.80m and one measuring 10.00 x 1.80m (Fig. 3) be excavated.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located in the village of Laxfield, Suffolk, which is located approximately 7 km north of the town of Framlingham. The site lies north-west of the road known as Noyes Road on a single parcel of land which is currently an open garden, (Fig. 1). The bedrock geology is described as Crag Group sands, a suite of shallow-water marine and estuarine sands formed during the Pleistocene Epoch. (BGS, 2015).

Superficial deposits at the site are described as Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions. (BGS, 2015).

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation is to be carried out on the recommendation of the county council (SCCAS/CT), following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaced *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, DCLG 2010) in March 2012. The relevant local planning policy is the *Mid Suffolk District Local Plan;* (1998) which is due to be replaced with the *Mid Suffolk District Local Development Framework* in the near future.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figures 2 & 3)

The following archaeological background utilises the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), Historic England PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2, 3 & 4). There are 55 monument entries, 7 events and confidential PAS (Portable Antiquity Scheme) records. 34 listed building entries were also returned within the 1km search area. The site is located in the village of Laxfield, Suffolk, which is located approximately 7km north of the town of Framlingham.

The SHER search returned two entries dating to the prehistoric period. One of these entries, (MSF 2890) located approximately 750m south-east of the site relates to the discovery of a Bronze Age bored stone 'battle axe' in the former half of the 20th century at Street Farm. The only other prehistoric record is confidential in nature and relates to prehistoric metal work found north of the current site.



The Romano-British period marked a significant change in development for the wider area with Camulodunum (Colchester) becoming the Roman Capital of Britannia. Laxfield is located approximately half way between Camulodunum and Venta Icenorum (Caistor St Edmund) the civitas for the modern areas of Norfolk, northern Suffolk and eastern Cambridgeshire. Several monument records were returned by the SHER search dating to the Roman period. These all relate to pottery scatters (MSF 2881, 2903, 2904, 2907 and 2910) located indirectly to the north and south of the current site.

There are scant records relating to the Saxon period within the SHER search. The Church of All Saints (MSF 11187) within the village core and to the north-east of the current site is known to have been present during the early medieval period and was possibly an early Minster. Small finds made within the churchyard (MSF 2912 – a coin and finger ring) relate to this early foundation of the church.

The medieval period is represented by 19 monument records returned by the SHER search making it the best represented period in the 1km search area. The most relevant records to the current site returned by the search are MSF 2896, 2905, 2911 and 25083. MSF 2896 and MSF 2905 are pottery scatters dating to the 13th – 15th and 14th centuries located some 250m to the south and south-east of the current site respectively. A further pottery scatter dating from the 11th and 16th centuries was found some 200m to the south-west of the current site (MSF 2911). An archaeological monitoring some 150m to the west of the current site (MSF 25083) revealed 11th through 16th century pottery, although the resulting report remains unpublished. During the later medieval period the Church of All Saints was remodelled. The church was under the appropriation of Eye Priory and seems to have been altered *c*.1480.

The post-medieval period returned 10 monument records from the SHER. The closest post medieval monument record to the site (MSF 2899) lies approximately 50m west and relates to a coin hoard (mid-17th century) and pottery scatter found during construction work at Hartismere House during the 1970's. No listed buildings are located adjacent to the site.

The SHER returned 2 records that were undated within the search area. Given the above records the site had a specific potential for **medieval** and **post medieval** features and finds, relating to the medieval core of the village.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief states that an evaluation is required to enable archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified (Antrobus, A. Brief, Section 3.1).

Section 3.2 of the brief states that the archaeological evaluation is required to:

 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.



- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- · Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and*Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England, East Anglian

Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

The brief also states that the project will need to consider the following objectives:

- To provide for the absolute dating of critical contacts.
- To make the results of the investigation available through suitable reportage.

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figure 6)

The SCCAS/CT brief required the excavation of 25.00 meters of trial trenching in advance of the construction 2 dwellings, four flats and associated works. The trenches were located on the area of the proposed developments (Fig. 5). Trench 1 was located in the north-west of the site and measured 15.00m x 1.80m and was orientated north-west to south-east. Trench 2 was located in the south and measured 10.00m x 1.80m and was orientated north-east to south-west.

