

**Albany House, High Street,  
Acton, Suffolk**

**Planning application: B/12/01032/FUL**

**HER Ref: ACT 031**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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

(April 2013)

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**Site details for HER**

Name: Land to the rear of Albany House, High Street, Acton, Suffolk, CO10 0AU

Client: Mr & Mrs P Edwards

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/12/01032/FUL

Development: Erection of bungalow & garage

Date of fieldwork: 27 February, 2013

HER Ref: ACT 031

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-146903

Grid ref: TL 8928 4492

## Contents

### Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Evaluation methodology
3. Results

Table 1: Trench details

4. The Finds
5. The Environmental evidence
6. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of trenches

Fig. 3 Trench 1 plan & section (Sue Holden)

List of appendices

Appendix I- Selected images

Appendix II- Written scheme for evaluation

Appendix III- The Finds (Sue Anderson)

Appendix IV- The Environmental evidence (Val Fryer)

Appendix V- Context list

Appendix VI- OASIS data collection form

*Summary: Acton, Albany House, High Street (ACT 031, TL8928 4492) evaluation trenching in the back garden for a single dwelling development revealed a large, south-east/north-west aligned, ditch running parallel to the High Street with a primary fill of medieval date. Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 suggests the presence of a linear green where this house and others of post 1800 date now stand and the large ditch is interpreted as the green edge boundary. To the south of this ditch, and therefore further from the green edge, a second trench revealed extensive ground disturbance of Post medieval date which is likely to represent a phase of quarrying at the site. The scarcity of finds of medieval or earlier Post medieval date at the site suggests that the area immediately around the evaluation trenches was only in general agricultural use during these periods and the environmental evidence from the lower fill suggests open grassland nearby with the ditch poorly maintained and overgrown with weeds (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs P Edwards).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Nick Peasland Architectural Services on behalf of his clients, Mr & Mrs P Edwards, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a new bungalow and garage development on land to the rear of Albany House, High Street, Acton (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application B/12/01032/FUL, set by Ms R Monk of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the area concerned. 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 Acton village is located just under two miles north of Sudbury in south central Suffolk and it is a settlement that has seen considerable expansion in recent years. However Hodkinson's map of Suffolk that was published in 1783 shows a very much smaller settlement with what is now the High Street depicted as being considerably wider as it runs through the village on a north-west to south-east alignment. At this width it seems likely that what is now the High Street and immediately adjoining area may well have been a linear green or tye in use for communal grazing as well as a road and in this context it is of interest that local inhabitants still refer to the area a 'the green.' That the older, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings, such as Long Gardens and Rose Cottage, to the north-west of the proposed bungalow site are set back by c25m from the High Street would support this suggestion with more recent structures, such as Albany House, representing post 1800 in-fill onto an enclosed linear green area (see Fig. 2). Therefore the site for this new bungalow while being 40m south of the modern street frontage is likely to be half that distance from the medieval and earlier Post medieval green edge with the associated garage site being even closer to the green. The new bungalow site also lies c200m south-east of the parish church and just below the 60m OD contour in an area largely dominated by the heavier clay soils derived from the underlying chalky Till deposits of central Suffolk.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development has therefore been generated by its location within the historic core of the village in relatively close proximity to the parish church and near to listed houses of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century date which historic cartographic sources suggest lie on the southern edge of a green or tye of medieval origin. In this setting the site had the potential to contain evidence of past settlement related activity of medieval and earlier Post medieval date in particular with the planned development due to cause extensive ground disturbance with subsequent damage to any archaeological deposits that might be present.

## 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed new bungalow development and associated garage was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2) with a trench across each footprint. The trenching was undertaken using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1.20m wide flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity. Two 1.80m wide trenches were opened with their total length coming to 16m giving a sample by

area of 28.80m<sup>2</sup> which represents a substantial part of the respective bungalow and garage footprints.

