# Land Rear Of The Lion PH, Leiston Road, Theberton, Suffolk

## Planning application: C/10/1885

### HER Ref: THB 025

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(May 2013)

(Tel: 01473 832896  Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com )

## Site details for HER

Name: Land to the rear of The Lion PH, Leiston Road, Theberton, Suffolk

Clients: Holden Developments

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/10/1885

Development: Erection of two new dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 16 May, 2013

HER Ref: THB 025

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-150606

Grid ref: TM 4374 6580

**Contents**



*Summary: Theberton, land to rear of The Lion PH, Leiston Road (THB 025, TM* 4374 6580*) evaluation trenching for a small residential development of two dwellings within the village and some 40m back from the road frontage did not reveal any archaeological features or any finds of pre 1900 date save one small sherd of medieval pottery (John Newman Archaeological Services for Holden Developments).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Hollins Architects & Surveyors on behalf of their client, Holden Developments, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a small residential development comprising two dwellings on land to the rear of The Lion PH, Leiston Road, Theberton (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application C/10/1885, set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the development area. 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 Theberton parish is located 2 miles north of Leiston and 4 miles from the coast in east central Suffolk. The main settlement is a relatively small village largely strung out along the north-west/south-east aligned Leiston Road with, historically, remaining farms and cottages being dispersed around the rest of the parish. The proposed development site is located some 100m south of the parish church and c30m west of the frontage onto the Leiston Road and behind The Lion PH which is a grade II listed structure described as being of early 19$^{th}$ century date. The site lies in an area of generally freely draining soils derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sands and gravels characteristic of The Sandlings at c10m OD and has a gentle slope with a northerly aspect. At the time of the evaluation the site was soft ground having been a small camp site in recent years.

1.3 As noted above this planned residential development is located on the edge of the historic core of the village and relatively close to the parish church (HER THB 007), this location prompting the archaeological interest in the site leading to the requirement for an evaluation.

## 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed residential development was trenched to a previously agreed plan, though one trench had to be split into two sections to avoid two lines of *Leylandi* stumps (see Fig. 2), using a small 360 machine equipped with a 1000mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity.

2.2 The sides and base of the trenches and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any 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 dry 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 | Northeast-southwest | 15m | 400 | 200 of a mid brown sandy subsoil grading to a pale brown sand near its base | Soft clean yellow sand with occasional small flints | No features, only stray finds a few L19C-20C pottery sherds |
| 2A | Northwest-southeast | 6.5 | 300 | 200 (as T1) | As T1 | No features or finds |
| 2B | As T2A | 8.5 | 400 | 300 (as T1) | As T1 | No features though some root disturbance at northern end, only stray finds 1 small sherd (3g) med cware & few L19C-20C sherds |

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above no archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation with the 500mm to 700mm deep trenches revealing a deposit profile comprising a 300mm to 400mm depth of topsoil over 200mm to 300mm of clean subsoil. Apart from one small sherd (3g) of sandy medieval coarseware from the subsoil in trench 2B the only stray finds seen in the upcast spoil at the site were a small number of pottery sherds and occasional tile or brick fragments of later 19$^{th}$ and early to mid 20$^{th}$ century date and a few iron nails of indeterminate age. In the sides of the trenches the horizon between the top and subsoil proved to be irregular and somewhat diffuse with such a deposit profile resulting from past agricultural activity which has blurred the division between the upper and lower deposits.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 With such negative results regarding any significant evidence for past activity from a substantial sample of this proposed development site it can only be concluded that it lies in area which has seen little activity of any intensity in the past being set back from the road frontage where settlement has focused in the past. In all probability the site has only been in general agricultural use until its more recent use as a camp site.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out at this planned small residential development site.

***Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. THB 025.***

***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 everyone on site for their close cooperation with regard to this evaluation)**

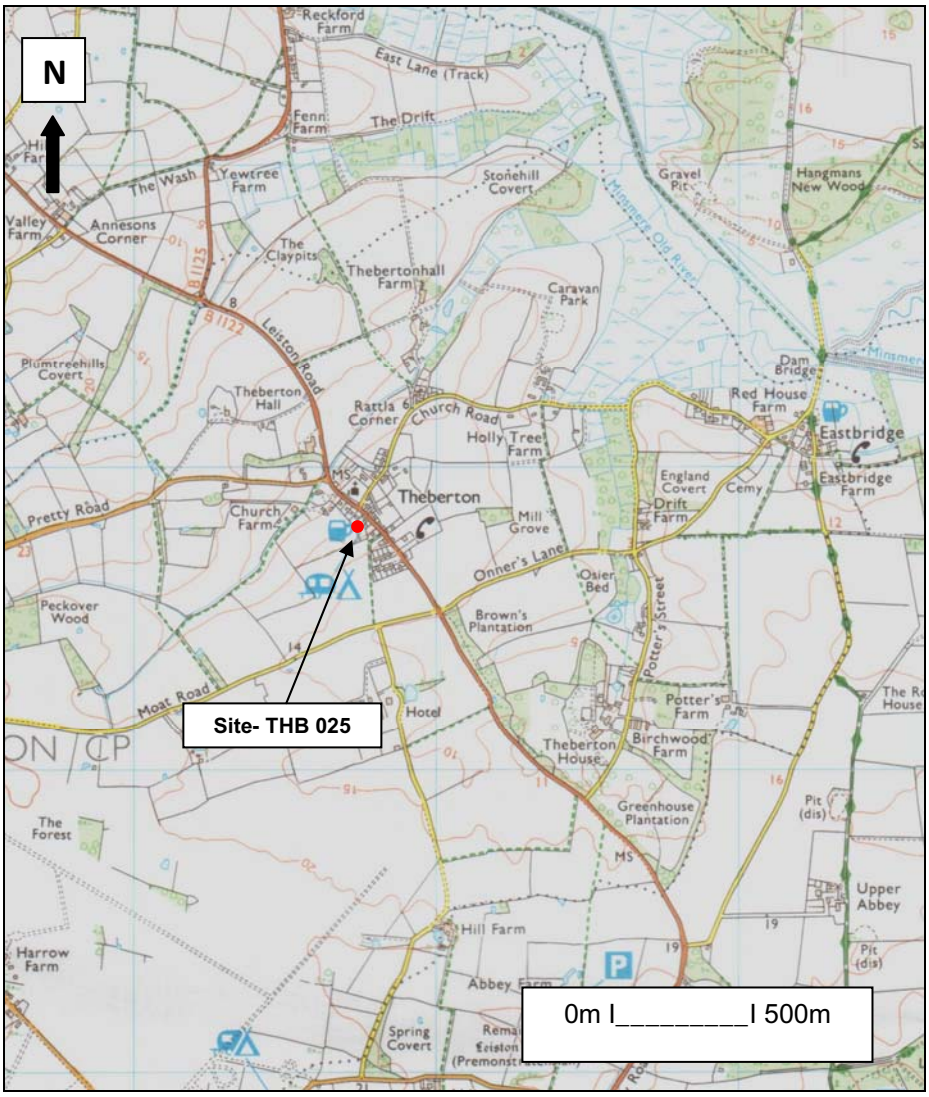



Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

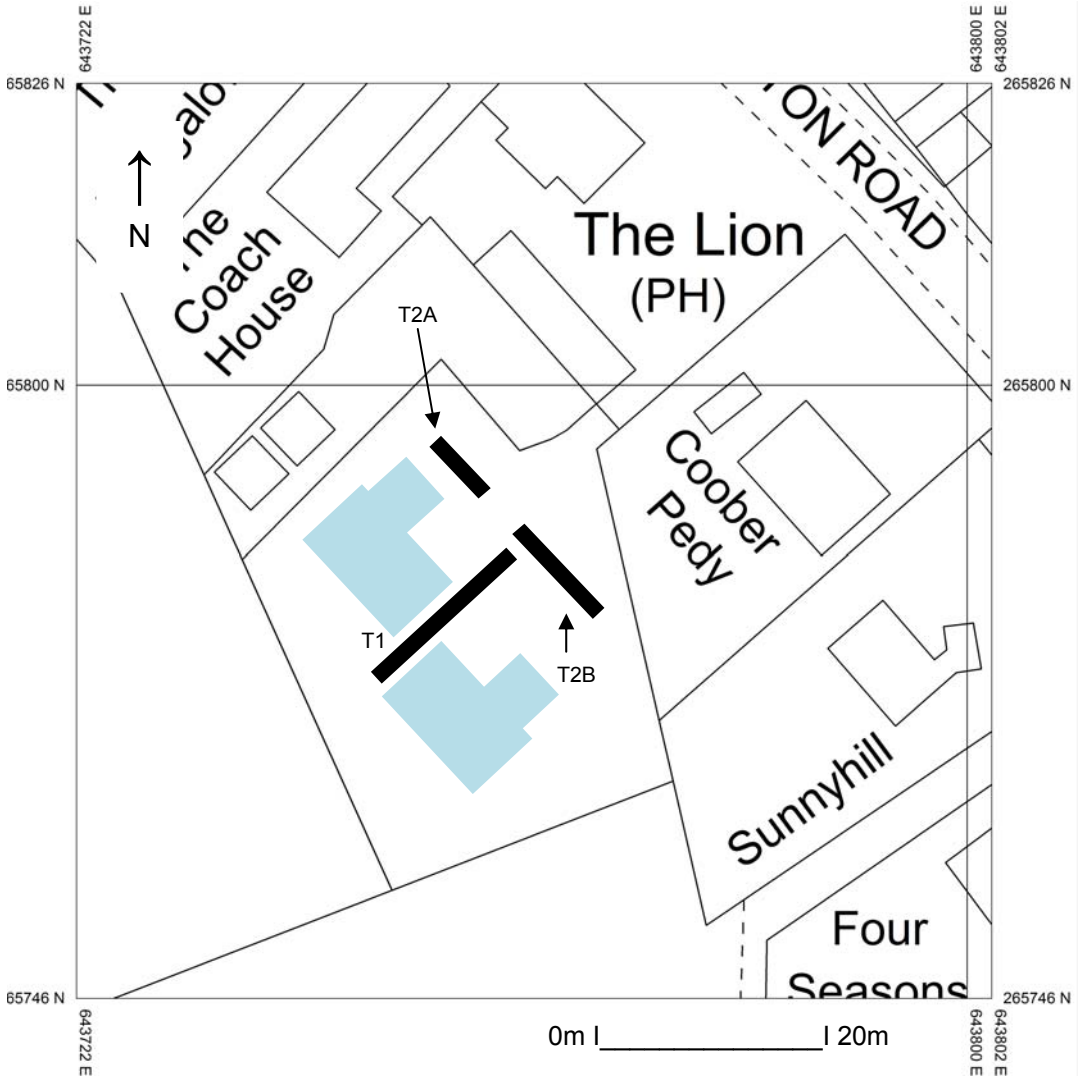



Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches (planned house footprints- light blue)

# Appendix I- Images

General view of site from south-west with the church & The Lion PH in background

Trench 1 from west

Trench 2A from north

Trench 2B from north with some root disturbance in foreground

Trench 1 deposit profile

Trench 2B deposit profile

# Land To The Rear Of The Lion PH, Leiston Road, Theberton, Suffolk

## Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

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

(Tel: 01473 832896  Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com )

## Site details

Name: Land to the rear of The Lion PH, Leiston Road, Theberton, Suffolk, IP15 4RU

Client: Mr R Holden

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/10/1885

Proposed development: Erection of two detached dwellings

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (dated 13 March, 2013)

Grid ref: TM 4374 6580

## Contents

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Mr R Holden 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 C/10/1885 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 land to the rear of The Lion PH, Leiston Road, Theberton.

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 Theberton parish is located 2 miles north of Leiston and 4 miles from the coast in east, central, Suffolk. The main settlement is a relatively small village largely strung out along a north-west/south-east aligned Leiston Road with, historically, remaining farms and cottages being dispersed around the rest of the parish. The proposed development site (PDS) is located some 100m south of the parish church and c30m west of the frontage onto the Leiston Road and behind The Lion PH which is a grade II listed structure of early 19$^{th}$ century date. The PDS lies in an area of generally freely draining soils derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sands and gravels characteristic of The Sandlings at c10m OD in an area of generally flat topography. At present the PDS is soft ground.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief ‘This application is located in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within a historic settlement core and to the south of the medieval church (HER no. THB 007). There is high potential for encountering medieval 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.

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the PDS relates to its location within the historic core of the village where evidence for medieval and earlier Post medieval activity might be present. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the planned footprint areas 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 two 15m long and 1.8m wide linear trenches across the development area to sample the PDS and the proposed trenching plan is included below which is designed to avoid soft spots where foundations will be placed. 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 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.

