

**Land at 21-24 Ravens Lane,  
Bramford, Suffolk**

**Planning application: 2632/10**

**HER Ref: BRF 093**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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

(March 2013)

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**Site details for HER**

Name: Land to the rear of 21-24 Ravens Lane, Bramford, Suffolk

Clients: Mr R Jordan

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 2632/10

Development: Erection of two detached dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 25 March, 2013

HER Ref: BRF 093

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-146498

Grid ref: TM 1240 4652

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*Summary: Bramford, land to the rear of Nos 21-24 Ravens Lane (BRF 093, TM 1240 4652) evaluation trenching for a small residential development of two new dwellings exposed a substantial depth of clean subsoil but did not reveal any archaeological features or finds of pre c1900 date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr R Jordan).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr R Jordan commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a small residential development of two detached dwellings on land to the rear of Nos 21-24 Ravens Lane, Bramford (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application 2632/10, set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of this development site. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to gain a conditional discharge and allow the trenching to go ahead before any other ground works were undertaken.

1.2 Bramford parish is located 2.5 miles north-west of the historic centre of Ipswich largely on the western side of the River Gipping whose valley forms the major route way across Suffolk from the coast towards Bury St Edmunds and the Fens to the west. While the modern village of Bramford is much enlarged and changed as it forms a dormitory settlement for Ipswich it was formerly a relatively small village strung out along a main north-west to south-east aligned road now known as The Street. Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 shows a linear settlement along The Street which turns at its southern end to a bridging point over the River Gipping close to the parish church. This development site is located 60m east of The Street, some 350m north-west of the parish church and 230m west of the River Gipping with Ravens Lane being a recent creation. The site lies in an area of freely draining soils derived from the underlying river valley terrace sands and gravels at c15m OD in an area of generally flat topography.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this proposed development was due to its proximity to recorded evidence for prehistoric activity some 80m to the north-west (HER BRF 013, see Fig. 1) and medieval activity (HER BRF 040) c60m to the south-west. A location such as this on the light, sandy, soils typical of a well drained river terrace often being favoured for settlement and related activities from the earliest periods of prehistory.

## 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed small scale residential development was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2) using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1500mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity. To avoid later problems during the excavation of footings the evaluation trenches did not cover the planned footprint areas for the two detached dwellings but were placed close by to the north and south.

2.2 The sides and base of the two 1.80m wide trenches and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned for finds and any indistinct areas or potential features were investigated by hand. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under cold but dry and sunny conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trenches was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the evaluation progressed a full

photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works.

## 3. Results

3.1 In this case the results are most easily summarised as in the table below as nothing of archaeological interest was revealed (see also Fig. 2):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/natural features & finds
1	North-east/south-west	7.50m	400	700 of a mid brown sandy subsoil	Soft yellow sand with small flints	Only feature a modern pit full of domestic debris just below topsoil & cut into the top of the subsoil, no other finds save occasional Pmed cbm frags. in topsoil
2	North-east/south-west	7.50m	400	500 (as T1)	Orange sand with small & medium flints	No features, only finds Pmed cbm frags in topsoil & 2 blue & white transfer printed 19 <sup>th</sup> /E20 <sup>th</sup> C sherds
Total		15				

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above no archaeological features or finds of any date were revealed during the evaluation with both trenches exhibiting substantial deposits of subsoil giving an overall depth for trench 1 of 1100mm and 900mm for trench 2. It was also notable that the subsoil deposit at this site did not contain any finds with the single feature that was revealed being a pit towards the eastern end of trench 1 which was clearly of early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date as it contained recent ceramics, an oil lamp and at least one battery of this date. This pit was exposed just below the topsoil and was cut into the top of the underlying subsoil and it seems likely that it can be associated with the nearby houses at 21-24 Ravens Lane which appear to date to c1900.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 With such negative results regarding any significant evidence for past activity from a substantial sample of 22.50m<sup>2</sup> of the overall development area it can only be concluded that this site lies outside areas between The Street and the River Gipping utilised in the past for activity of any intensity. In all probability the area of this site has only been in general agricultural use in the past leading to the development of a substantial depth of subsoil.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out on the proposed site of the new dwellings on land to the rear of Nos 21-24 Ravens Lane, Bramford.

**Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. BRF 093.**

**Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological work in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.**

**(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Richard Jordan and Trevor Emmitt for their close cooperation with regard to this evaluation)**

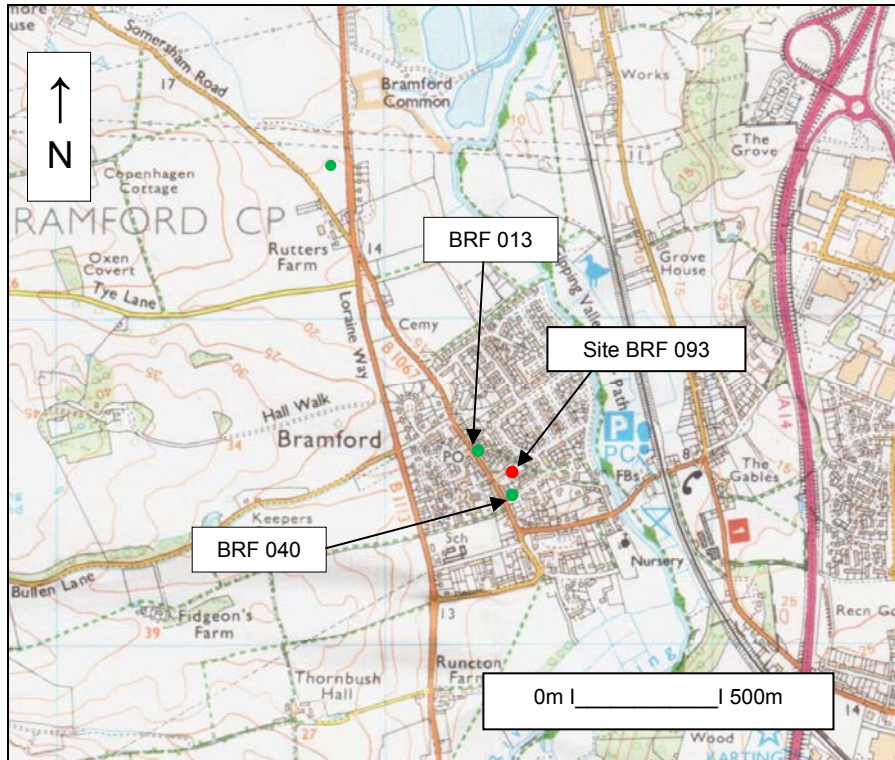


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
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Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches (house footprints- light blue)  
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2012 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



Site from south-east



Trench 1 from east



Trench 1 deposit profile





Trench 2 from west



Trench 2 deposit profile

**Land at 21-24 Ravens Lane,  
Bramford, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Evaluation**

## **Site details**

Name: Land at 21-24 Ravens Lane, Bramford, Suffolk

Client: Mr R Jordan

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 2632/10

Proposed development: Erection of two detached dwellings

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: 2011\_11\_02\_SCCAS\_TrenchedArchaeologicalEvaluation\_Brief\_Ravens Lane Bramford

Grid ref: TM 285 671

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2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Mr R Jordan has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed small scale residential development. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition on planning application 2632/10 and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of two dwellings on that part of the gardens of 21-24 Ravens Lane, Bramford which is to be detached for this purpose.

1.2 The evaluation 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)*, locally in *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver. 1.2 (Suffolk CC)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Bramford parish is located 2.5 miles north-west of the historic centre of Ipswich largely on the western side of the River Gipping whose valley forms the major route way across Suffolk from the coast towards Bury St Edmunds and the Fens to the west. While the modern village of Bramford is much enlarged and changed as it forms a dormitory settlement for Ipswich it was formerly a relatively small village strung out along a main north-west to south-east aligned road now known as The Street. Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 shows a linear settlement along The Street which turns at its southern end to a bridge over the River Gipping close to the parish church. The proposed development site (PDS) is located c60m east of The Street, some 350m north-west of the parish church and c230m west of the River Gipping with Ravens Lane being a recent creation. The PDS lies in an area of freely draining soils derived from the underlying river valley terrace sands and gravels at c15m OD in an area of generally flat topography.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The application lies within close proximity of known archaeological activity recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Artefacts of prehistoric (HER no. BRF 013 and BRF Misc) and medieval (BRF 040) date have been recorded close

to the location of the proposed dwellings. These are indicative of further occupation deposits within this area and there is high potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this location.' A site evaluation by trial trenching is therefore required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

3.2 In addition test pitting close to the PDS by the Access Cambridge Archaeology project in 2012 recovered a small late Saxon sherd, a moderate quantity of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds and a considerable amount of 19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian pottery from two locations (test pits 7 & 8).

#### 4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the PDS relates to its location close to where evidence for past activity is shown by the recovery of artefacts of prehistoric and medieval date. A potential for prehistoric activity in the area may also be derived from the location of the PDS on a river terrace in an area of light, well drained soils while the site, in addition, lies on the edge of the medieval and earlier Post medieval village. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the planned footprint area under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed, a strategy can be formulated for the possible preservation in situ or, failing that, systematic recording of deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost before any other ground works commence.

## 5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for two detached dwellings on what is currently soft ground.

5.2 The Brief requires 15m of 1.8m wide linear trenching to sample the PDS and to avoid the potential collapse of foundation trenches in the construction phase it has been agreed with SCCAS that this total can be divided between 7m to the north of the planned footprint areas in what will be driveway and 8m to the south in future back gardens (see trench plan below). This will be undertaken using a minimum 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench. The machine will be closely supervised by an experienced archaeologist as the overburden is removed in shallow spits to the top of any archaeological deposits that are present, where hand investigation will start, or to expose the underlying drift geology which will be further hand cleaned and examined. The spoil will be stored adjacent to the excavated trench with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. No trenches will be backfilled until the relevant officer at SCCAS has been consulted and should any modification to the trench layout be required due to any unforeseen circumstances, such as local services, then SCCAS will be contacted immediately. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the evaluation. The up cast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site HER number obtained from the Suffolk CC HER beforehand. 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. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record in monochrome film and high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before appropriate hand investigation and recording. Exposed archaeological features will be sampled at standard levels with care being taken to cause minimum disturbance to the site consistent with evaluation to a level adequate to properly form a subsequent mitigation strategy. Significant features such as solid or

bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained (and during backfilling). Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%-possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCCAS Officer will be informed and the clear presumption must be to preserve such remains in situ with minimum disturbance during this evaluation stage. If this is not possible then a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on site recording (total 100% sampling if a cremation deposit) and removal of the remains followed by examination by the relevant specialist and possibly scientific dating. If human remains do have to be recorded, removed from site and reported on then these works will add an additional cost to the evaluation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial is assessed as being low at this location).

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCCAS 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 SCCAS Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCCAS Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording (which may have an additional cost implication). Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer.

5.6 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas in order to inform any further stages in the archaeological programme of works for the PDS. The sampling, processing and assessment will follow the guidelines as detailed in *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis* (Murphy P L & Wiltshire P E J, 1994). In accordance with standard practice bulk samples of 40 litres (or 100% of the deposit where less) will be taken from a representative cross section of archaeological deposits of all periods (respecting defined fills within features), in consultation with the relevant SCCAS Officer (and RSA if the deposits merit more targeted advice) including deposits that cannot be immediately dated by their artefact content, so the state of preservation and full archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the deposits can be assessed and any further sampling, should further field work take place, be systematically planned and fully costed.

Archaeological deposits of all types may reveal valuable data through the processing and assessment of samples with high priority features including the primary fills of pits, wells and cesspits, layers of middens, occupation surfaces and structural features as well as other discrete activity areas, contents of hearths, ovens, and other craft related or industrial structures. In addition more generalised settlement and land use features such as ditches may also yield valuable and informative data when sampling is undertaken systematically as the sum of all the assessment results can add considerably to the interpretation of a site and its landscape. Through an integrated study of all the data recovered from the evaluation the results from the assessment of the samples will be reviewed in terms of:

- What is the quality and state of preservation of charred plant remains, mineralised plant and animal related remains, small vertebrates and industrial residues such as evidence for iron working (contributing to the fullest interpretation of the evaluation results and to aid the planning of any further field work)
- What is the concentration of macro-remains (to inform sampling strategy in any further field work), in particular how might bulk sampling inform the interpretation of burial deposits.
- Can any patterning or similarities/differences be ascertained between deposits from different periods represented on site, similarly can any useful comparisons be made with undated and unphased deposits (to aid interpretation of the evaluation results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)
- Do waterlogged deposits exist on site, if so is there potential for palaeoenvironmental data from preserved insects or pollen and do such deposits contain organic material suitable for RC dating from samples taken as advised by the relevant soil specialist (who would also coordinate the assessment for pollen and insect remains), the RSA will also be consulted in such cases in conjunction with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Incremental column samples will be taken should waterlogged deposits be revealed in close consultation with the evaluation soils specialist with 10-20 litre sample sizes which will be sub-sampled for preserved pollen, insects, diatoms, preserved parasite eggs etc. If waterlogged wood is encountered it will ideal to leave in situ, if it has to be lifted it will be packed while wet in black polythene and stored at 5C until it



can be transferred to a specialist for species identification, assessment and potential for RC dating is undertaken (should RC dating be required in the evaluation on such deposits this incur additional cost and will take time to obtain, however examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is unlikely).

- Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the evaluation the relevant SCCAS Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling and assessment by the relevant evaluation specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged)

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2, and particularly Appendix 3). This archive will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the guidelines outlined in '*Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2008). 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.

5.8 The evaluation report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 3.1 & Appendix 4.1) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the aims of this WSI and section 4 above in particular. The report will give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. The report will include an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features in relation to both dated and undated features and in terms of patterning across the site.

5.9 Any interpretation of the evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results and the results will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site evaluation in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER

records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8, & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). There will be no further work on site until the evaluation results have been assessed and the SCCAS Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required. The report may give an opinion regarding the necessity for further evaluation work as appropriate. A draft copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS following completion of the site works. As required the site evaluation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER, with the relevant OASIS summary detail form and the digital archive on disc. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up. The trench location will be provided for the HER as a .dxf vector plan.

## 6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, and ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the machine operator for excavation of the trenches and examination of the 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 Discussion with the agent/client has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the discovery of underground services is unlikely. No overhead services impinge on the trench locations. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the evaluation will be passed to finds and environmental specialists.

6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

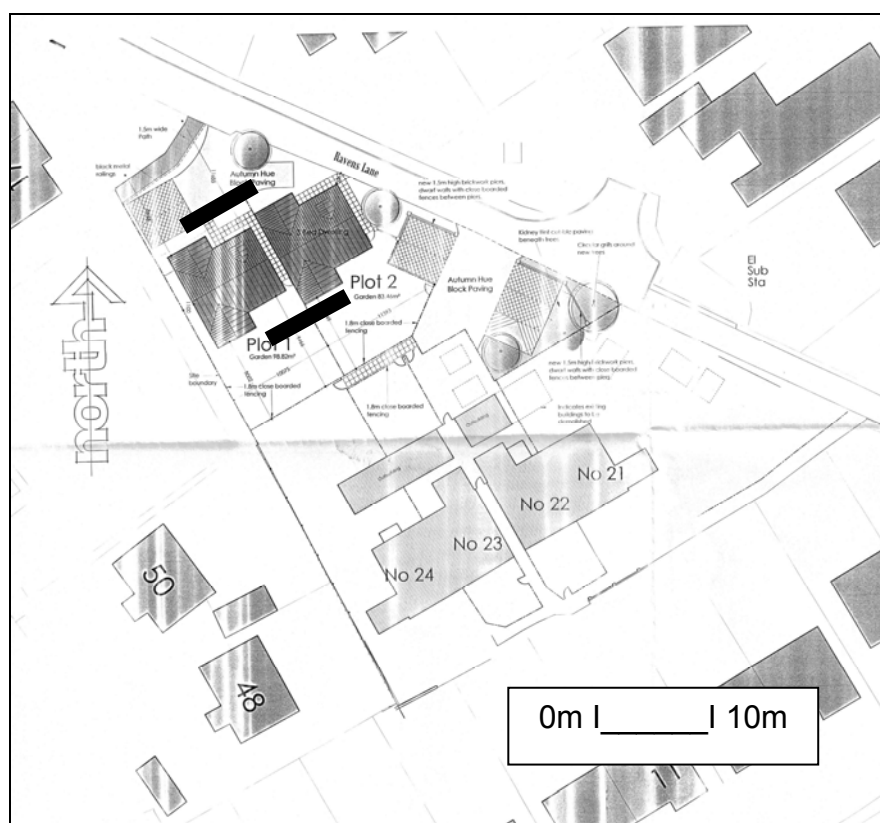
6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Torgate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

## 7. Specialists

# John Newman Archaeological Services

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Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Roman period small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics:	S Benfield (CAT)
Medieval coins:	M Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



Proposed location of trial trenches

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-146498**

### Project details

Project name	Land at 21-24 Ravens Lane, Bramford, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Bramford, land to the rear of Nos 21-24 Ravens Lane (BRF 093, TM 1240 4652) evaluation trenching for a small residential development of two new dwellings exposed a substantial depth of clean subsoil but did not reveal any archaeological features or finds of pre c1900 date.
Project dates	Start: 25-03-2013 End: 25-03-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BRF 093 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK BRAMFORD LAND AT 21-24 RAVENS LANE
Postcode	IP8 4EJ
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1240 4652 52 1 52 04 32 N 001 05 59 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 13.00m Max: 14.00m

**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	Developer

**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	Land at Nos 21-24 Ravens Lane, Bramford, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henley, Suffolk
Description	Loose bound client report
Entered by	John Newman (johnewman2@btinternet.com)
Entered on	28 March 2013

**OASIS:**