

**Hunts Meadow, Upper Street,
Stratford St Mary, Suffolk**

Planning application: B/12/00250/FHA

HER Ref: SSM 031

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(March 2013)

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Site details for HER

Name: Hunts Meadow, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6LW

Client: Ms J Rule & Mr I Smith

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/12/00250/FHA

Development: Erection of rear extension

Date of fieldwork: 13 march, 2013

HER Ref: SSM 031

OASIS: johnnewm1-146480

Grid ref: TM 0471 3432

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Summary: Stratford St Mary, Hunts Meadow, Upper Street (SSM 031, TM 0472 3432) monitoring of foundation trenches for an extension close to the site of a prehistoric cursus monument revealed on aerial photographs, and now largely under the modern line of the A12, did not record any archaeological features or finds. The only evidence for past activity at the site exposed in the footing trenches related to use of the area as a garage in the mid 20th century period and possible small scale quarrying of Post medieval date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Ms J Rule & Mr I Smith).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Ms J Rule and Mr I Smith 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/12/00250/FHA. 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 rear extension to Hunts Meadow, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Stratford St Mary lies to the south of Ipswich and is now a large village having seen extensive development since the middle of the 20th century around what was originally a settlement strung out along Upper Street with other, scattered cottages and farms in the parish. What was the main Roman road from London to the East Anglia cuts across the eastern part of the parish and is now largely under the modern A 12 some 50m to the east of Hunts Meadow. Evidence of major pre-historic activity is known from the close vicinity to the site with a Neolithic cursus type monument (extensive parallel ditches dating to c4/5,000 years before present of likely ritual use) in addition to probable Bronze Age barrow, or burial mound, sites recorded now as ring ditches on aerial photographs. The site is located c450m from the River Stour at c9mOD and is therefore in a zone where multi-period evidence for past ritual and settlement activity might be anticipated on what are largely well drained soils over river terrace sand and gravel derived drift deposits. Hunts Meadow is a modern house constructed in 1979 with the area for the proposed rear extension having until recently been part patio and part conservatory. Previous to the house being constructed the site formed part of the garage which still exists to the west with various outbuildings of earlier to mid 20th century date and related yard areas covering this street frontage.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was therefore generated by its close proximity to the recorded site of a significant prehistoric monument, namely the Stratford cursus (HER SSM 003- see Fig. 1). However little is known about this monument as much of this area had been developed, and a large part of the cursus was destroyed by the nearby A12 bypass of the village, before the relevant aerial photographs entered the archaeological record. In addition further prehistoric activity in the area is evidenced by various ring ditches (HER SSM 018 & 020) also recorded from aerial photographs.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site to observe the excavation of the foundations for the extension as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 500mm wide toothed bucket on a bright, sunny day 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 I).

3. Results

3.1 In total nearly 20m of 500mm wide and 900mm deep foundation trench were examined along the sides of the extension footprint (see Fig. 2) on the eastern side of the house. As the footprint area had previously been under a conservatory and adjoining patio, and before that part of the adjacent garage complex, there were varying degrees of truncation to the original ground levels. In the eastern trench a tarmac surface was revealed at a depth of 400mm while at other points in the foundations modern brick and tile fragments could be seen in the trench sides at a similar depth. Below the upper deposits of recent date and the tarmac surface 200mm to 300mm of a clean, mid brown silty sand subsoil was exposed with the local natural glaciofluvial deposit across the site being dark orange sand with numerous flints typical of such river terrace areas. A greater depth of subsoil was noted in the eastern trench to a depth of 900mm and small fragments of Post medieval brick/tile were visible throughout this deposit which may represent part of a quarry type pit excavated to exploit the underlying sand and stone.

3.2 As the ground works progressed the trench sides and the upcast spoil were examined for archaeological finds but only small fragments of Post medieval brick or tile were noted.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site lies within an overall area that contains significant evidence for prehistoric activity, and is in a topographic location often favoured for settlement in the past, no evidence for any activity pre-dating the early 20th century was revealed during the ground works. As outlined above a moderate degree of ground truncation and disturbance had clearly taken place at the site; however sufficient intact deposits were preserved to give some confidence in these negative findings though it should also be noted that the works were small scale. Therefore any opportunity to examine other sites nearby should be taken as future development proposals may allow.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the extent of the monitored strip foundations have had no affect on any archaeological deposits at a site that has been in part disturbed in recent times by possible quarrying and use within a garage complex.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Jayne Rule and Ian Smith and everyone on site for their close cooperation in relation to this site monitoring)

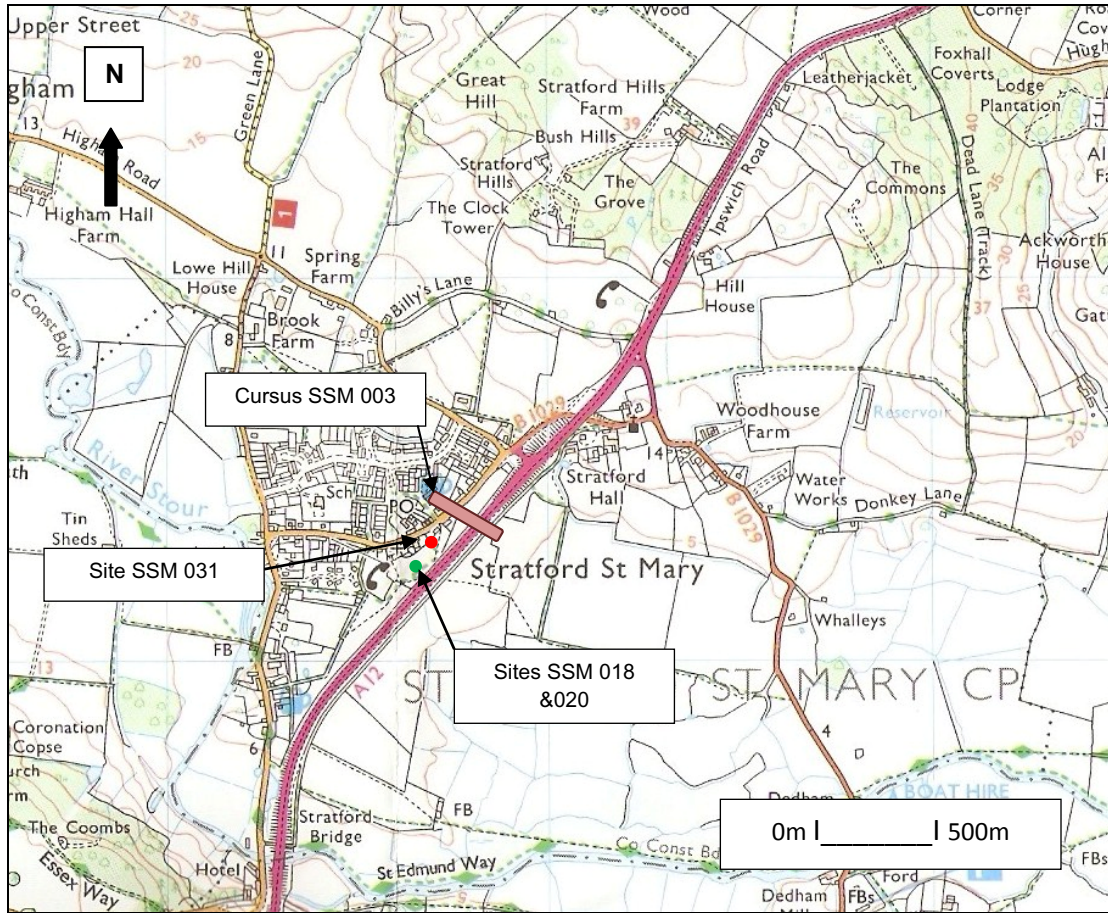


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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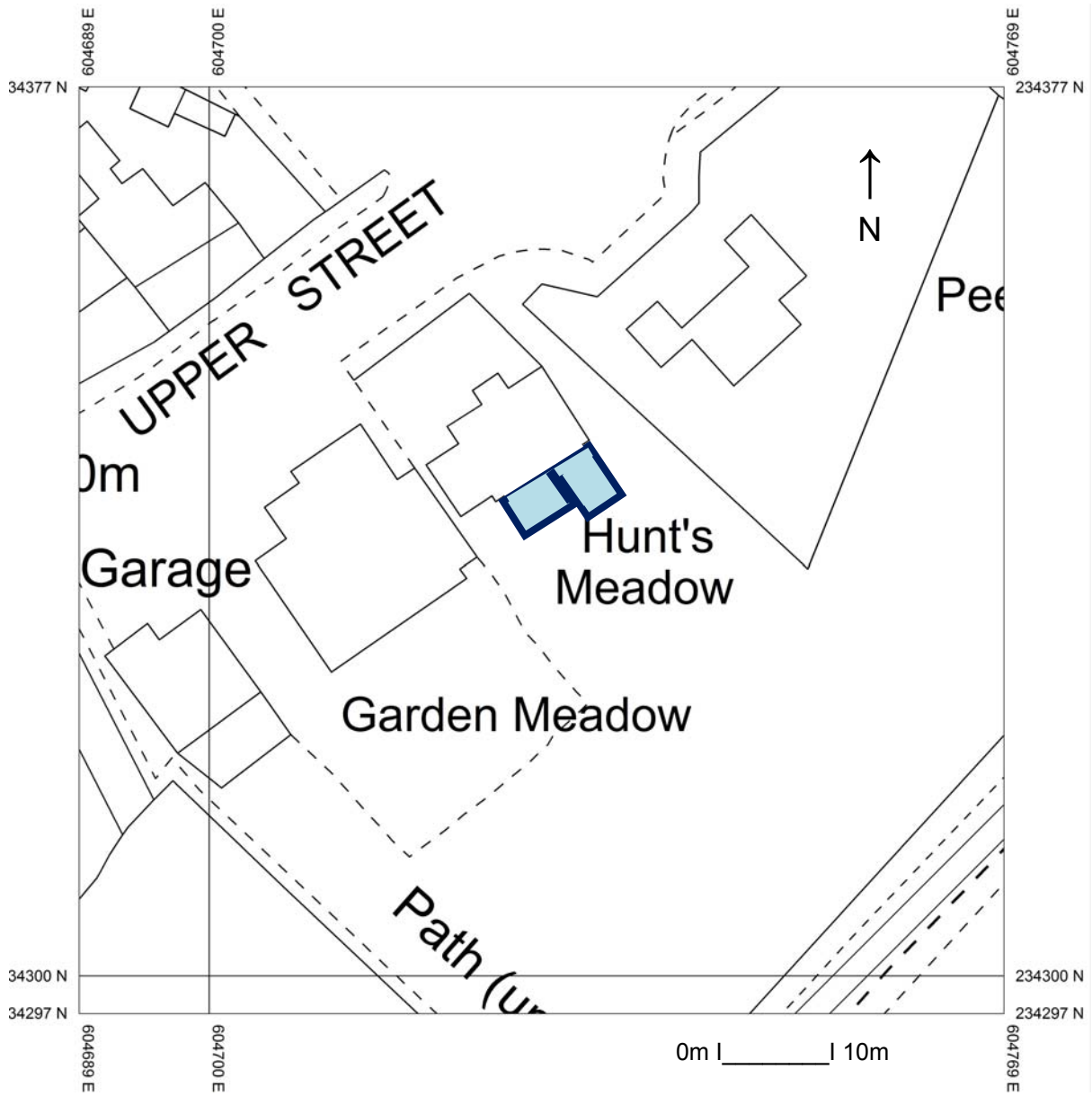


Fig. 2: Monitored extension footprint (foundation trenches- dark blue)
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Appendix I – Images



General view from south-east



Southern foundation trench from east



Southern foundation trench deposit profile with tarmac surface at 400mm depth

**Hunts Meadow, Upper Street,
Stratford St Mary, Suffolk**

Planning application: B/12/00250/FHA

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

Site details

Name: Hunts Meadow, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6LW

Client: Ms J Rule

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/12/00250/FHA

Proposed development: Erection of rear extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief & Specification ref: 2012_06_29_SCCAS_Archaeological Monitoring
Brief_Hunts Meadow_ Stratford St Mary_JP

Grid ref: TM 0471 3432

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

1.1 Ms J Rule 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 B/12/00250/FHA. 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 a new rear extension to Hunts Meadow, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary.

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 Stratford St Mary lies to the south of Ipswich and is now a large village having seen extensive development since the middle of the 20th century around what was originally a settlement strung out along Upper Street with other, scattered cottages and farms in the parish. What was the main Roman road from London to the East Anglia cuts across the eastern part of the parish and is now largely under the modern A 12 some 60m to the east of Hunts Meadow. Evidence of major pre-historic activity is known from the close vicinity to the site with a Neolithic cursus type monument (extensive parallel ditches dating to c4/5,000 years before present of likely ritual use) in addition to probable Bronze Age barrow, or burial mound, sites recorded now as ring ditches on aerial photographs. The site lies at c9m OD contour to the north and c450m from the River Stour and is therefore in a zone where multi-period evidence for past ritual and settlement activity might be anticipated on what are likely to be sand and gravel derived drift deposits. Hunts Meadow is a modern house constructed in 1979 with the area for the proposed rear extension being partly under patio at present and partly occupied by a conservatory.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The site is located within a major prehistoric complex, identified from air photographs: within 50m to the

north is a Neolithic cursus monument (recorded of the Historic Environment Record as SSM 003) and to the south-west are two ring ditches (HER refs SSM 018, SSM 020). The probability of further prehistoric activity not visible as cropmarks is high. Any ground-works associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets.'

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 earlier prehistoric (Neolithic/Bronze Age) 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 the recorded site of various prehistoric monuments. In particular any information related to the nearby Neolithic period cursus site will be of value.

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. 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 to medium given the proximity of two recorded ring ditches though the likely acidic nature of the local sand and gravel deposits will be detrimental to bone preservation though cremations will be more resistant).

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: johnnewm1-146480

Project details

Project name	Hunts Meadow, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Stratford St Mary, Hunts Meadow, Upper Street (SSM 031, TM 0472 3432) monitoring of foundation trenches for an extension close to the site of a prehistoric cursus monument revealed on aerial photographs did not record any archaeological features or finds. The only evidence for past activity at the site exposed in the footing trenches related to use of the area as a garage in the mid 20th century period and possible small scale quarrying of Post medieval date.
Project dates	Start: 13-03-2013 End: 13-03-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SSM 031 - 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 STRATFORD ST MARY HUNTS MEADOW, UPPER STREET
Postcode	CO7 6LW
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0472 3432 51 0 51 58 08 N 000 58 50 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.00m Max: 10.00m

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)
Title	Hunts Meadow, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
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OASIS: