

**Land at No 1 Gaston Street,  
East Bergholt, Suffolk**

**Planning application: B/13/00235**

**HER Ref: EBG 046**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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

(June 2013)

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**Site details for HER**

Name: Land at No 1 Gaston Street, East Bergholt, Suffolk, CO7 6SD

Clients: Thorcross Builders Ltd

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/13/00235

Development: Erection of two detached dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 4 June, 2013

HER Ref: EBG 046

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-151591

Grid ref: TM 0700 3475

## Contents

Summary

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

Table 1: Trench details

4. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of evaluation trenches

List of appendices

Appendix I- Selected images

Appendix II- Written scheme for evaluation

Appendix III- OASIS data collection form

*Summary: East Bergholt, land at No 1 Gaston Street (EBG 046, TM 0700 3475) evaluation trenching for a small residential development of two dwellings within the village and close to various listed buildings did not reveal any archaeological features or any finds of pre 1900 date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Thorcross Builders Ltd).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Thorcross Builders Ltd commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a small residential development comprising two dwellings on land at No 1 Gaston Street, East Bergholt (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application B/13/00235, set by Ms R Monk 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 East Bergholt is large parish in south-east Suffolk with its southern boundary also being the county boundary along the River Stour with Essex. While the village has seen extensive growth in recent times the small scale Hodkinson map of 1783 shows the original settlement pattern to have been essentially a linear one along Gaston Street with the parish church at its southern end. That medieval East Bergholt was a settlement of some size and status is indicated by the presence of a market here in the high medieval period. The proposed development site is located c250m north of the parish church on the northern side of Gaston Street adjacent to the junction with Hadleigh Road at 36m OD in an area of generally free draining soils derived from the local glaciofluvial sands and gravels. At the time of the evaluation the house that had previously occupied the site had been demolished to ground level.

1.3 As noted above this planned residential development is located within the historic core of the village on Gaston Street and close to various listed buildings of late 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date, 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 (see Fig. 2), with a slight variation to trench 1 to avoid a power cable which entered the site from Gaston Street, using a wheeled 180 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.

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 & northwest-southeast	11 5	300	100 to 400 from north to south of mid brown silty sand	Pale yellow to orange very silty sand with flints & pockets of light grey silt	Only features a tree root pit & a water pipe trench, only stray finds a few 20 <sup>th</sup> C sherds & recent brick & tile frags
2	Northeast-southwest	7	250	250 to 350 (as T1)	Orange silty sand with flints	No features or finds
3	Northeast-southwest	9	350	400 (as T1)	As T2	Only feature an approximately east-west aligned field drain made of re-used Pmed tile & brick frags
Total		32 (57.6m <sup>2</sup> )	250-350	100-400		

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above no archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation with the 400mm to 700mm deep trenches revealing a deposit profile comprising a 250mm to 350mm depth of topsoil over 100mm to 400mm of clean subsoil. The only features revealed below the subsoil deposit proved to be a shallow tree root pit, at the northern end of the trench, and a modern water pipe trench in trench 1 and a field drain of Post medieval date in trench 3 while all the stray finds seen in the upcast spoil were of 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

## 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. In all probability it has only been in general agricultural use until the construction of the previous house on the site in the early 1960s.

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

*Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. EBG 046.*

*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 Andrew Goodwin site for his close cooperation with regard to this evaluation and to Colin for his skilled machine operation)*



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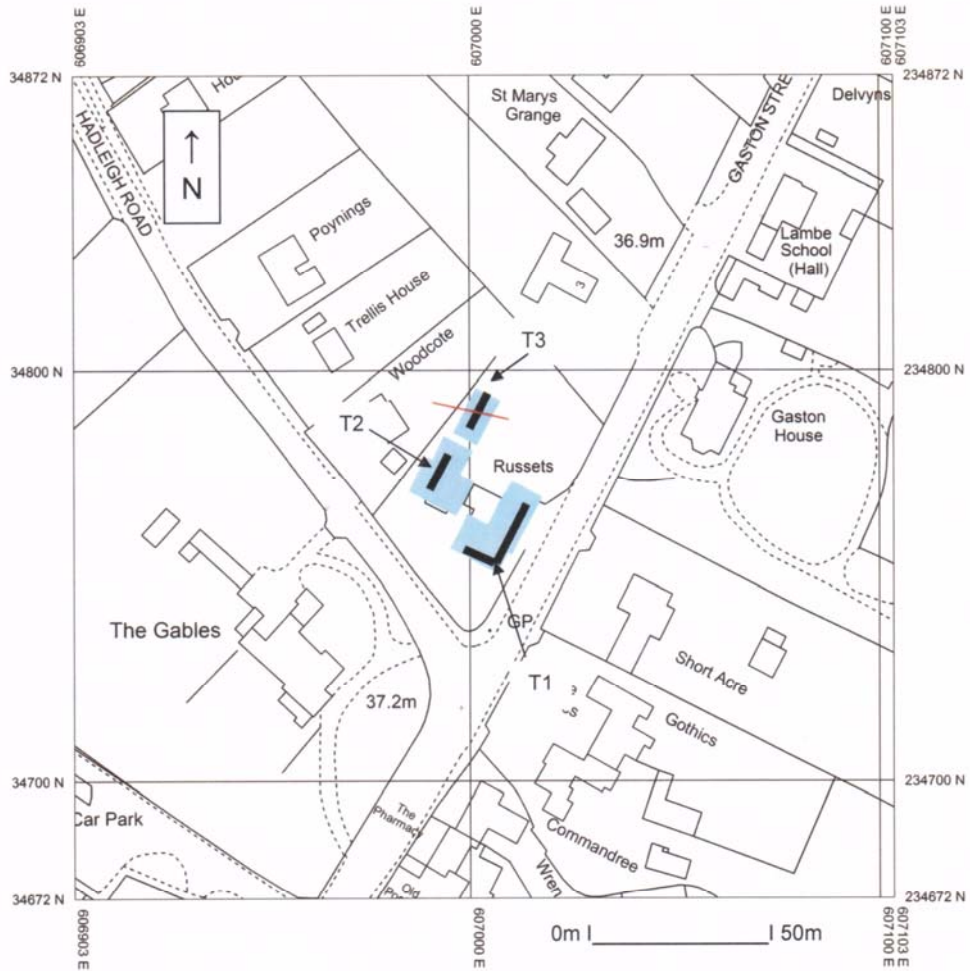


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches  
 (Proposed footprints- light blue, field drain- red)  
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)



## Appendix I- Images



General view from south-west looking towards Gaston Street



Trench 1 from north with pipe trench & tree root pit at mid point





Trench 1 deposit profile



Trench 2 from south



Trench 3 from south with field drain to front of scale



Trench 3 deposit profile

**Land At No 1 Gaston Street,  
East Bergholt, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Evaluation**

## **Site details**

Name: Land at No 1 Gaston Street, East Bergholt, Suffolk, CO7 6SD

Client: Thorcross Builders Ltd

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/13/00235

Proposed development: Erection of two detached dwellings

Proposed date for evaluation: Thursday, 30 May, 2013

Brief ref: SCCAS\_RM\_Trenched Archaeological Evaluation Brief\_1 Gaston Street, East Bergholt

Grid ref: TM 0700 3475

## **Contents**

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

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Thorcross Builders Ltd 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 B/13/00235/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 the erection of two dwellings on land at No 1 Gaston Street, East Bergholt.

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 East Bergholt is large parish in south-east Suffolk with its southern boundary also being the county boundary along the River Stour with Essex. While the village has seen extensive growth in recent times the small scale Hodkinson map of 1783 shows the original settlement pattern to have been essentially a linear one along Gaston Street with the parish church at its southern end. That medieval East Bergholt was a settlement of some size and status is indicated by the presence of a market here in the high medieval period. The proposed development site (PDS) is located c250m north of the parish church on the northern side of Gaston Street adjacent to the junction with Hadleigh Road at 36m OD in an area of generally free draining soils derived from the local glaciofluvial sands and gravels. At present the PDS is largely garden surrounding the existing house which is of 20<sup>th</sup> century date and which will be demolished prior to the main site works commencing.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposed development site is situated within the historic core of East Bergholt, on a street fronted by listed medieval and post-medieval buildings and 250m north of a medieval church (recorded in the County Historic Environment Record as EBG 014). As a result there is high potential for encountering heritage



assets of archaeological interest in this area. The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists' 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. To the south of the PDA The Red Lion PH is a listed building of 18<sup>th</sup> century date while to the north-east, and also listed, The Lambe School is of late 16<sup>th</sup> and Gaston House of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. 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 30m of 1.8m wide linear trenches across the development area to sample the PDS and the proposed trenching plan is included 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.

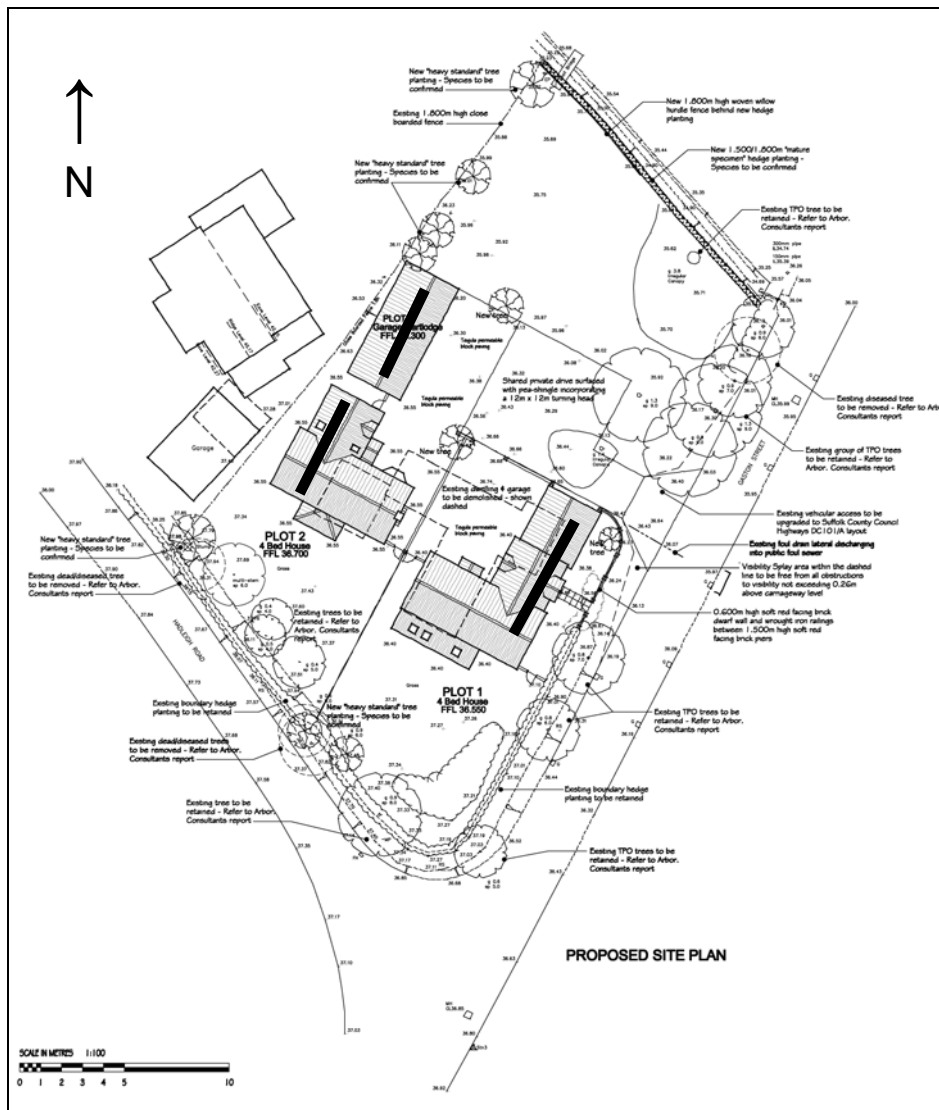
6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

## 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)

# John Newman Archaeological Services

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

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-151591**

### Project details

Project name	Land at No 1 Gaston Street, East Bergholt, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	East Bergholt, land at No 1 Gaston Street (EBG 046, TM 0700 3475) evaluation trenching for a small residential development of two dwellings within the village and close to various listed buildings did not reveal any archaeological features or any finds of pre 1900 date.
Project dates	Start: 04-06-2013 End: 04-06-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	EBG 046 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	TREE PIT Uncertain
Monument type	SERVICE TRENCH Modern
Monument type	FIELD DRAIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK/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 EAST BERGHOLT LAND AT No 1 GASTON STREET
Postcode	CO7 6SD
Study area	400.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TM 0700 3475 51 1 51 58 19 N 001 00 50 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 35.00m Max: 36.00m

### 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 "Text", "Images raster / digital photography"  
 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 No 1 Gaston Street, East Bergholt, 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 25 June 2013