

**White House Farm, Elmsett Road,
Whatfield, Suffolk**

Planning application: B/12/00466

HER Ref: WHA 003

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(October 2012)

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Site details for HER

Name: White House Farm, Elmsett Road, Whatfield, Suffolk, IP7 6LL

Client: Mr C Course

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/12/00466

Development: Erection of side extension

Date of fieldwork: 7 & 11 September, 2012

HER Ref: WHA 003

OASIS: johnnewm1-134711

Grid ref: TM 0362 4670

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Summary: Whatfield, White House Farm, Elmsett Road (WHA 003, TM 0362 4670) monitoring of foundation trenches for a large side extension coupled with an examination of historic map sources revealed an interesting sequence of major changes for the farm yard on the moat island in the later Post medieval period. Since the tithe map period of c1840 a change to livestock care can be seen in the mid 19th century followed by a second major remodelling of the layout in the mid 20th century to accommodate machinery for a more mixed farming regime. Major remodelling and in-filling of the moat itself can also be seen from c1900, no evidence for medieval activity was recorded (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr C Course).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Wincer Kievenaar Architects on behalf of their client, Mr C Course, 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 B/12/00466. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the erection a large side extension at White House Farm, Elmsett Road, Whatfield (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Whatfield is some 8 miles west of Ipswich and 2 miles north of Hadleigh in south central Suffolk in a landscape historically characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern partly focused within parishes on the respective church but largely scattered round the numerous greens and along roads and lanes. The location of White House Farm falls into this latter group as it is somewhat isolated, close to the parish boundary with neighbouring Elmsett, and c1100m east of the parish church at Whatfield. The site lies at c65m OD in an area characterised by a gently undulating landscape where heavy local soils derived from the underlying chalky Till can be anticipated. The remnant of a moated enclosure still survives on the western side of White House Farm with the new extension planned to form a wing coming off the south-eastern corner of the house over the area of an agricultural building that was demolished in the recent past. A remnant of moat is also shown on mid to late 20th century maps on the south-western corner of the island platform which has recently been modified and enlarged to form a pond type feature with some of the material excavated for this enlargement having been spread over the area of the demolished building noted above and therefore on the site of the planned extension (pers. comm. M Chisnall Ltd staff). The house is not listed and appears externally to be of c1800 date with major later alterations and renovation work.

1.3 In order to gain a better overall understanding of this site the historic map sources available at the Suffolk Record Office were examined beforehand and the relevant extracts are included as Appendix I below. The earliest large scale map of the area proved to be the Whatfield tithe map of 1843 when the site was called White Hall, owned by Robert Busk and occupied by Robert Rush being described as 'house & yards.' While this map is unfortunately damaged in the critical area the house can be seen in addition to a building in the south-western corner of the island platform and other buildings along the eastern side. The next available historic map is the second edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch one of 1904 which is much clearer. By this later date some 60 years after the tithe map it can be seen that the layout of the farm has been extensively remodelled with an extension to the building in the south-western corner and various additions to the eastern range including what is likely to be a cattle yard in the central, southern part of the island platform. This change reflects the shift to cattle farming in East Anglia as the repeal of the Corn Laws saw large quantities of cheap grain from the colonies destabilising domestic production and the subsequent modification of threshing barns in particular for livestock and the addition of adjacent cattle yards. However the building that formerly stood where the planned extension will stand is not shown and therefore must have been of a post 1900 date. Finally a second major remodelling of the building layout

at White House Farm can be seen to have taken place in the mid to late 20th century as all of the 19th structures have gone to be replaced by the modern farm buildings now standing on the eastern half of the island platform. It is also of interest to note that the 1904 map shows a substantial length of moat running round the south-eastern and eastern sides of the island which must have been filled-in during the 20th century.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to the site to observe the excavation of the foundations for the large side extension as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 700mm wide toothed bucket on bright, sunny days with site visibility good at all times. The foundation trenches were entered to allow for closer inspection of the exposed soil profiles and hand cleaning of indistinct areas. Upcast spoil was stockpiled nearby allowing for a close inspection for stray finds. The foundations were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix II).

