

# New service run, Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard BUD 007

## **Archaeological Monitoring Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2011/076**

**Client: Mr R. Rouse**

Author: Simon Cass

June 2011



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Author: Simon Cass

Illustrator: Simon Cass

Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: June 2011



## HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2011/076  
**Site Name:** New service run, Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard  
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**Client Reference:** -  
**Curatorial Officer:** Edward Martin  
**Project Officer:** Simon Cass  
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### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Simon Cass  
Date: 13-06-2011

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner  
Position: Contracts Manager  
Date:  
Signed:



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## **Summary**

A single site visit was made to view a service trench relating to Scheduled Monument Consent (Ref S000094606) at Bruisyard Hall, Bruisyard. This was a combined water and electricity service run leading from a wood chip boiler at Hall Farm to a garage adjacent to Bruisyard Hall itself, and was related to planning applications C/10/0085/FUL and C/07/0031/FUL, the development of buildings at Hall Farm for a function suite and holiday accommodation. No remains of particular archaeological significance were encountered during the monitoring of this service trench.



## **1. Introduction**

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Related to the current development of buildings at Hall Farm, Bruisyard Hall, Scheduled Monument Consent was issued for the laying of new service pipes between a wood-chip boiler being installed in the redeveloped farm buildings and an outbuilding of the main Hall. Both pipes (electricity and water) were to be laid in the same trench which was to be 0.6m wide and up to approximately 1.0m deep, on a curving arc to avoid the more sensitive areas of the Hall site (and the previous structures possibly relating to the medieval abbey).

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site lies on a slight incline, between c.23m OD to the south and c.30m OD to the north of the Hall. The underlying geology is recorded as deep clay/chalky till and this was observed along the base of the trench.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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Bruisyard Hall (BUD 001) is a medieval Hall, built on the remains of the Abbey of St Clare. The abbey was originated from a perpetual chantry founded by Maude, Countess of Ulster in 1346 within the conventual church of Campsea. In 1354 this was moved to the manor of Rokehall in Bruisyard. In 1366 the chantry was surrendered to the order of Nuns Minoresses (Sisters of St Clare), and became the Abbey of St Clare. The abbey survived until the dissolution, when in 1539 the last Abbess signed over the property to the crown and soon after it was given to one Nicholas Hare (Page, W., 1975).

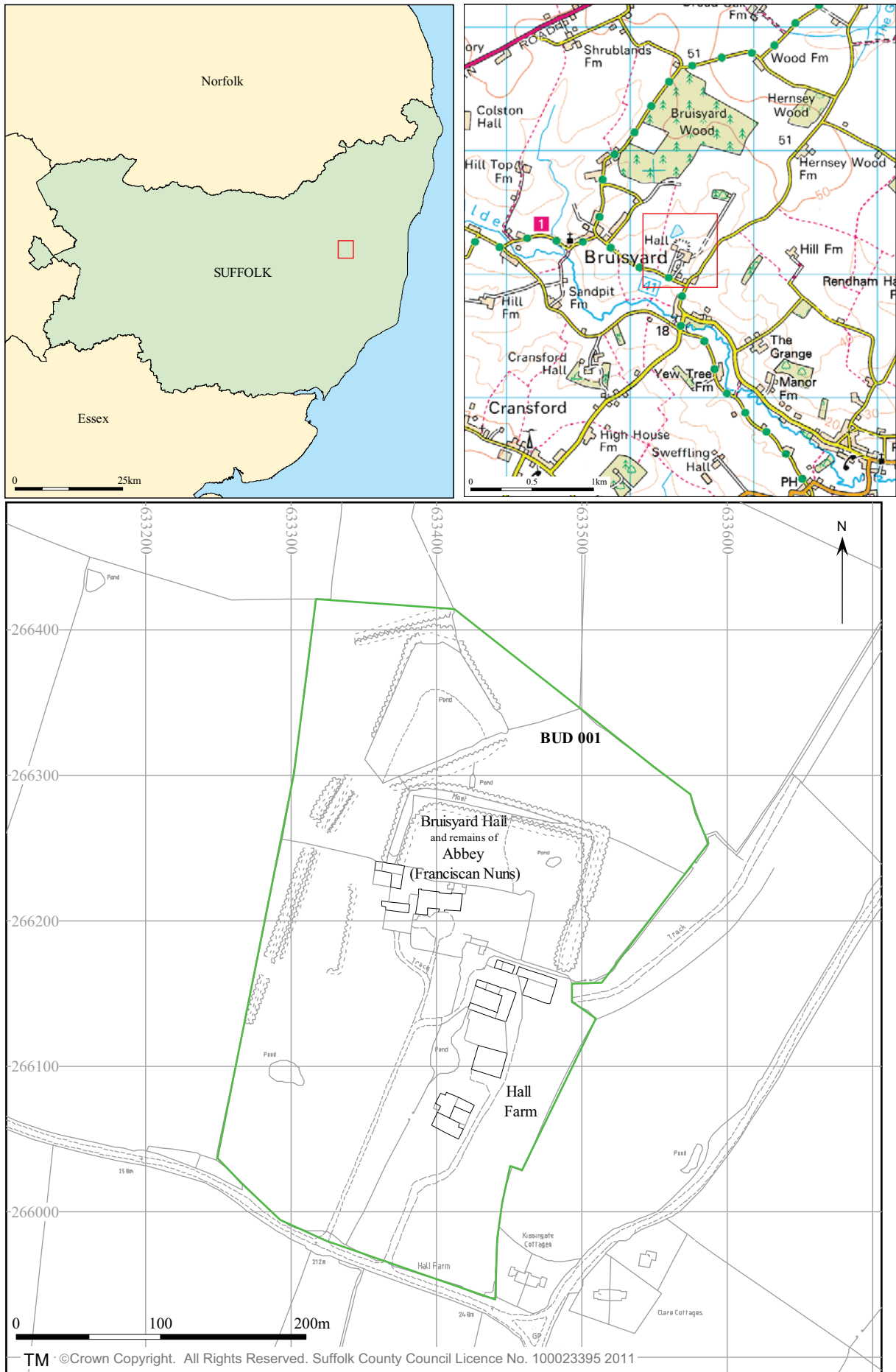


Figure 1. Location map

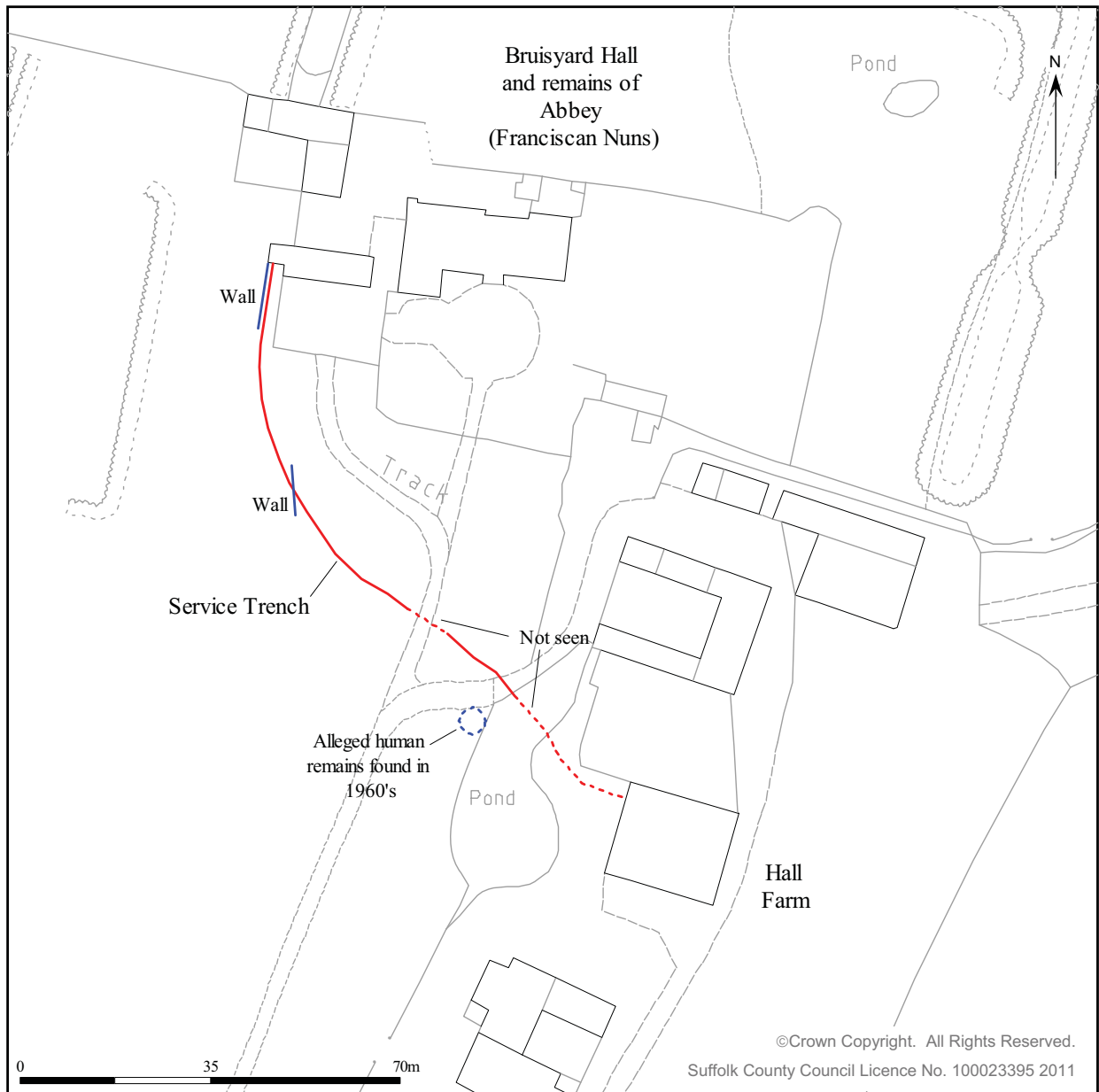


Figure 2. Trench plan, showing location of walls encountered and alleged human remains (after Martin 1994).

## 4. Methodology

A single visit was made to view the footings extending from the building adjacent to Bruisyard Hall south-east to the renovated barn (the site of the new boiler). The trench was not excavated through the access road to the Hall, for a length of c. 10m, and had not been excavated through the area previously occupied by the pond in the centre of the site (though, as that area had only just been filled in, the trench would not have penetrated the modern backfilled deposit).

All sections were observed, and spoil heaps were checked for any archaeologically relevant artefacts.

Measured sketches and a photographic record were created, using a 6.2 megapixel digital SLR camera.

## **5. Results**

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### **5.1 Trench results**

The service trench observed was c. 100m long, with some 90m open and available for inspection at the time of the site visit. The trench was 0.6m wide, and varied in depth slightly though was generally approximately 1.0m deep. The geology observed generally consisted of 0.5m or more of a mid/dark brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent ceramic building material fragments and small-medium irregular-shaped flints and stones. Occasional scattered animal bone fragments were present (less than 10 pieces along the whole trench), as well as oyster shell fragments. The further down the slope towards the old pond the trench went, the deeper the topsoil deposit became, apparently due to both intentional deposition as well as colluvial deposition with tip lines, dumps and spreads of modern material visible in the section of the trench in places. Modern plastic water pipes were encountered in four places at depths of between 0.6-0.9m below surface level and the remains of two brick wall footings were noted. One ran parallel and adjacent to the service trench at its northern end, while the other crossed the trench to the south of the outbuilding and to the west of the access road. The bricks were reddish brown, approximately 0.21m x 0.10m x 0.07m in size and similar to those present in the standing structures nearby (such as the outbuilding the trench comes from to the north which dates to the mid-late 19th century). No frog was visible, although most of the bricks observed were broken and potentially a small frog could have been obscured by mortar remnants.

The southern of the two walls may relate to a structure noted on an early 19th century estate map (visible on appendix 2, west of 'G') although the lack of any other structural remains such as the opposite or end wall leaves questions about the potential form of this structure – it may have been open sided on one or more sides, for example. The northernmost wall probably dates to the construction of the building, some time in the

mid 19th century, since it aligns so tightly with the end wall, although it seems to have fallen out of use by the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey map.



Plate 1. Trench 1, near to infilled pond, facing south-west (2m scale)



Plate 2. Trench 1, wall remains near access road, facing northeast (2m scale)

## 6. Finds and environmental evidence

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No finds of archaeological relevance requiring further analysis were observed during the course of this monitoring. The oyster shell, ceramic building material, pottery fragments and occasional animal bone fragments and pieces were all observed in the upcast spoil

from the excavation, but all originated in the topsoil layer such finds are only to be expected within proximity of a site known to have been continuously occupied for several hundred years. None of the observed finds were retained.

## **7. Discussion**

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It would appear that the service trench under investigation in this report skirts the oldest historic structures present on the site, with minimal disturbance to any *in situ* archaeologically relevant remains. The section of trench near to the reported site of the recovery of some possible human remains in the 1960's proved to be devoid of further remains, though at this point the trench was entirely within made ground and did not penetrate any natural ground surface.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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No further works are recommended as being necessary in order to satisfy the scheduled monument consent for this service trench within the scheduled monument of Bruisyard Hall. The absence of structural remains of any great antiquity can be used to narrow down the area believed to be occupied by the 'first court' on Thomas Martyn's 1748 plan. A composite map (Martin, 1994, Appendix 2) indicates the presence of a building to the west of the access road near the wall footing noted during this monitoring event, originating from an unrecorded early 19th century estate map, though the lack of any other walls suggests that this building may not have been fully walled.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper archive: SCCAS Ipswich

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Bruisyard\BUD 007 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HGA-HGZ

Finds and environmental archive: None.



## **10. Acknowledgements**

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The project was directed and managed by Rhodri Gardner. The monitoring was carried out by Simon Cass from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Post-excavation graphics were produced by Simon Cass and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

## **11. Bibliography**

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Martin, E., 1994, 'Bruisyard Hall on the site of Bruisyard Abbey' in Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol. Hist. 38, Pt 3, (1995) 374

Page, W., (ed.), 1975, 'House of minoresses: Abbey of Bruisyard'. A history of the County of Suffolk: Volume 2, 131-132, British History online. Available: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?copid=37923> Accessed: 25 May 2011



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## Appendix 1. Brief and Specification

### Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

#### WATER AND ELECTRICITY TRENCH AT BRUISYARD HALL TM 3339 6617 (Scheduled Monument Consent)

*Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications.*

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Scheduled Monument Consent, dated 7 April 2011, has been granted by English Heritage for the excavation of a water and electricity trench to run from a proposed wood chip boiler to the garage opposite Bruisyard Hall. The consent requires that the work be carried out under the supervision of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (para. 3 (iv)).
- 1.2 Bruisyard Hall is a Grade II\* Listed Building (LB no. 285260) of 16<sup>th</sup>-century date which incorporates parts of Bruisyard Abbey, a medieval nunnery of the Order of St Clare that was established here in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and dissolved in 1539 (Suffolk Historic Environment Record no. BUD 001). The area surrounding the Hall is a Scheduled Monument (no. 21317).
- 1.3 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the archaeological contractors acting for the owner. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 741230. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the consent will be adequately met. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and the Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>, sub ALGOA East).*
- 1.5 Work must not commence until SCCAS has approved the WSI and informed English Heritage that it is acceptable.
- 1.6 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, the trenching contractor and the Conservation Team of SCCAS in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed

development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.9 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.

## **2. Brief for Archaeological Recording**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any of the works permitted by the Scheduled Monument Consent
- 2.2 The digging of the trench and the upcast soil from it, are to be monitored during its excavation by the trenching contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 2.3 The academic objective will be to provide an understanding of the historical context, development and significance of the site.

## **3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the owner will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The owner or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

## **4. Specification for Monitoring of Groundworks**

- 4.1 The owner shall afford access at all reasonable times to both SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological observation of the trenching operations.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains if this is both possible and likely to be informative. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

## **5. Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County HER within six months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER Officer if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).

A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its

conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000) and the *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>, sub ALGOA East).

- 5.6 A copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT. Following approval, two hard copies, as well as a digital copy, of the report must be presented to SCCAS/CT
- 5.7 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.8 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.9 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.10 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.11 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Date: 3 May 2011

Reference: SpecMon(EM)\_Bruisyard\_Hall\_2011

**This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

# BRUISYARD HALL on the site of BRUISYARD ABBEY

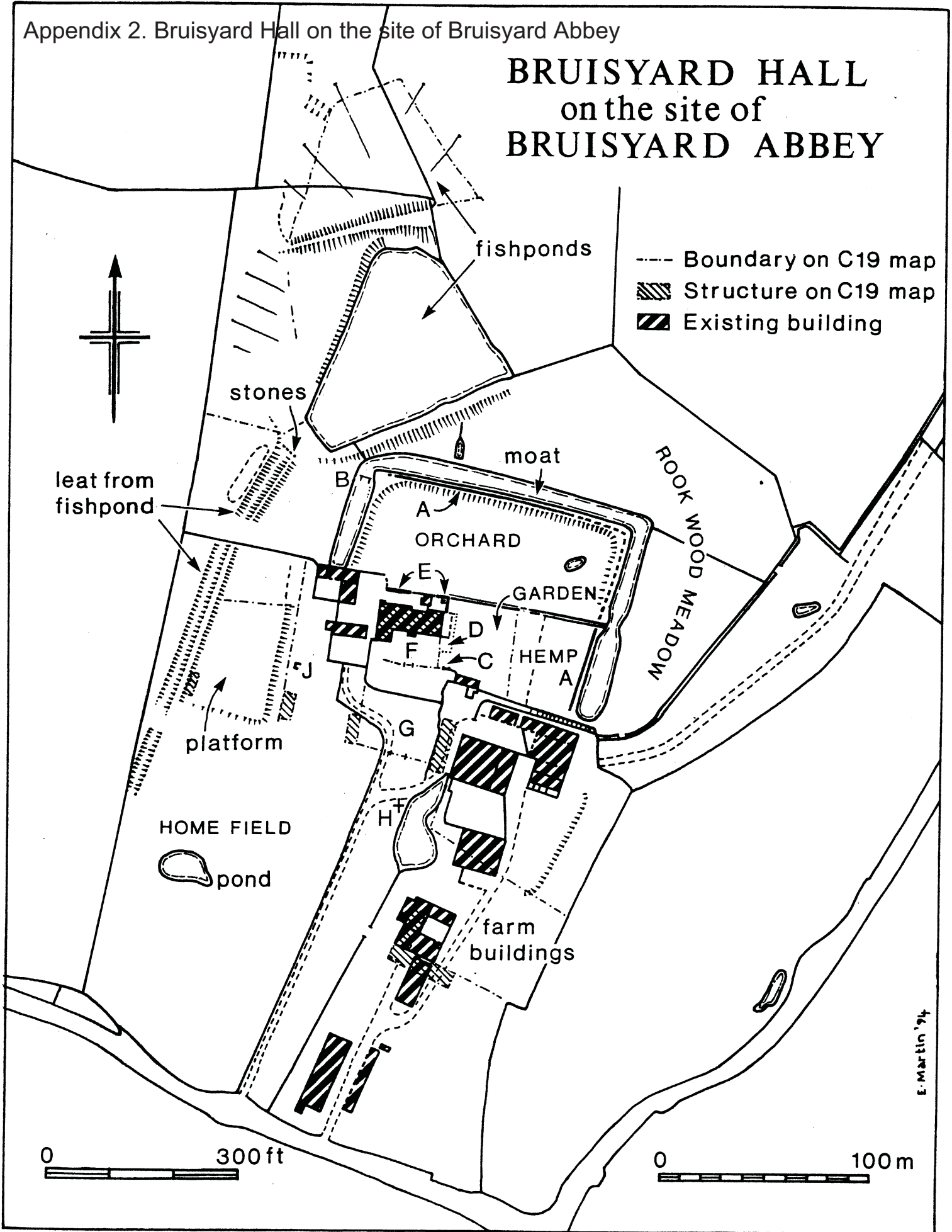


FIG. 83 – Bruisyard Hall, on the site of an abbey for Franciscan nuns. The lettering indicates: A, the foundations of a substantial brick wall; B, a timber structure in the moat; C, a fragment of flint and dressed stone walling; D, ‘old ruins called ye chapel q’ on a plan by Thomas Martin, 1748; E, mortared flint walls, probably part of the monastic buildings, possibly in the area of a north cloister; F, ‘second court’ on Martin’s 1748 plan; G, ‘first court’ on Martin’s plan; H, alleged human remains found 1960; J, small mortared-flint structure. Field names on an early-19th-century estate map are shown in small capitals.









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