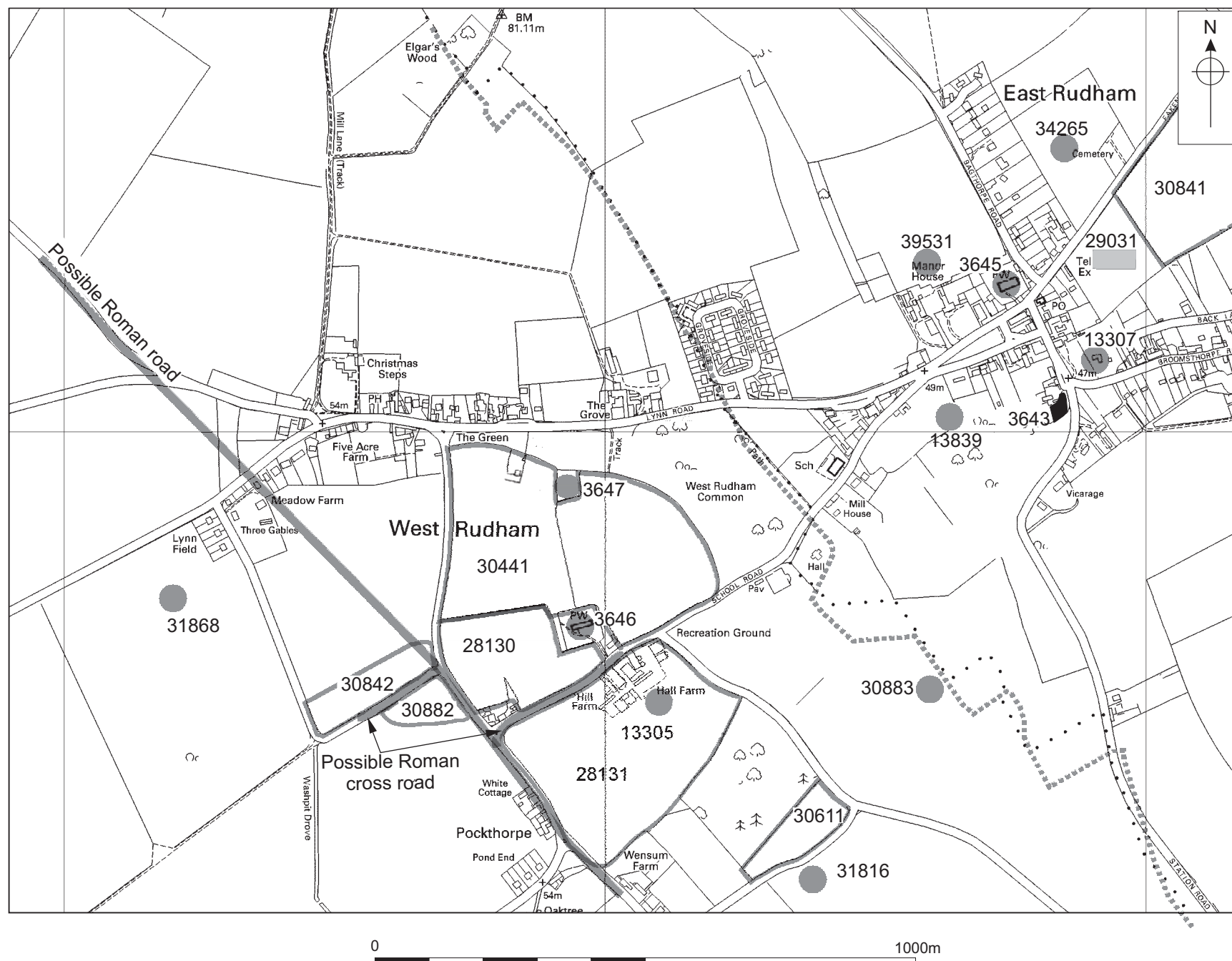


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000



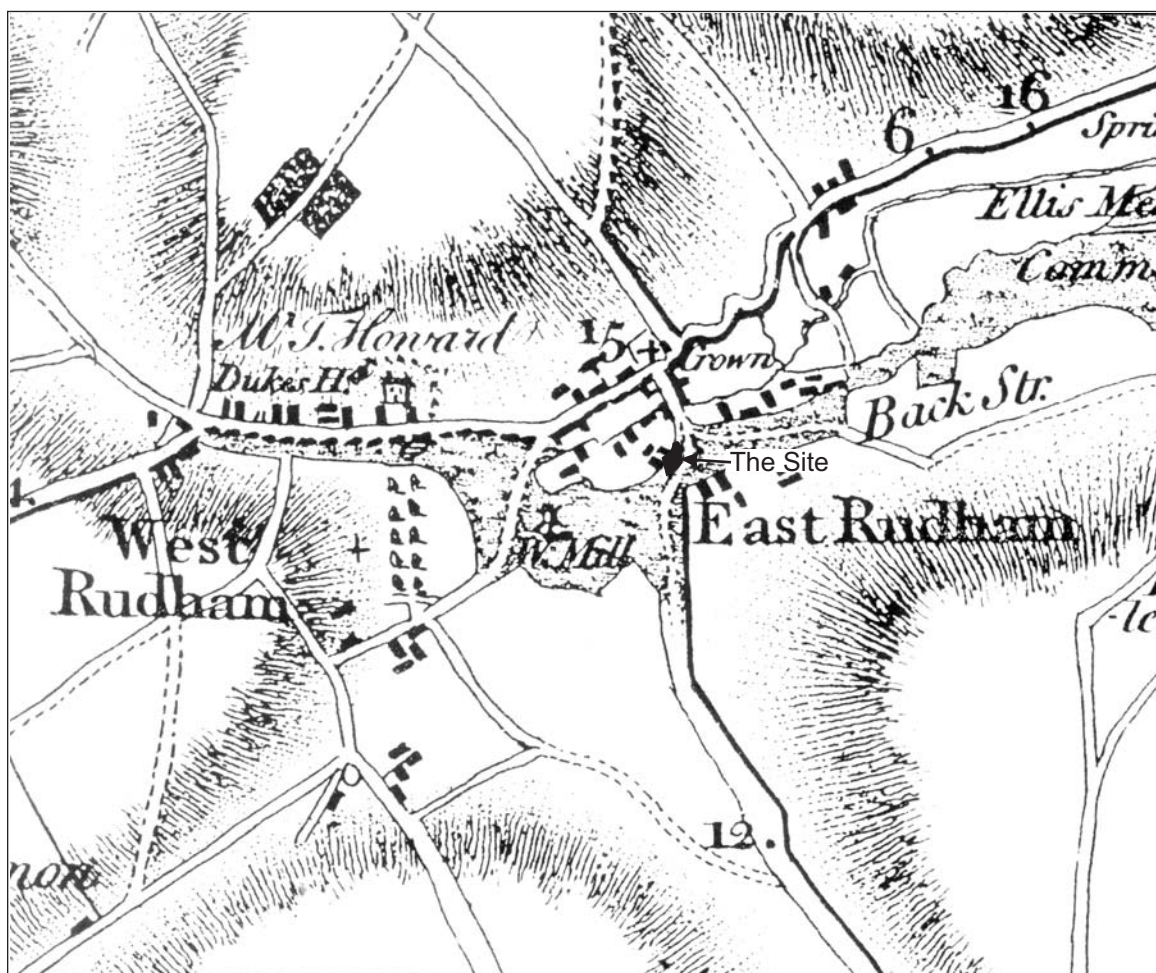


Figure 3. Faden's Map of 1797 (detail). Not to scale



Figure 4. Enclosure Map of 1821. Not to scale



Figure 5. Tithe Map of 1839. Not to scale



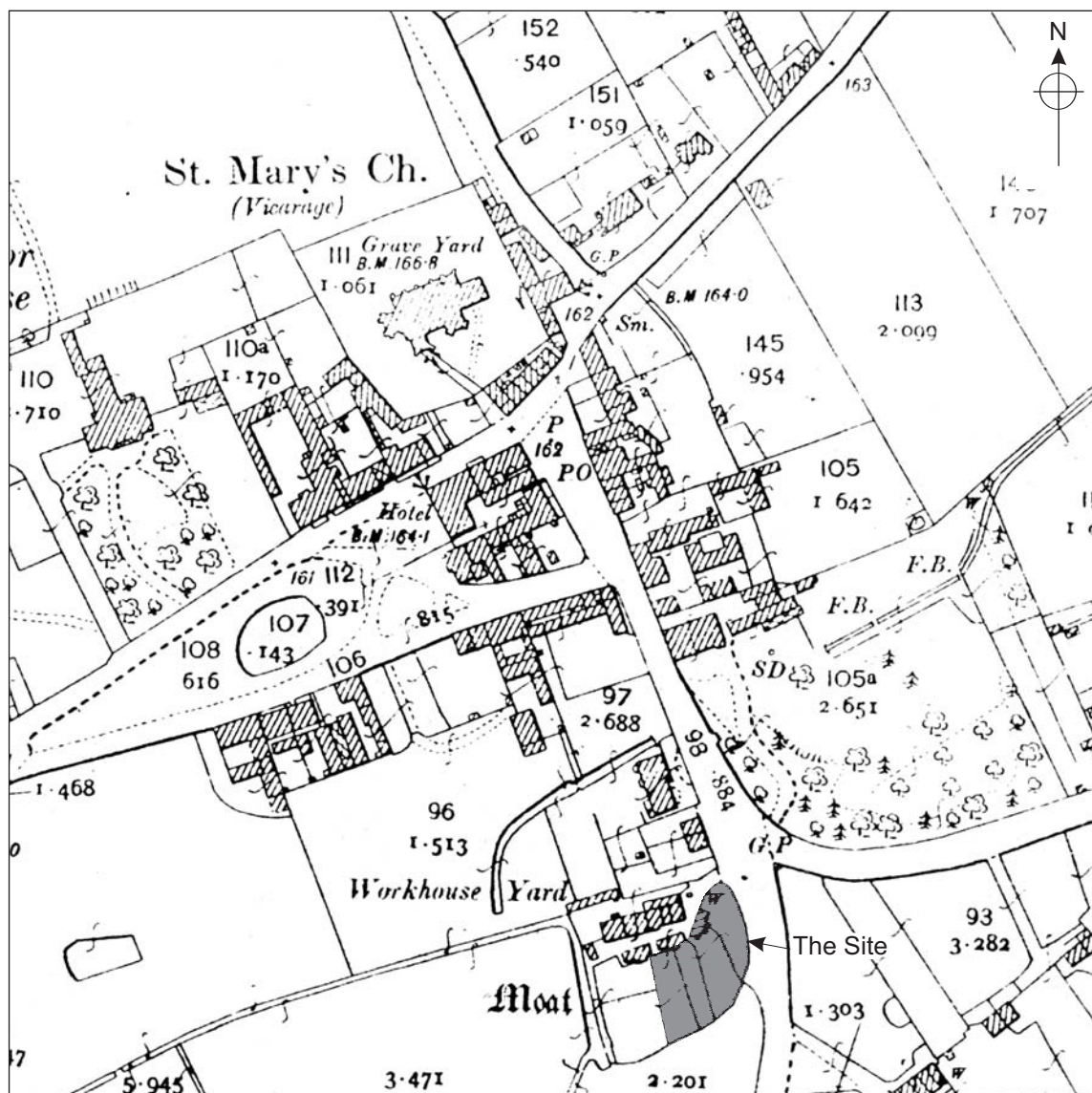


Figure 6. Ordnance Survey 25" Map of 1905. Not to scale

**NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

Report No. 972

**An Archaeological Desk Based Survey of land at  
Faize Cottages,  
East Rudham**

3643 RVE

Kenneth Penn

July 2004

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## **Contents**

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### ***Summary***

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Geology and Topography
- 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background
- 4.0 Cartographic Evidence
- 5.0 Archaeological Observations
- 6.0 The Site Today
- 7.0 Conclusions

### ***Acknowledgements***

### ***Bibliography***

### **Figures**

- Fig.1 Site location
- Fig.2 Selected sites recorded on the Norfolk Historic Environment Record
- Fig.3 Faden's Map of 1797 (detail)
- Fig.4 Enclosure Map of 1821 (detail)
- Fig.5 Tithe Map of 1839 (detail)
- Fig.6 Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1905 (detail)





Location:	Land at Faize Cottages, East Rudham
District:	West Norfolk
Grid Ref:	TF 828 280
HER No.:	3643 RVE
Date of work:	May 2004

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## **Summary**

*This desk based survey of land at Faize Cottages, East Rudham, suggests that the features thought to indicate a moated site of the medieval period are more likely channels of the braided stream that runs through this low common meadow. The manorial history of East Rudham also points to this conclusion, with ecclesiastical owners rather than secular, making a moated site within the village itself less likely. The medieval families connected with the priory of Coxford had lands and estates elsewhere and are unlikely to have established a manorial centre here. The site lies in a village with an important early history, however, and it is possible that evidence of Middle Saxon and other periods exists on the development site.*

## **1.0 Introduction**

(Fig. 1)

The survey area was a plot for proposed development in the village of East Rudham, within the gardens attached to Faize Cottages.

This report was commissioned by G.F. Bambridge of Castle Acre, Norfolk.

This archaeological deskbased assessment was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU Ref: 1741/KJP) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: ARJH 10.02.04).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 — Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

No detailed fieldwork has been carried out in connection with this study, nor has reference been made to Listed Buildings information or other present planning constraints.

## **2.0 Geology and Topography**

(Fig 1)

The site lies in a shallow valley in the uppermost reaches of the River Wensum, here little more than a stream. Rudham, East and West, is set around a large low common along the valley. A moated site (3647) stand on the edge of the common in West Rudham; a possible moated site, the subject of this report (Site 3643), stands on the edge of the common in East Rudham, its 'moat' formed by 'arms' of the stream.

The site lies on the edge of a region of Boulder Clay, but the valley sides expose the underlying Chalk before giving way to the valley alluvium, on the floor of the valley. Above the sides of the valley, on the Boulder Clay, are local deposits of sands and gravels.

## **3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

(Fig. 2)

Rudham lies on the upper reaches of the River Wensum, close to its source and here little more than a stream. At Rudham it runs through meadows, a low common, with the village scattered around its margin. In East Rudham the houses in the centre of the village outline the area of the former medieval market place, now a green, overlooked by the church to the north. The development plot lies to the south. A possible Roman road passes to the west (north-west to south-east). The number of finds made by metal-detector survey since the early 1990s points to a special significance for this location, possibly from the Iron Age onwards, more especially in West Rudham.

### ***Iron Age presence?***

Besides finds of prehistoric flints, Iron Age coins have been found at four sites around the valley: at Site 28131 (coin), Site 30441 (objects), Site 30842 (gold coin), Site 30883 (gold coin), Site 34265 (coin). These were isolated metal-detected surface finds, and no occupation site is known

### ***A Roman crossroads?***

The 'paired villages' of Rudham, East and West, have produced evidence for significant Roman occupation, including a Roman building, close to a probable Roman road. This road (fossilised in part by existing roads) passes by from the south-east, passing by the church at West Rudham, where other minor roads might hint at some earlier crossroads or junction. Roman occupation is well evidenced, with a focus at:

- a masonry building at Site 30883 (and at ?30611)
- area to west of West Rudham church (Sites 28130, 28131, 30441, 30842, 30882)
- ?East Rudham (Sites 30841, 29031).

### ***An important Middle-Saxon centre?***

Finds from around the green point to a Middle-Saxon 'productive site', close to a Roman road and one of several such sites in west Norfolk.

Rogerson (2003) has summarised the evidence relating to a group of such places in west Norfolk, possibly Middle Saxon trading sites, or 'central places'. Most significant are the Early and Middle Saxon finds (coins, metalwork and pottery), pointing to an early centre, perhaps for trade and possibly administration (an 'estate centre'). The sites producing Early and Middle Saxon material lie around the green (Sites 28130, 28131, 30441, 30611, 30841, 29031, 34265, 39531). Some of these lie in East Rudham just to the east of Site 29031, known from air photographs and thought to represent an early medieval church.

### ***Late Saxon Rudham***

Whilst numbers of Late Saxon and medieval finds have come from surface fieldwork here (from the sites already mentioned), they are not unusual in quantity, but nonetheless indicate a settlement of some size, and long established. The Domesday entries for Rudham mentions two churches with 60 acres, a number of 'outliers' to Rudham, and a number of sokemen, all suggesting a former estate centre, or central place (Pestell 2003).

### ***The medieval background***

In Domesday Book, Rudham (rather than East and West) is named, but with several manors, of which the most important was William of Warenne's. All were connected, and there were also connections with outliers at Bagthorpe, Houghton, Barmer, Syderstone and Helhoughton (possibly parts of an earlier large 'estate').

Count Alan		
17		In Rudham, Aelfheah holds ½ carucate, an outlier to Syderstone.
William of Warenne		
107		Ralph [Cheney] has 3 carucates, two churches with 60 acres
108		Outliers at Bagthorpe, Houghton (Ralph), Barmer (Ralph), Syderstone (Ralph), Helhoughton
109		1 carucate held by Lambert with 18 freemen [Castle Acre manor]
Peter de Valognes		
11		½ carucate held by Thorgils

***Table 1. Domesday Book entries for Rudham***

The main manor in Rudham was William of Warenne's, held by his under-tenant Ralph (Cheney, Chesney, Caisneto). It was the Cheney family and descendants (Cheney, Belet, de Say) who founded and remained involved with the Augustinian priory at Rudham (Coxford Priory).

According to the historical evidence, the priory was at first founded in the church of St Mary in Rudham, around 1140 but was moved to a better site in the east of the parish. It may be likely that the church recorded in air photographs (Site 29031) was

its first site, abandoned when a better situation was found in the early 13th century. In the foundation grant by William Cheney, the priory was given the two churches of Rudham (East and West); his son John gave more land and in c. 1215 Belet (m. Cheney) added the manor itself (VCH ii, 378-80).

With the manor passing to the priory, and the families of Cheney, Belet and de Say having lands and manors elsewhere (Blomefield I-XI, *passim*), it is unlikely that a secular manorial site existed in East Rudham, especially close to the centre of the village where the prior had his market (below).

The Prior had a market at Rudham, granted in 1227 (VCH ii, 378), and from 1301 it is recorded that the priors presented to the church (Blomefield VII, 105).

In 1302 East Rudham was held of the heirs of William de Say (Feudal Aids iii, 403) in descent from Ralph, Warenne's under-tenant (VCH ii, 92n). William de Say (a descendant) confirmed all gifts of his father Geoffrey de Say (VCH II, 380). In 1316, the *Nomina Villarum* records that Rudham (East and West) was divided between three ecclesiastical landholders: Coxford Priory, Castle Acre Priory and St Faith's Priory (the latter also held in West Rudham) (Blake 1952, 273).

At the Dissolution the priory and its holdings came to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk (VCH ii, 380) and thence to the Townshend family of Rainham.

The 1905 OS map shows the cottages (Faize Cottages) standing in 'Workhouse Yard'. These date to around 1600 (and are also shown on the Enclosure Map of 1821) and may be the original Poor House; the Census of 1851 records a workhouse in east Rudham and the map seems to be the only available evidence for its location (inf. Joy Lodey).

## 4.0 Cartographic Evidence

(Figs 3, 4, 5 and 6)

The surviving maps are all quite late, and of little help with regard to possible early features. Faden's map of 1797 is the earliest but is at too small a scale for much clear information. The maps are consistent, however, in showing what may be a set of narrow drainage features in the meadows, rather than the remains of a broad moat.

- 1 1797 Faden's Map of Norfolk (Fig. 3) is at a small scale, and shows the river meadow and what must be Faize Cottages and its outbuildings, but no indication of moat or watercourses.
- 2 Enclosure Map of 1821 (NRO C/Sca 2/228) (Fig.4) shows the curved 'drain' to the north, the north to south 'arm' and the curved 'drain' to the south, swinging to the north to meet the first, before turning east (Fig.4). The shape of the whole 'moat' is unlike the outline of a moat and also rather narrow. If it had been filled in then the channels seem too regular and complete.
- 3 1826 Bryant's map of Norfolk is too small and schematic to be of relevance.
- 4 Tithe Map 1839 (NRO DN/TA 569) (Fig.5) shows the south drain very clearly, with its full course to meet the northern 'arm' and continue eastwards. It can be seen that the course runs along the road.
- 5 OS 1" 1st edition. Adds nothing to Faden's map, except to confirm the absence of real change here.

- 6 OS 6" 1st edition 1884 shows that nothing had changed between the earlier 19th century and 1884 or 1905 (next map).
- 7 OS 25" 1905 (Fig.6) shows the site more or less as it is today, with Faize Cottages occupying the centre of the assumed 'moated' area.

## 5.0 Archaeological Observations

(Fig. 2)

Rudham holds a special place in the archaeology of Norfolk, and there has been much work here, almost entirely surface survey by metal-detector. This work has produced evidence of all periods from the Iron Age onwards.

The archaeology concerns three main aspects of Rudham:

- The evidence that Rudham was a place of special significance from the Iron Age onwards, with finds of Iron Age date, indications of a Roman building and activity along a possible Roman road, and evidence of Saxon occupation from the early period, probably continuous from then until the present time.
- Two medieval churches, in East and West Rudham, reflecting the two parts of an original Rudham.
- Hints that the development site occupies part of a medieval moated site (Site 3643), like Site 3647 at the other end of the large green meadow.

### 5.1 West Rudham

**Site 3646:** Church of St Peter. Late Saxon/Norman window. Site of chapel in churchyard.

**Site 3647:** Moat, on the west edge of the 'green'.

**Site 13305:** Hall Farm, 17th century, close to West Rudham church. Successor to moat 3647?

**Site 28130:** fieldwork and metal-detecting over many years. An extensive occupation site of Roman date. Romano-British pottery from whole field, with areas of Romano-British brick/tile, also 100+ Roman coins, objects etc. Four Early Saxon objects, Middle Saxon sherds and several objects from close to church and Late Saxon objects. (Continues to the south as 28131).

**Site 28131:** Finds include: Iron Age coin, six + Roman coins and pottery. Two Early Saxon objects (include a gold ring), Middle Saxon coin, objects including strapends, pins, brooches, sherds. Numbers of Late Saxon objects and 200+ pottery sherds. Medieval sherds.

**Site 30441:** Iron Age objects. Roman objects, including numbers of coins, brooches. A Middle Saxon object. Late Saxon objects, coins, a brooch, strapend and stirrup mount. Medieval objects in quantity.

**Site 30611:** Five Roman coins and two brooches. Six Early Saxon objects and pottery sherds. Also two Late Saxon strapends. Many medieval objects.

**Site 30842:** (continues into 30882): Finds include: Iron Age gold coin. Twenty-five + Roman coins, brooches, pin, etc. Late Saxon tag.

**Site 30882:** Finds include: Ten Roman coins.



**Site 30883:** To the south of the green, close to the East/West Rudham boundary, evidence for a Roman masonry building, with fragments of glass etc. Finds include: Iron Age gold coin, 90+ Roman coins, Romano-British objects and pottery, Ten + Early Saxon objects

**Site 31816:** Early Saxon object.

**Site 31868:** Early Saxon object.

## **5.2 East Rudham**

**Site 3643:** Shown as 'Moat' on earlier OS maps: the subject of this report. The present wet ditches are assumed to indicate its extent and to be the remains of the assumed moat. The Tithe Map shows stream as a loop around the south side of Workhouse Yard.

**Site 3645:** Church of St Mary.

**Site 13307:** 21-22 East Rudham (Faize Cottages). Listed Buildings of c. 1600. Lie within the 'moated' area, to the north of the development plot. Possibly the poor House.

**Site 13839:** low earthworks (see APs OS 73 053 236; OS 76 019 075). Rectangular enclosures, in pasture, probably drainage features.

**Site 29031** A large cruciform church seen on air photographs. Perhaps the original church here, taken over by Coxford Priory as its first home (before moving in 1216 to a site east of the village).; alternatively, it may be a second parish church for East Rudham (see APs TF 8228/A-E,K-W, AB-AF, AG-AQ, AR-AY). Finds from this field include: Romano-British brooch, Early Saxon mount and Late Saxon brooches, strapend and pottery, medieval sherds.

**Site 30841:** Sixteen + Roman coins, two Early Saxon objects, three Middle Saxon coins and a brooch, medieval objects, including buckles, dress fittings (see APs TF 8328/AB, TF 8228/AR-AV).

**Site 34265:** finds are: Iron Age coin, Romano-British brooch, coins, etc. Early Saxon objects, Middle Saxon objects and sherds, Late Saxon sherds.

**Site 39531** Finds include: Roman coin and a Middle Saxon spoon.

## **6.0 The Site Today**

Faize Cottages stand on the high point of the enclosure formed by the 'drains' or streams, immediately to the north of the development plot. The site is presently the garden area of the cottages, and run down to the drain the south. An outbuilding stands within the plot.

Faize Cottages date to around 1600 and it is likely stood alone in the whole plot since that time, accompanied by outbuildings and a pair of cottages to the north. It lies in what is marked as Workhouse Yard (OS map) and may originate as a Poor House: the Census of 1851 records a workhouse in East Rudham but little more is known.

If the argument here is correct, that this was not the site of a moat, then development here will have a limited impact upon archaeology, although the importance of the archaeology around the valley bottom suggests that this site may produce evidence relating to earlier periods.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

The features recorded as Site 3643 appear to be stream channels rather than remnants of a moat. This conclusion is based on the following observations:

- The arms are narrow, and if filled in the retention of narrow arms seems unlikely.
- The course of the eastern arm runs along the street for some distance.
- On the west side, the 'moat' is staggered rather than a single arm.

There is no evidence of a manor beyond the holdings of the three ecclesiastical owners. The site may have been first occupied as a poor House in the immediate post-medieval period, with Faize Cottages representing some of its buildings and the development plot the gardens to the Poor House.

The archaeological potential may be limited to the closeness of this site to the known earlier archaeology at Rudham.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

## ***Acknowledgements***

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