3. Results

3.1 In total nearly 70m of 700mm wide and 1500mm deep foundation trench were examined along the sides and across the internal width of the extension footprint (see Fig. 2). The southern and central part of the foundation trenches revealed a generally similar profile with a substantial depth of 450mm to 650mm of recently deposited material comprising a mix of top and subsoil with fragments of modern debris at the top confirming the local information noted in section 1.2 above. Below this recent deposit a clear white layer of crushed chalk that was 150mm to 200mm thick could be clearly seen in all the trench sides (see Appendix II) save at the south-western corner of the footprint where recently deposited material continued to a depth of 1500mm and apparently filling in a pit. In the northern third of the extension footprint the top layer in the exposed profile was made up of 200mm of driveway and sub-base over only 200mm of subsoil with the 150/200mm white crushed chalk layer continuing below.

3.2 Below the crushed chalk layer across the footprint of the extension a 200mm to 300mm sub-base layer made up of subsoil mixed with small fragments of brick and tile and chalk fragments was visible. This sub-base to the chalk layer in turn lay directly over the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposit which was a stiff pale grey to brown clay with flints and degraded chalk fragments across the entire site.

3.3 From the deposit profile recorded coupled with information regarding use of the site gained from historic maps it can be inferred that the consistent chalk layer represents the surface of a cattle yard/enclosure. Furthermore to create this structure it is clear that existing top and subsoil deposits were removed presumably in order to start from a level surface and when the relevant structure was demolished modern material was used to level up the area prior to the ground works for the planned extension. That such consistent deposit profile results have been recorded over a relatively large area is unusual but it is also clear that the 19th century agricultural structures erected on the southern part of the moat platform were large suggesting a substantial land holding by this date.

3.4 Examination of the upcast spoil did not identify any finds of pre c1800 date with the majority of the material being brick or tile fragments of later Post medieval date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While no evidence for medieval activity has been recorded at this moated site what can be concluded is of some interest regarding the social and economic history of a moderate sized farm through the later Post medieval period. The site has clearly seen major re-modelling in at least three phases since c1840 with a change to livestock in the mid 19th century marked by the creation of cattle sheds and yards probably incorporating an existing threshing barn. In the earlier 20th century a structure was then added in the area of the extension footprint but by the mid to late 20th century all the 19th century and earlier farm buildings were cleared away and modern ones erected; all these changes coming during a time when arable farming became more economic after c1950. Through this period the moat itself was filled in on the eastern side of the site and modified in its south-western corner. Finally the plan of the moated island platform is currently changing again to accommodate the new extension in what is the third major remodelling of the site since the early to mid 19th century. In all probability the only undisturbed part of the moat island is the north-western quarter in front of the house which has seen little change in the last 200 years.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the extent of the monitored footings has had no affect on any archaeological deposits of significance though an interesting history for the site can be inferred from a combined study of the archaeological and cartographic sources.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to everyone on site for their close cooperation in relation to this site monitoring)