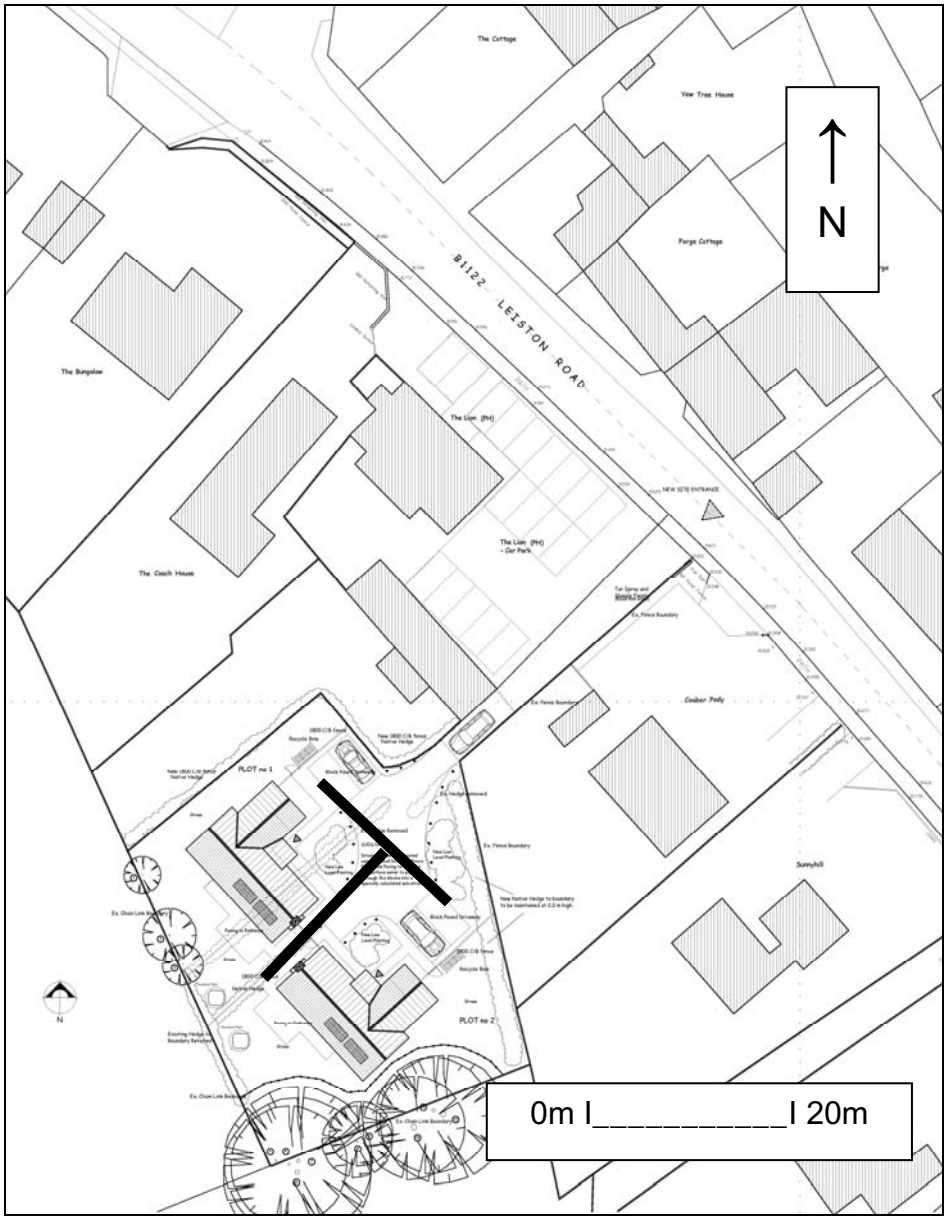
6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

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

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

## OASIS ID: johnnewm1-150606

### Project details

| | |
|---|---|
| Project name | Land To Rear Of The Lion PH, Leiston Road, Theberton, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report |
| Short description of the project | Theberton, land to rear of The Lion PH, Leiston Road (THB 025, TM 4374 6580) evaluation trenching for a small residential development of two dwellings within the village and some 40m back from the road frontage did not reveal any archaeological features or any finds of pre 1900 date save one small sherd of medieval pottery. |
| Project dates | Start: 16-05-2013 End: 16-05-2013 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | THB 025 - HER event no. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Other 5 - Garden |
| 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 SUFFOLK COASTAL THEBERTON LAND TO REAR OF THE LION PH, LEISTON ROAD |
| Postcode | IP16 4RU |
| Study area | 1200.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TM 4374 6580 52 1 52 14 08 N 001 34 12 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 | Developer |

## Project archives

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Discarded |
| 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 | "Report" |

## Project bibliography 1

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Land To Rear Of The Lion PH, Leiston Road, Theberton, 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 (johnnewman2@btinternet.com) |
| Entered on | 28 May 2013 |