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m. No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench.

Made Ground layer 1000 was present to a depth of 0.35m.

8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.43m. No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench. A modern service was present in the centre of the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment.

Made Ground layer 1000 was present to a depth of 0.25m. This layer overlay subsoil layer 1002 which was 0.15m thick to a depth of 0.40m.



9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figure 6)

The deposit model differed slightly between the two trenches.

In both trenches at the top of the stratigraphic sequence was Made Ground layer 1000, comprising light brown grey, loose, sand, silt and clay with frequent CBM rubble and frequent angular flint inclusions. The layer was present to a maximum thickness of 0.35m in Sample Section 1. Throughout this layer there were fragments of 20th century brick, it was noted that the brick was the same as that used in the mid-20th century buildings on the sites western boundary. As well as brick there was modern glass and polythene fragments throughout the layer. None of the above finds were retained.

In Trench 2 beneath Made Ground 1000 was subsoil layer 1002, comprising dark grey brown, compact, clayey silt with occasional sub angular flint pebbles. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.40m in sample section 2.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence in both trenches, was natural geology 1001, comprising mid orange brown, compact, silty clay.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for medieval and post medieval features and finds relating to the medieval core of the village. No archaeological features were encountered in either of the trenches.

The evaluation revealed only two phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site was Made Ground layer 1000. This relates to the construction of the 1970's buildings on the sites western boundary. The site appears to have been used as a construction yard and the topsoil was removed. When construction was finished the area and any material left, e.g. bricks, were levelled.

The second and final phase of activity relates to subsoil layer 1002, which was encountered in Trench 2 and is only present in the southern area of the site. It is likely that subsoil 1002 relates to a former agricultural plough soil present on the site when the area was formerly fields before the villages expansion in the mid-20th century.

11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thanks Mr Alex Williamson of AECOM for commissioning the project.

We would also like to thank Dr Abby Antrobus at Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service / Conservation Team for her advice and assistance throughout the project.



The site was excavated by Martin Brook, Matt Adams and Daniel McConnell of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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English Heritage PastScape <u>www.pastscape.org.uk</u>

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

English Heritage National List for England www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england

DEFRA Magic http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic



APPENDIX 1 - DEPOSIT TABLES

Deposit Tables

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orienta	tion		Height AOD		Shot ID
1		NW - SE		51.41		DP 1
Sample Section No		Locatio	n		Facing	
1			SW Side	NW End		NE Facing
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0).35m				se, sand, silt and clay with ngular flint inclusions.
1001	0.35m +	+	Natural:	Mid orange brown	, compact	, silty clay.

TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orienta	ition NW - SE		Height AOD 51.17m		Shot ID DP 2
Sample Section No 2		Locatio		NW End	Facing	NE Facing
Context No	Depth		Deposit	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0).25m				se, sand, silt and clay with ngular flint inclusions.
1002	0.25 - 0).40m		Dark grey brown, ular flint inclusions		clayey silt with occasional
1001	0.40m +	ŀ	Natural:	Mid orange brown	, compact	, silty clay.



APPENDIX 2 – OASIS SHEET

OASIS FORM - Print view

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: britanni1-218590

Project details

Project name Land off Noyes Lane, Laxfield, Suffolk

of the project

Short description On the 17th August 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation on Land off Noyes Avenue, Laxfield, Suffolk (TM 294 722), in advance of the construction of two dwellings, four flats and associated works. The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for medieval and post medieval features and finds relating to the medieval core of the village. No archaeological features were encountered in either of the trenches. The evaluation revealed only two phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site was Made Ground layer 1000 relating to the construction of the 1970's buildings on the sites western boundary. The second and final phase of activity relates to subsoil layer 1002, which was encountered in Trench 2 and was only present in the southern area of the site. It is likely that subsoil 1002 relates to a former agricultural plough soil present on the site when the area was formerly fields before the villages

expansion in the mid-20th century. Start: 22-07-2015 End: 29-07-2015 Project dates

Previous/future

No / Not known

Any associated

project reference codes

LXD 081 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type NONE None Significant Finds NONE None Methods &

techniques

"Sample Trenches"

Development type Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)

planning process

Project location

Country England

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OASIS FORM - Print view

SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK LAXFIELD Land off Noyes Lane, Laxfield, Suffolk Site location

Postcode IP13 8ED

Study area 855 Square metres

Site coordinates TM 29496 72279 52.30005488608 1.366333539801 52 18 00 N 001 21 58 E Point

Height OD / Min: 51.17m Max: 51.41m

Depth

Project creators

Name of Britannia Archaeology Ltd Organisation

Project brief originator

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design Dan McConnell

originator

Project

Dan McConnell

director/manager

Project supervisor Dan McConnell

Type of

sponsor/funding

District Council

body

Name of

Mid Suffolk District Council

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive No

Exists?

Digital Archive Suffolk HER recipient

Digital Archive ID LXD 081

Digital Contents "none"

available

Digital Media "Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive Suffolk HER

recipient

Paper Archive ID LXD 081

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media

available

"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project

bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land off Noyes Avenue, Laxfield, Suffolk

Author(s)/Editor(s) Brook M

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R1108 Other

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Site Boundary

R1108

LAND OFF NOYES AVENUE, LAXFIELD, SUFFOLK



GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Britannia Archaeology Ltd



115 OSPREY DRIVE, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK IP14 5UX

1:1250	0	50m			
PLOT: A3	APPROVED: MB	VERSION: 01			
AUG 2015	MCA	FIGURE:			





	HER Search Area
0	Unknown Monument Record
	Post-medieval Monument Record
•	Medieval Monument Record
•	Anglo-Saxon Monument Record
•	Roman Monument Record
•	Bronze Age Monument Record
1	Site Boundary

629490 272280

PROJECT:

LAND OFF NOYES AVENUE, LAXFIELD, SUFFOLK

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DESCRIPTION:

SHER DATA - MONUMENT RECORDS

BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



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SCALE: 0		500m			
1:10000 ==					
PLOT:	APPROVED:	VERSION:			
A3	MB	01			
DATE:	AUTHOR:	FIGURE:			
AUG 2015	MCA	02			





		HER Search Area		
		Archaeological Event		
		Archaeological Event Area		
Conservation Area		Conservation Area		
	5	Site Boundary		

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LAND OFF NOYES AVENUE, LAXFIELD, SUFFOLK

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DESCRIPTION:

SHER DATA - EVENT RECORDS

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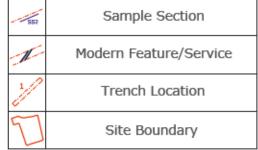
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DESCRIPTION:

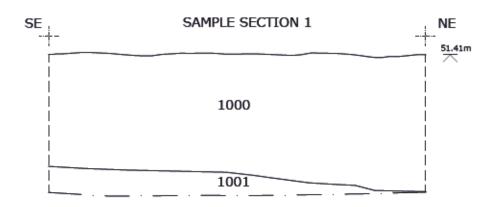
TRENCH & FEATURE PLAN

Britannia Archaeology Ltd



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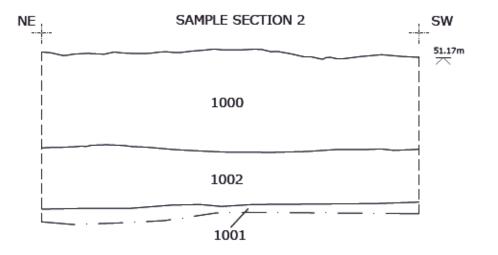
DP1 - Sample Section 1 - View NW



DP3 - Site Shot - View N



DP2 - Sample Section 2 - View SE





DP4 - Site Shot - View E



GR: REPORT NUMBER: R1108

PROJECT:

LAND OFF NOYES AVENUE, LAXFIELD, SUFFOLK

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DESCRIPTION:

SAMPLE SECTION & PHOTOGRAPHS

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