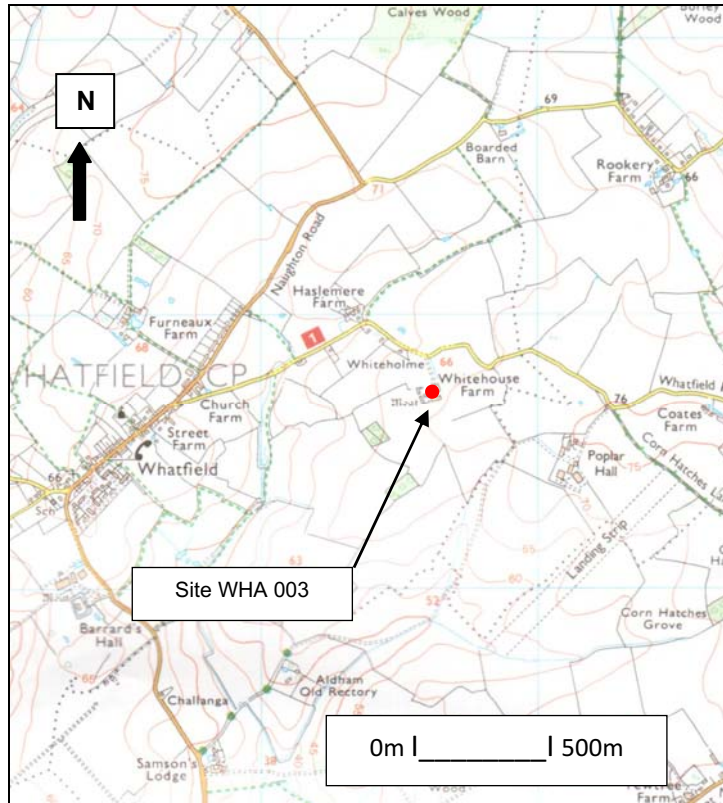


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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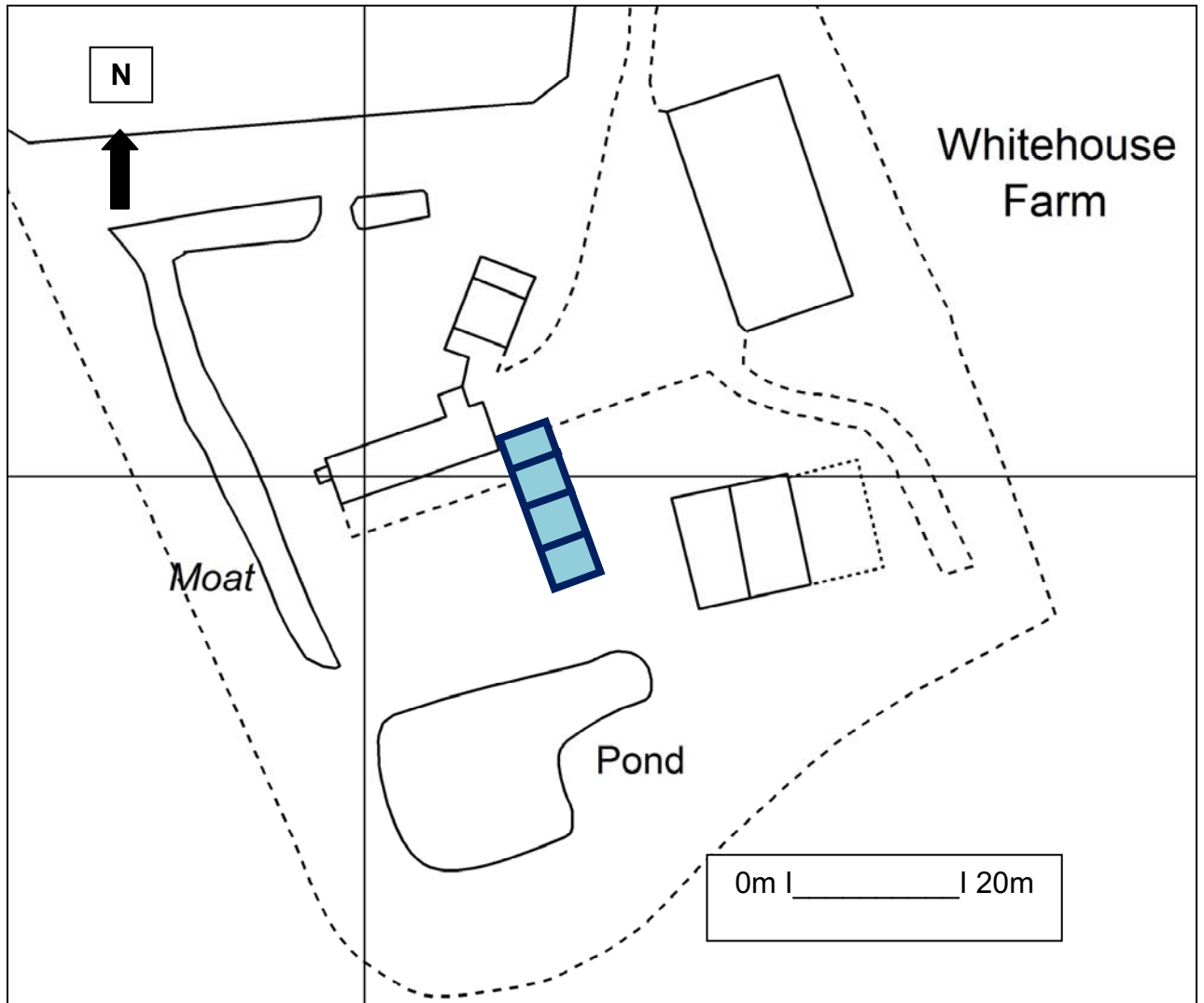


Fig. 2: Monitored foundation trenches (dark blue)
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Appendix I- Historic maps



Extract from tithe map of 1843 (Suffolk RO ref. T226/2, north to top)



Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, 1904 (north to top)

Appendix II- Images



General view from south-east



Eastern footing trench from south



Footing in central area with white chalk surface near mid-point



White chalk surface in trench section with recent material above

**White House Farm, Elmsett Road,
Whatfield, Suffolk**

Planning application: B/12/00466

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

Site details

Name: White House Farm, Elmsett Road, Whatfield, Suffolk, IP7 6LL

Client: Mr C Course

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/12/00466

Proposed development: Erection of side extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief & Specification ref: 2012_07_06_SCCAS_Arch_Mon_B12_00466

Grid ref: TM 0362 4669

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2. Location, Topography & Geology
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1. Introduction

1.1 Wincer Kievenaar Architects on behalf of their client, Mr C Course, have 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 B/12/00466. 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 A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of a new side extension to White House Farm, Elmsett Road, Whatfield.

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 (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Whatfield is some 8 miles west of Ipswich and 2 miles north of Hadleigh in south central Suffolk in a landscape historically characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern partly focused within parishes on the respective church but largely scattered round the numerous greens and along roads and lanes. The location of White House Farm falls into this latter group as it is somewhat isolated, close to the parish boundary with neighbouring Elmsett, and c1100m east of the parish church at Whatfield. The site lies at c65m OD in an area characterised by a gently undulating landscape where heavy local soils derived from the underlying chalky Till can be anticipated. The remnant of a moated enclosure still survives on the western side of White House Farm with the new extension planned to form a wing coming off the south-eastern corner of the house over the area of a building that has been demolished. The extent of ground disturbance in the area when this building was demolished is unknown as is the original extent of the moat around White House Farm. Before works start on site cartographic evidence, such as the relevant tithe map, at the Suffolk Record Office will be examined to help inform the monitoring.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The site lies within the area defined by the medieval moat around White House Farm (County Historic

Environment Record WHA 003). There is potential for archaeological remains to be present, representing medieval settlement, including dwellings, ancillary buildings and yards within the moat. Aspects of the proposed development will involve groundworks that have the potential to cause damage or destruction to any archaeological deposits that exist.'

3.2 The Brief 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 the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential where evidence for medieval period deposits in particular might be found and continuous monitoring of ground works as they progress can best record what may be revealed. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to 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 at this moated site.

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be strip foundations. The excavation of the strip foundations and any service trenches, soakaways or landscaping works will be observed as they are undertaken and any up cast spoil examined for finds. 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 by hand any possible archaeological deposits within the foundation trenches.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of 'observable phenomena' (OPs) under an overall site 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 footings 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.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the trench foundations with sections recorded in relation to the trench sides, if possible, and with levels OD. Even if no archaeological 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 will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed, in this case the potential for such samples to inform the overall understanding of any past industrial processes at the site will be considered. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains which would incur an additional cost. 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).

5.4 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. If this is not possible then the 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.

5.5 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2) and particularly Appendix 3 and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.6 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 4) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of

visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. 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). An unbound draft 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 plus another for the County HER, a copy will be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up. A dxf type vector plan of the area examined will be supplied for inclusion into the County HER map base.

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.

John Newman Archaeological Services

6.5 Deep holes/trenches going below c1.30m 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 (CFA Archaeology)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Roman period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-134711

Project details

Project name	Erection of Extension at White House Farm, Elmsett Road, Whatfield, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Whatfield, White House Farm, Elmsett Road (WHA 003, TM 0362 4670) monitoring of foundation trenches for a large side extension coupled with an examination of historic map sources revealed an interesting sequence of major changes for the farm yard on the moat island in the later Post medieval period. Since the tithe map period of c1840 a change to livestock care can be seen in the mid 19th century followed by a second major remodelling of the layout in the mid 20th century to accommodate machinery for a more mixed farming regime. Major remodelling and in-filling of the moat itself can also be seen from c1900, no evidence for medieval activity was recorded.
Project dates	Start: 07-09-2012 End: 11-09-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WHA 003 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH WHATFIELD White House Farm Elmsett Road
Postcode	IP7 6LL
Study area	140.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0362 4669 52 0 52 04 49 N 000 58 19 E Point Min: 63.00m Max: 64.00m

Height OD /
Depth

Project creators

Name of Organisation John Newman Archaeological Services

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator John Newman

Project director