

**Tean, Water Lane, Debenham,
Suffolk**

Planning application: 1453/12

HER Ref: DBN 143

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(January 2013)

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Site details for HER

Name: Tean, Water Lane, Debenham, Suffolk, IP6 8DL

Client: Mr I Rose

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1453/12

Development: Erection of extension

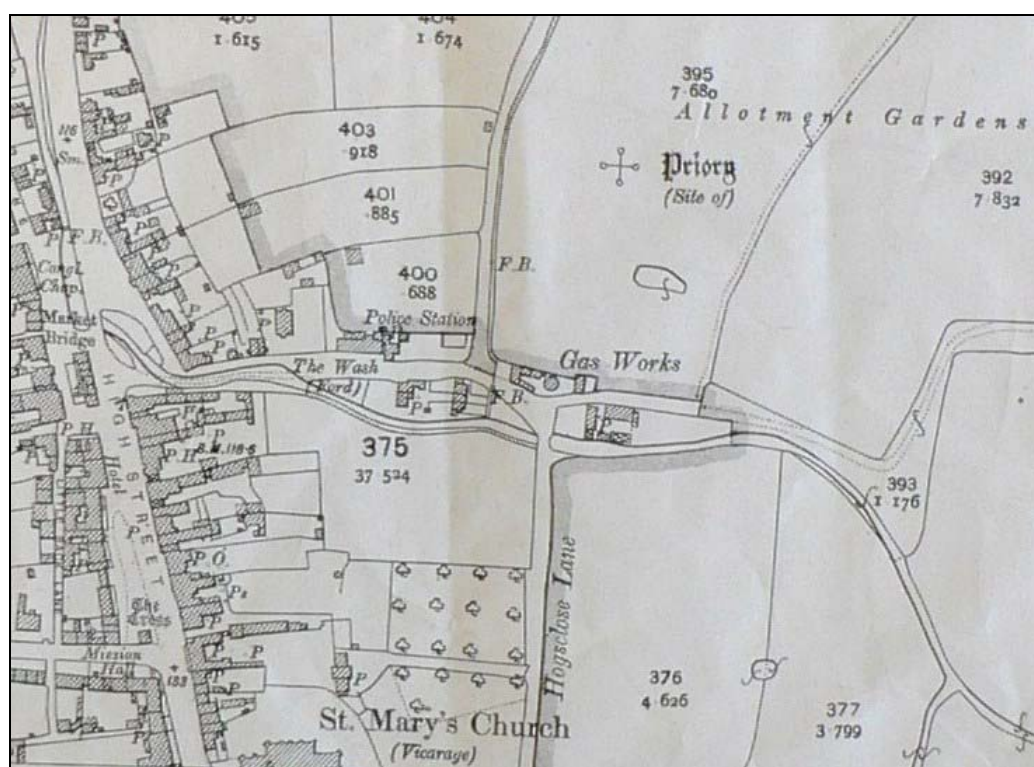
Date of fieldwork: 21 November & 5 December, 2012

HER Ref: DBN 143

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-139932

Conservation area (north-eastern edge)

Grid ref: TM 1754 6341



Frontispiece- extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1902

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Summary: Debenham, Tean, Water Lane (DBN 143, TM 1754 6341) monitoring of ground works for a side extension including a garage did not reveal any features of archaeological interest with the few finds in the upcast spoil being of 19th century or later date. During the second half of the 19th and the early part of the 20th century the site was part of the town gas works though the only evidence for this seen in the foundation trenches was a length of cast iron pipe and a few fragments of brick and tile (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr I Rose).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr I Rose 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 1453/12. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Ms J Plouviez of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the erection of a side extension, including a garage, at Tean, Water Lane, Debenham (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Debenham is a small market town in central Suffolk to the north of Ipswich that had, in all probability been established by the late Saxon period at least, and flourished through the medieval period with the market being recorded from 1221. The town is focused on the area around the parish church and the main, north-south aligned, historic high street which runs parallel, and just to the west, of to the upper part of the River Deben which rises just to the north of the town. Tean is a house of mid to late 20th century date located at the junction of Priory Lane and Water Lane north of and close to the River Deben and some 150m north-east of the parish church at c35m OD at a point that lies towards the edge of the medieval town. During the second half of the 19th century and earlier part of the 20th century the area now forming the front garden on the southern side of Tean was the site of the Debenham town gas works (HER DBN 022) which was constructed in c1850 (see frontispiece).

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its close proximity to the area immediately to the north which is now in use as allotments and which was historically known as Priory Field where substantial building foundations were recorded in the early 19th century (HER DBN 011). While the discovery of these foundations gave rise to the name Priory Field, as it was inferred that a medieval religious foundation formerly occupied this site, there are no historical documents to support this suggestion. However the more recent recovery of surface finds from the allotments including Roman period pottery and building material, in addition to medieval pottery, has given rise to the alternative interpretation that the archaeological evidence points to the existence of a Roman villa site on the slope above the River Deben.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to the site to observe the excavation of the foundations for the extension and garage as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 700mm wide toothed bucket under mainly fine weather conditions 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 taken to a waiting skip and was inspected for stray finds during this process. 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 I).

3. Results

3.1 In total nearly 30m of 700mm wide and mainly 1000mm deep foundation trench were examined along the sides and across the middle of the extension footprint (see Fig. 2) though along the side adjacent to the house the trench was only 600mm deep. The foundation trenches for the extension revealed a profile comprising 350/400mm of topsoil over 450/500mm of a mid brown sandy subsoil. The naturally occurring glaciofluvial deposits at the site exposed in the base of the trenches was largely a pale brown chalky clay with small and medium sized flints though in the south-eastern corner of the footprint this changed to an orange silty sand.

3.2 The foundation trenches did not reveal any archaeological features with the only evidence for the former gas works site being a length of cast iron pipe and a small number of 19th century brick and tile fragments from the demolition of the works. Apart from the ceramic building material noted in the upcast spoil the only stray finds seen were occasional small sherds of white and blue and white transfer printed pottery of 19th or earlier 20th century date and a single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While the site is within an area of archaeological interest on the edge of a medieval town and close to a probable substantial Roman period site this monitoring did not record any evidence indicative of activity dating to before the construction of the gas works. Therefore it seems likely that this area close to the River Deben was open ground until the 19th century and, perhaps, previously prone to flooding with the present ground level being raised by the relatively substantial depth of up to 500mm of subsoil below 400mm of topsoil in the relatively recent past.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the extent of the monitored strip foundations has had no affect on any archaeological deposits of significance.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Ian Rose for his close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring)

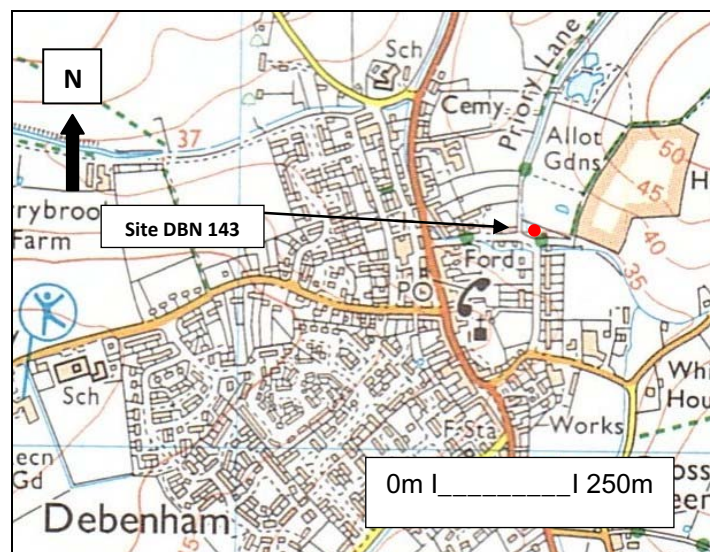


Fig. 1: Site location

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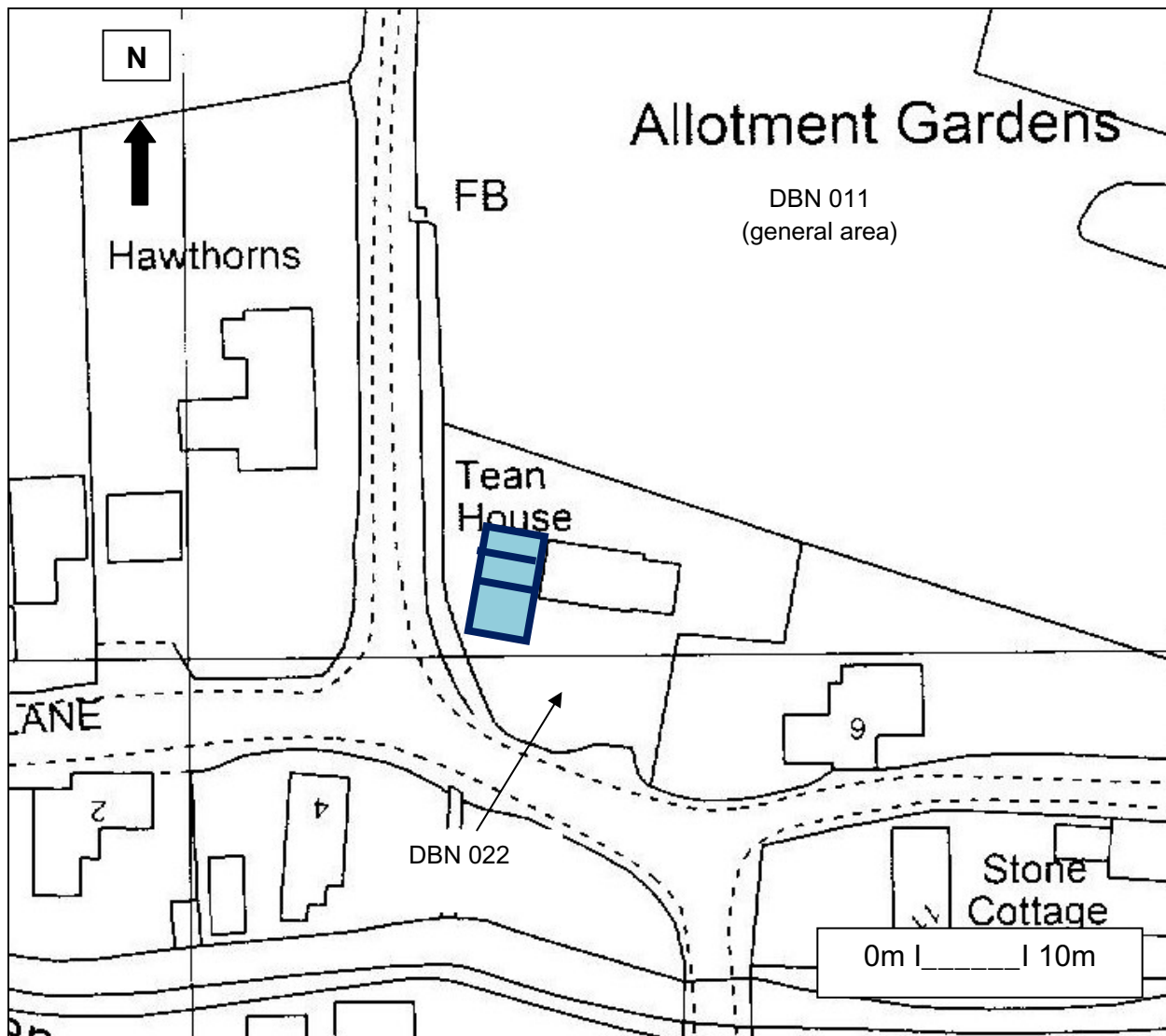