2.2 The base of the trenches and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned for any finds as the work progressed. A large feature was exposed across the southern two-thirds of trench 1 and due to its size and the presence of a high ground water level at the site this was sectioned mechanically under close archaeological supervision. Similarly in trench 2 a considerable depth of subsoil and potential feature fill was encountered, again with a high ground water level, so these deposits were also mechanically lowered under close supervision. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under 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 The overall results of the evaluation are most easily summarised in tabular form as detailed below (see also Figs. 2 & 3 & Appendix V- Context list):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/ natural features & finds
1	Northeast/ southwest	6	400	3/400 of a mid brown clayey subsoil with chalk frags.	Pale yellowish brown chalky clay with flints	Large ditch (0002) on a NW/SE alignment across southern two-thirds of trench, width 4m+, depth 1.90m from ground level, med sherds in clean primary fill (0004), ground water at 800mm
2	Northeast/ southwest	10	400	400 (as trench 1)	As trench 1	Natural Till deposits only in northern 3m, then large ?quarry type disturbance (0005) across trench, taken to 1.60m deep, peg tile frags in fill (0006), ground water at 1.20/1.30m
Total		16				

Table 1: Trench details (T1- garage site, T2- bungalow site)

3.2 As outlined in the table above the glaciofluvial deposits exposed in the base of the trenches at a depth of 700/800mm proved to be a pale yellowish brown clay with degraded chalk fragments, small and medium sized flints. It was also notable that the ground water level was relatively high at a depth of between 800mm and 1.20m.

3.3 Archaeological deposits were exposed in each trench though only in trench 1 could the single identified feature be defined to any extent as these deposits were substantial and in each case spanned the full width of the respective trench. While the northern 2m length of trench 1 revealed the local natural Till deposits at a depth of 700/800mm the remainder of it exposed a large, north-west/south-east aligned, ditch (0002) which proved to be at least 4m wide and 1.20m deep (1.90m from modern ground level- see Fig. 3). As noted in section 2.2 above this feature was

sectioned mechanically and the upcast spoil was closely examined for finds which were scarce though Post medieval material came from the upper fill (0003) while the lower, or primary, fill (0004) contained two small medieval sherds. It was also notable that the lower fill (0004) was clean with very little visual evidence, such as charcoal flecks, for domestic debris of any type. Only the northern edge of this large ditch (0002) was exposed in trench 1 though assuming a symmetric form a full width of 5/5.50m can be inferred with the two fills (0003 & 0004) giving no indication for former presence of a bank to the north or south. A sample was taken from the upcast spoil of the lower fill (0004).

3.4 Trench 2 was similar to trench in that the local natural Till deposit in the area was only exposed in the 3m at a depth of 800mm. The remaining 7m of trench 2 to the south revealed a deposit that was very similar in character to the mid brown clay subsoil above and which is interpreted as the fill (0006) of a large disturbance (0005) of unknown extent and which proved to be at least 1600mm deep. The substantial size of this disturbance (0005) suggests an origin as a quarry or extraction pit whose fill (0006) contained a number of small and medium sized roof tile fragments.

## 4. The Finds

4.1 Few finds of any significance were recovered during the evaluation with the full finds report by Sue Anderson for this small group of material recovered from the evaluation included as Appendix III below. In summary the most interesting and significant finds were two small sherds (21g) of medieval pottery, one of a glazed Hedingham fine ware, from the primary fill (0004) of the large ditch (0002) identified in trench 1. The upper fill (0003) in this ditch (0002) contained a small Post medieval sherd (3g) in addition to roof tile fragments (437g) of a similar date. The large feature (0005) identified in trench 2 also contained plain roof tile fragments of Post medieval date though only two were retrieved as a sample. In addition the feature fill (0006) in trench 2 contained a single, residual, sherd (31g) of medieval date.

## 5. The Environmental evidence

5.1 A bulk sample was taken from the lower fill (0004) of the only definable feature (0002), the large ditch in trench 1, and the full assessment report for this sample by Val Fryer is included as Appendix IV below. In summary the results from this sample indicate that the site area was close to open grassland at the time the lower part of the feature was open in the medieval period with little evidence for any activity of any intensity taking place nearby. In addition the environmental evidence suggests a poorly maintained ditch which was at least partly overgrown with colonising weeds such as fool's parsley, musk thistle, hemlock, henbane and stinging nettle.

## 6. Conclusion

6.1 The identification of the large ditch (0002) in trench 1, which is on a parallel alignment to the former linear medieval green depicted by Hodskinson in 1783, is of some interest as the primary fill (0004) also suggests a medieval origin for this feature. On the assumption that the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century cottages to the northwest of the this site mark the southern edge of this green it appears likely that this feature (0002) is the green edge ditch as such areas of communal grazing were assiduously defined in the medieval period, often with a sizable ditch, as members of the parish

would have a desire to discourage any encroachment (see Fig. 2). That the excavated fills (0003 & 0004) of this ditch (0002) contained few finds or any other indication of nearby activity of any intensity would suggest that this part of the green edge was in general agricultural use rather than domestic settlement in the medieval and early Post medieval periods. This relative isolation of the evaluation area from domestic settlement in the medieval period perhaps leading to the overgrown state of the ditch (0002) as evidenced by the various weed seeds identified in the sample.

6.2 Little more can be added to the evaluation conclusions from what was revealed in trench 2 as this demonstrated a large scale phase of ground disturbance in the Post medieval period; a medieval sherd from the fill (0006) of the probable quarry pit (0005) that was identified does again suggest a low intensity type of land use in the immediate area.

6.3 Based on the evaluation results, and the intended foundation design utilising piles and relatively shallow ground beam trenches which will be within the 700/800mm overburden across the site, it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out on the proposed development site to the rear of Albany House, High Street, Acton.

*Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. ACT 031.*

*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 Peter and Lisa Edwards for their close cooperation on site, to Esther Newman for processing the finds, to Sue Anderson for her specialist finds reporting, to Val and Robert Fryer for their work on the sample and to Sue Holden for preparing Fig. 3)*

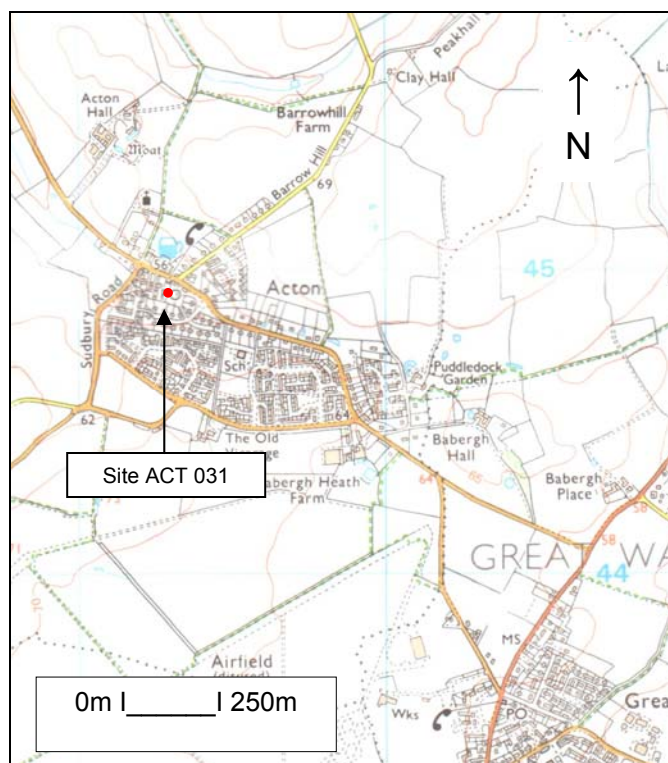


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

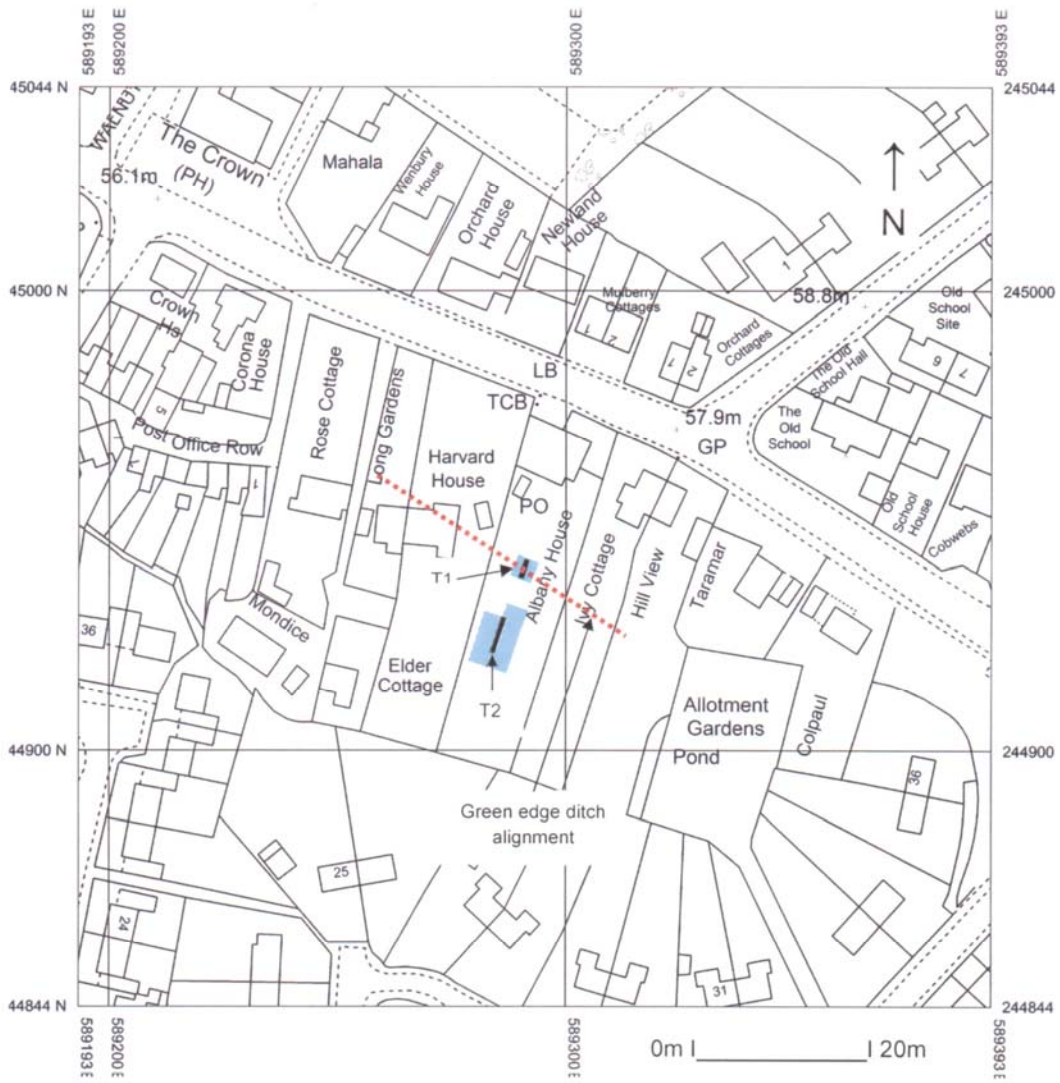


Fig. 2: Location of trenches (house & garage sites- light blue)  
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)



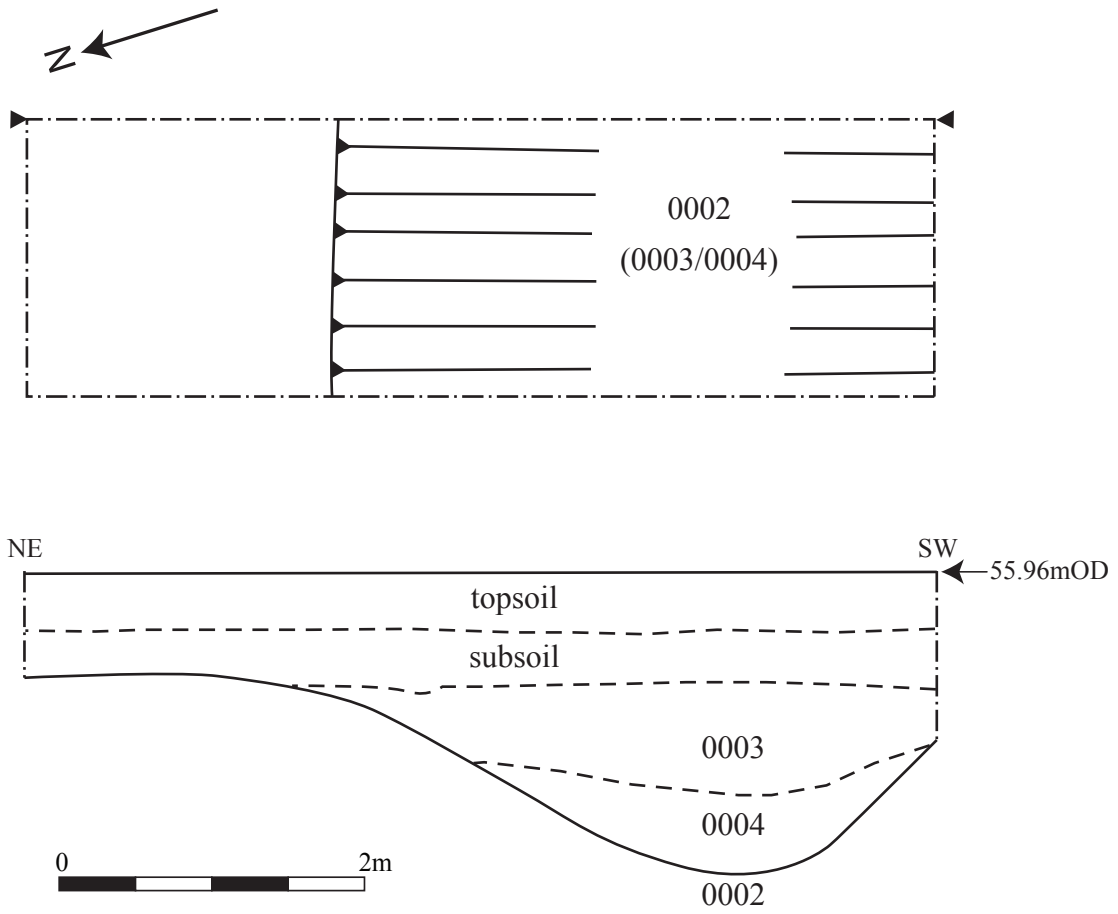


Fig. 3: Trench 1 plan and section.

## Appendix I- Images



General view from south



Trench 1 from north with ditch 0002 under excavation



Trench 1- section of ditch 0002 from north-east



Trench 2 from north

**Land To Rear Of Albany House, High Street,  
Acton, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Evaluation**

## **Site details**

Name: Land to rear of Albany House, High Street, Acton, Suffolk

Clients: Mr P Edwards

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/12/01032/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of bungalow & garage

Proposed date for evaluation: 28 February, 2012

Brief ref: SCCAS\_RM\_Trenched Archaeological Evaluation\_Brief\_ Albany House, High Street, Acton

Grid ref: TL 8928 4490

## **Contents**

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

Proposed location of trial trenches

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Nick Peasland Architectural Services on behalf of their client, Mr P Edwards, have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed replacement dwelling development that has recently received consent to go ahead. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application B/12/01032/FUL and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Ms R Monk of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns land to the rear of Albany House, High Street, Acton.

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. 1.1 (Suffolk CC)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Acton village is located just under two miles north of Sudbury in south central Suffolk and it is a settlement that has seen considerable expansion in recent years. However Hodkinson's map of Suffolk that was published in 1783 shows a very much smaller settlement with what is now the High Street depicted as being considerably wider as it runs through the village on a north-west to south-east alignment. At this width it seems likely that the then High Street may well have been in use as linear green or tye in use for communal grazing as well as a road. That the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings, such as Rose Cottage, to the north-west of the proposed development site (PDS) are set back by c25m from the street would support this suggestion with more recent buildings, such as Albany House, representing post 1800 in-fill onto an enclosed linear green or tye (area of communal grazing). Therefore the PDS while being 50m south of the modern street frontage it is likely to be half that distance from the medieval and earlier Post medieval one. The PDS also lies c200m south-east of parish church and just below the 60m OD contour in an area largely dominated by the heavier clay soils derived from the underlying chalky Till deposits of central Suffolk.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'This application lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The proposed development is situated 200m south-west of the medieval church of All Saints (HER no. ACT 013). In addition it is located within the historic core of Acton, adjacent to a group of listed 17th and 18th C houses. As a result, there is high potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works will

cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists. 'A site evaluation by trial trenching will therefore be 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. The further recording of any archaeological deposits may involve excavation prior to ground works commencing or monitoring of the relevant ground works

#### 4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the main archaeological potential relates to the site's location close to where evidence of medieval and earlier Post medieval period activity in particular has been recorded. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed development area with an evaluation trench under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed they can be sampled and characterised. With this information a strategy can then be formulated for their possible preservation in situ or, failing that, the systematic recording of these deposits and the associated working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

#### 5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for a new bungalow and garage on what is soft ground on land to the rear of Albany House, High Street, Acton. The evaluation trenching will be in an area that is currently garden.

5.2 The Brief requires 15m long and 1.8m wide trench across the planned footprint areas of the proposed dwelling and garage. This will be undertaken using a 1.20m or 1.50m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench plan as set out below. 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

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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



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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. 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- if any RC dates are required on should features containing suitable material but no easily dateable finds then this will incur an additional cost though this is a very rarely required on smaller scale evaluations.
- 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 (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 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 if this application receives consent. 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. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER with a digital version on disc. As required the site evaluation 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 vector plan of the trench locations will be provided in .dxf format for inclusion in the County HER.

### 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 client/agent has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination. 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.

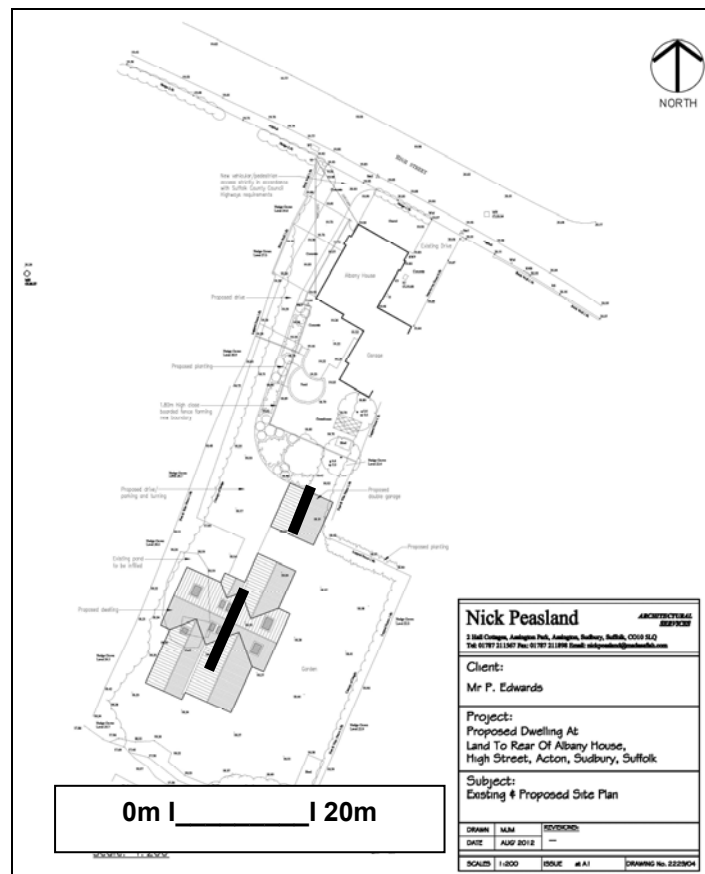
6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider 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)
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



## Appendix III- The Finds

Albany House, High St, Acton (ACT 031): ceramics  
Sue Anderson, CFA Archaeology, March 2013.

### Introduction

Finds were collected from three contexts, as shown in Table 1 and listed in Table 2 & 3.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0003	1	3	3	437	16th-18th c.
0004	2	21			M.12th-13th c.
0006	1	31	2	71	pmed
Total	4	55	5	508	

Table 1. Finds quantities.

### Pottery

One sherd of post-medieval glazed red earthenware (GRE) was recovered from ditch fill 0003. The lower fill of the same ditch (0004) contained medieval pottery, comprising a sherd of Essex sandy orange ware (ESOW) and a glazed fragment of Hedingham Fine Ware (HFW1). One other medieval sherd was recovered, again ESOW, from quarry pit fill 0006.

### Ceramic building material

Two fragments of fine sandy post-medieval plain roof tile and a piece of possible brick or floor tile were collected from upper ditch fill 0003. The possible brick fragment was 114mm wide and was worn on the base. It was in a fine sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions. Both edges were straight and slightly reduced. The size and apparently struck face suggests that the fragment is brick rather than floor tile, but the fabric is dense and similar to some quarry tiles.

Two fragments of plain roof tile were found in quarry pit fill 0006. One, in a fine sandy fabric, had a reduced core and is likely to be medieval. The other piece was fully oxidised and in a fine sandy fabric with occasional ferrous and calcareous inclusions, and is probably post-medieval.

Table 2 – Pottery

Context	Type	No	Wt	Notes	Spotdate
0003	GRE	1	3	body sherd, orange glaze int & ext	16-18
0004	ESOW	1	7	fairly coarse, poss early Colchester or vicinity	med
	HFW1	1	14	green glaze ext over white slip	M.12-13
0006	ESOW	1	31	thick body sherd, reduced core	med
<b>Totals</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>55</b>		

Table 3 – CBM

Context	Type	Fabric	No	Wt	Notes	Spotdate
0003	RTP	fs	2	53		pmed
	LB/FT?	fsfe	1	384	worn base, straight sides, 36+mm thick, 114mm wide	pmed
0006	RTM	fs	1	29	reduced core	med
	RTP	fsfe	1	42		lmed/pmed
<b>Totals</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>508</b>		

Notes: RTP – post-med plain roof tile; RTM – med plain roof tile; LB – post-med brick; FT – floor tile

## Appendix IV- The Environmental Evidence

### AN EVALUATION OF THE PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM ALBANY HOUSE, ACTON, SUFFOLK (ACT 031)

Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF  
April 2013

#### Introduction and method statement

Evaluation excavations at Acton, undertaken by John Newman, recorded a large ditch of probable medieval date. A single sample for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from the lower fill of the ditch (context 0006).

The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). Both charred and de-watered macrofossils were recorded, with the latter being denoted within the table by a lower case 'w' suffix.

The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

#### Results

Cereal grains, seeds of common segetal and ruderal weeds and tree/shrub macrofossils were noted at a low to moderate density within the assemblage. Preservation of the charred remains was quite poor, with both cereals and seeds being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at a high temperature. The de-watered remains were moderately well preserved, although some distortion had occurred as a result of the compaction of the deposit.

Although the assemblage was largely composed of de-watered root/stem fragments, wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were noted along with cereals which were too poorly preserved for close identification. A single spelt wheat (*T.spelta*) glume base was probably intrusive within the context, as spelt production had ceased in the East Anglian region by the end of the Saxon period. Seeds of colonising weeds, including fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*), musk thistle (*Carduus* sp.), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), were recorded along with seeds of corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*) and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), both common field weeds. Sedge (*Carex* sp.) fruits were also noted along with bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) and raspberry (*R. idaeus*) 'pips' and a moderate density of elderberry (*Sambucusnigra*) seeds. Other plant macrofossils were scarce, but did include charcoal/charred wood fragments and an indeterminate de-watered bud.

Other remains occurred infrequently, but did include shells of both terrestrial and freshwater molluscs (not tabulated). These indicated that the ditch, which was almost certainly wet or seasonally water filled, was situated within a largely open area of grassland.

#### Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the composition of the assemblage suggests that the recorded material is derived from a low-density scatter of charred refuse (possibly either domestic or agricultural in origin) along with the de-watered remains of plants which were probably growing within or adjacent to the ditch. These appear to indicate that the ditch was poorly maintained and at least partly overgrown with colonising shrubs.

Although the current assemblage is somewhat limited, it clearly shows that plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Acton. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 30 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed contexts recorded during excavation.

## Reference

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press

## Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens    xxx = 51 – 100 specimens    xxxx = 100+ specimens  
cf = compare    w = de-watered

Sample No.	0006
<b>Cereals</b>	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume base)	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	x
<b>Herbs</b>	
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i> L.	xw
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.	x
<i>Arctium lappa</i> L.	xcfw
<i>Carduus</i> sp.	xw
<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.	xw
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> L.	xw
Fabaceae indet.	x
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.	xw
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	xw
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	xw
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	xw
<b>Wetland plants</b>	
<i>Carex</i> sp.	xw
<b>Tree/shrub macrofossils</b>	
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	xw
<i>R. sect. Glandulosus</i> Wimmer & Grab	xw
<i>R. idaeus</i> L.	xw
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	xxxw
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>	
Charcoal <2mm	xx
Charcoal >2mm	xx
Charcoal >5mm	x
Charred root/stem	x
Waterlogged root/stem	xxxx
Indet.bud	xw
Indet.seeds	x xw
<b>Other remains</b>	
Black porous 'cokey' material	x
Black tarry material	x
Small coal frags.	x
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Appendix IV- Context List

Land to the rear of Albany House, High Street, Acton (HER ACT 031)

Context	Trench	Finds/ sample	Type	Part of	Description	Spotdate
0001	T1		US		Finds from upcast spoil	
0002	T1		Ditch	0002	Large east-west aligned ditch c10m south of former green edge, c5m across (southern edge outside trench) x 1900mm deep, ground water at 1000mm	
0003	T1	F	Fill	0002	Upper fill of ditch 0002, mid brown clay with small chalk frags. & occasional peg tile frags.	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> C
0004	T1	F/S	Fill	0002	Lower fill of ditch 0002, mid to dark grey clay with occasional small chalk frags & charcoal flecks	Med 12 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> C
0005	T2		Large pit	0005	Southern 7m of T2 (c 35m south of former green edge) revealed a large pit/quarry extending across full width of trench and being 1800mm+ deep (inc. 400mm topsoil & 400mm subsoil), ground water at 1500mm	
0006	T2	F	Fill	0005	Fill of probable large quarry type pit 0005, mid brown clay with occasional peg tile frags.	Pmed

Trench 1- 6m long x 1.80m wide N-S orientated, c12m south of former green edge

Trench 1- 10m long x 1.80m wide N-S orientated, c25m south of former green edge

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-146903**

## Project details

Project name	Albany House, High Street, Acton, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Acton, Albany House, High Street (ACT 031, TL8928 4492) evaluation trenching in the back garden for a single dwelling development revealed a large, south-east/north-west aligned, ditch running parallel to the High Street with a primary fill of medieval date. Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 suggests the presence of a linear green where this house and others of post 1800 date now stand and the large ditch is interpreted as green edge boundary. To the south of this ditch, and therefore further from the green edge, a second trench revealed extensive ground disturbance of Post medieval date which is likely to represent a phase of quarrying at the site. The scarcity of finds of medieval or earlier Post medieval date at the site suggests that the area immediately around the evaluation trenches was only in general agricultural use during these periods.
Project dates	Start: 27-02-2013 End: 27-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ACT 031 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	QUARRY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
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 BABERGH ACTON ALBANY HOUSE, HIGH STREET  
 Postcode CO10 0AU  
 Study area 70.00 Square metres  
 Site coordinates TL 8928 4492 52 0 52 04 11 N 000 45 43 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 55.00m Max: 56.00m

**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  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient Landowner  
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"  
 Digital Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service  
 Digital Contents "Ceramics"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service  
 Paper Contents "Ceramics"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Albany House, High Street, Acton, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report  
 Author(s)/Editor (s) Newman, J  
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 Issuer or publisher John Newman Archaeological Services  
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