

Report 2316b



nau archaeology

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Honeypot Meadow, Bardolph Road, Bungay, Suffolk**

BUN 091



Prepared for
Wellington Construction Ltd.
Wolseley House
Quay View Business Park
Lowestoft
Suffolk
NR32 2HD



Peter Eric Crawley BA AIfA

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www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Peter Crawley	18/06/2010
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	22/06/2010
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	19/07/2010
Signed Off	David Whitmore	19/07/2010
<i>Issue 1</i>		

NAU Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

www.nau.org.uk

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Plate 1 The site, looking south

Location:	Honeypot Meadow, Bardolph Road, Bungay
District:	Waveney
Grid Ref.:	TM 3380 8930
HER No.:	BUN 091
OASIS No.:	79838
Client:	Wellington Construction Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	29 April and 5 May 2010

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of new dwellings on the site of disused tennis courts in Honeypot Meadow, just to the north of Bardolph Road, Bungay. The work was requested by Suffolk County Council following the results of an archaeological evaluation, undertaken by NAU Archaeology in February 2010 which had revealed four pits, one of which was of likely late medieval date. The project commissioned and funded by Wellington Construction Ltd.

Watching brief monitoring was undertaken over two days during the machine excavation of the foundation trenches for two blocks of buildings. No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief and no artefacts were recovered.

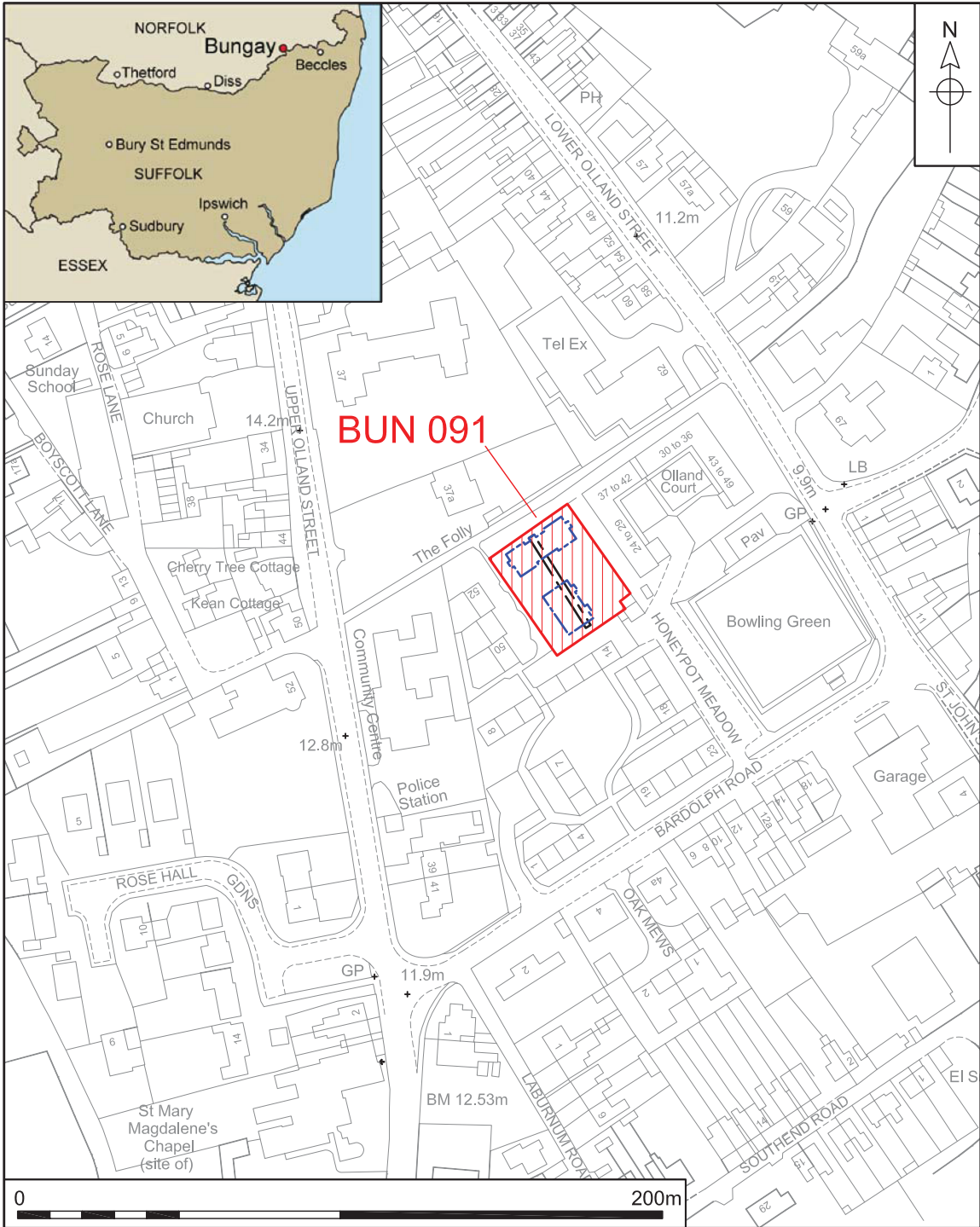
1.0 INTRODUCTION

(Fig. 1, Plate 1))

The development was located on the site of the disused tennis courts at Honeypot Meadow immediately to the north of Bardolph Road, in the northern part of Bungay. The site occupies an area of approximately a third of a hectare and the development consisted of five bungalows. (Crawley 2010)

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Waveney District Council (Ref. DC/09/0816/FUL) and a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Ref. Keith Wade 24/11/09) in response to the results of an evaluation undertaken by NAU Archaeology in February 2010 (Crawley 2010). Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team stipulated that a constant attendance watching brief be undertaken during the machine excavation of the foundation trenches. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. NAU/NP/BAU2316). This work was commissioned and funded by Wellington Construction Ltd.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the appropriate Suffolk County Council museum store following the relevant policies on archiving standards outlined in SCC Archive Guidelines (2008).



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The natural substratum present at the site was a glacial till lying over Liocene and Pleistocene Crag, a marine deposit of shelly sands (Wymer 1988). The soils are the wet alluvial soils, influenced by the River Waveney (Wymer 1988).

The plot is situated at a height of 10m OD within 500m of the river Waveney. Due to landscaping prior to the creation of the original tennis court the land surface was very flat. The alluvial nature of the soils allowed for reasonable drainage.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background have been presented in NAU Archaeology's evaluation report No. 2316 (Crawley 2010). No results from the site itself have previously been recorded however there is evidence of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity in the vicinity of the development area.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to record archaeological remains that may be exposed and disturbed during the excavation of foundations for two new dwellings within the development area (Fig 2).

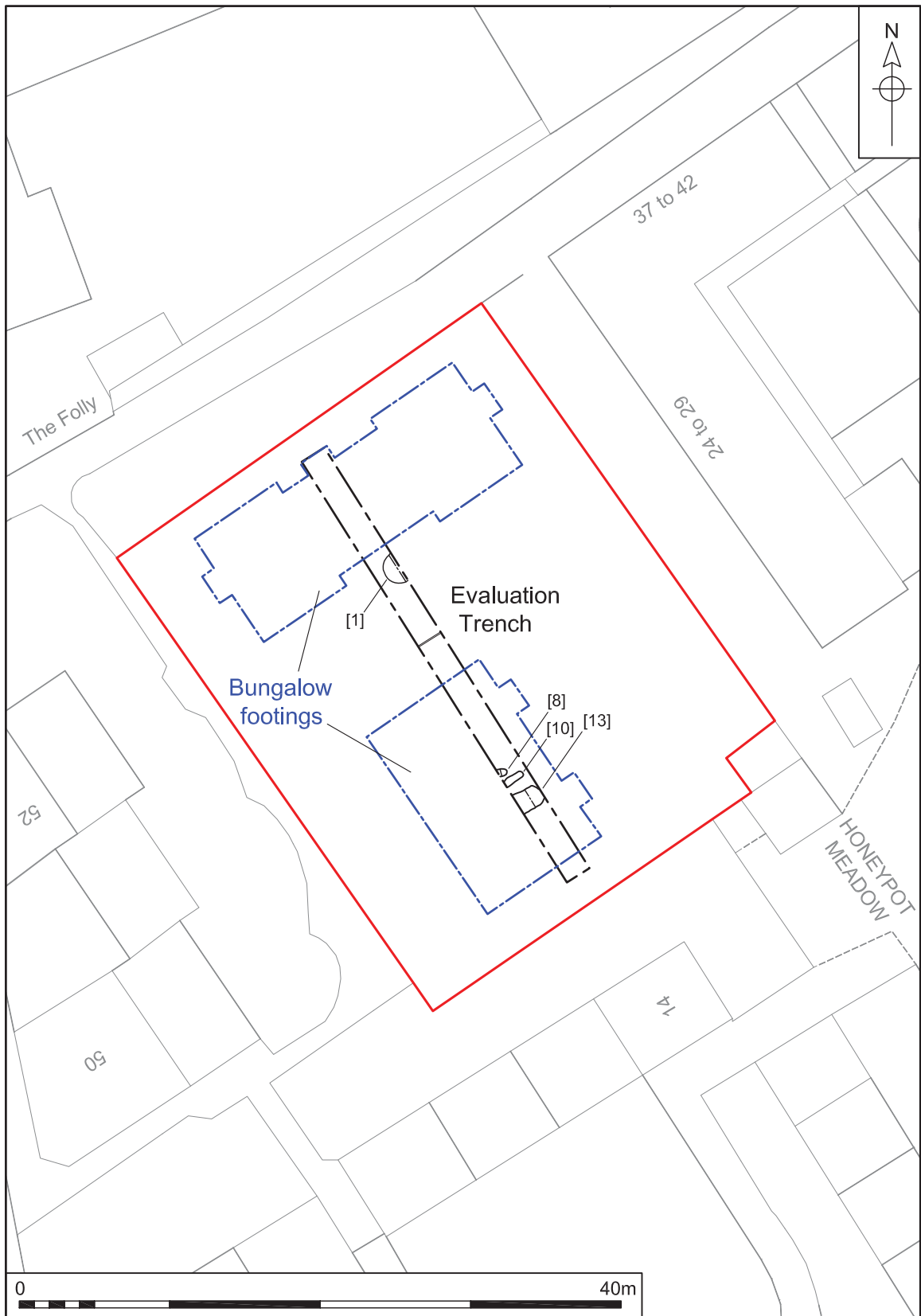
The brief required that a constant attendance watching brief be undertaken when any ground work was undertaken or there was ground disturbance by the developer. The foundations were excavated into solid natural sand to a predetermined formation level; they measured 0.60m wide and on average were 0.50m deep. The watching brief was undertaken on two days separated by a Bank Holiday weekend and two working days. In between the first and second monitoring attendances, concrete was poured into the first set of trenches to form the foundations.

Machine excavation was carried out by JCB equipped with a variety of buckets and operated by Wellington Construction Ltd.

A location plan showing the foundation trenches was provided by Wellington Construction. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken during the fieldwork.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector.

The temporary benchmark used during this stage of work was transferred from a known height of 9.90m OD, located on St John's Road to the north-east of the site. A TBM with a value of 12.06m OD was located at the gateway into the former tennis courts.



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Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:400

5.0 RESULTS

There were no archaeological features observed during the watching brief and no artefacts were recovered (Plate 2).



Plate 2 Close up of foundation trenches, looking south

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The negative results of this work strongly suggest that the large late medieval pit observed in the evaluation trench was an isolated feature, possibly located within a sparsely occupied area to the south of medieval Bungay. The absence of any other pottery as 'background noise' within the topsoil may support this; however it is also possible that deposits may have been subjected to truncation in the post-medieval period as the town of Bungay expanded and more recently as a result of construction of the tennis courts.

These interpretations should be treated with caution as narrow foundation trenches precluded more extensive areas being visible during the watching brief.

Acknowledgements

The watching brief was undertaken by the author. Thanks are due to the operatives of Wellington Construction Ltd for their help on site and interest in the project.

The report illustrations were prepared by David Dobson after initial digitising by the author. The report was edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography

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