Fig. 2: Monitored footprint area (foundation trenches- dark blue)

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Appendix I- Images



Site from north-east



North-east corner of foundations



South-east corner of foundations

**Tean, Water Lane, Debenham,
Suffolk**

Planning application: 1453/FUL

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

Site details

Name: Tean, Water Lane, Debenham, Suffolk, IP6 8DL

Client: Mr I Rose

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1453/12

Proposed development: Erection of extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief & Specification ref: 2012_07_10_SCCAS_Archaeological Monitoring
Brief_Water LaneDBN

Grid ref: TM 1754 6341

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1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Monitoring
5. Methodology
6. Risk Assessment
7. Specialists

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr I Rose has 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 1453/12. 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 Ms J Plouviez 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 an extension to Tean, Water Lane, Debenham.

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 Debenham is a small market town in central Suffolk to the north of Ipswich that had, in all probability been established by the late Saxon period at least, and flourished through the medieval period with the market being recorded from 1221. The town is focused on the area around the parish church and the main, north-south aligned, historic high street which runs parallel, and just to the west, of to the upper part of the River Deben which rises just to the north of the town. Tean is located at the junction of Priory Lane and Water Lane north of and close to the River Deben and some 150m north-east of the parish church at c35m OD at a point that lies towards the edge of the medieval town. Soils in the area are typically heavy being largely derived from the local glaciofluvial chalky clay Till deposits.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The development lies on the north side of the river Deben, on the east side of a minor tributary. The adjacent field to the north is known as Priory Field (DBN 011 on the Historic Environment Record), and an early 19th century record suggests that substantial building foundations were found; recent fieldwalking on the allotment area found Roman pottery and some building material as well as medieval. Although records suggested the foundations uncovered were a medieval religious building it is also possible that they were a Roman villa. Subsequently in 1890 the Town

Gas Works (HER ref DBN 022) lay immediately south of the proposed extension but no disturbance is mapped on the new extension footprint. There is considerable potential here for Roman and medieval deposits, in a topographically favourable location'

3.2 The Brief then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance and 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 Roman and 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 in this location close to what is potentially a major Roman period villa type site close to the River Deben.

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 identifiable contexts 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 PDS. 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. 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 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.

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.

John Newman Archaeological Services

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: johnnewm1-139932

Project details

Project name	Tean, Water Lane, Debenham, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Debenham, Tean, Water Lane (DBN 143, TM 1754 6341) monitoring of ground works for a side extension including a garage did not reveal any features of archaeological interest with the few finds in the upcast spoil being of 19th century or later date. During the second half of the 19th and the early part of the 20th century the site was part of the town gas works though the only evidence for this seen in the foundation trenches was a length of cast iron pipe and a few fragments of brick and tile.
Project dates	Start: 21-11-2012 End: 05-12-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	DBN 143 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	GAS WORKS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON PIPE Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK DEBENHAM TEAN, WATER LANE
Postcode	IP6 8DL
Study area	40.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1754 6341 52 1 52 13 31 N 001 11 07 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 33.00m Max: 34.00m

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/manager	John Newman
Project supervisor	John Newman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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OASIS: