

**The Bell Inn, High Street,
Brandon, Suffolk**

Planning application: F/2012/0054/FUL

HER Ref: BRD 225

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(August 2013)

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Site details for HER

Name: The Bell Inn, High Street, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0AQ

Client: Mr A Fraser

Local planning authority: Forest Heath DC

Planning application ref: F/2012/0054/FUL

Development: Erection of ancillary bedroom accommodation

Date of fieldwork: 10 June, 2013

HER Ref: BRD 255

OASIS: johnnewm1-152122

Grid ref: TL 7842 8667

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Summary: Brandon, The Bell Inn, High Street (BRD 225, TL 7842 8667) monitoring of ground works for ancillary bedroom accommodation to the rear of the public house revealed extensive evidence for 19th and early 20th century pitting and the chalk floor for stabling of later Post medieval date that formerly stood on the site. In the eastern footing trench, making it at the most distant part of the foundations from the Public house building, a square, brick lined cesspit of 19th century date was revealed. While only of late 19th to early 20th century the fill of this brick lined pit was of a classic publinn clearance type containing bottles, fragments of wine glasses in addition to sherds of late 19th/early 20th century transfer printed pottery (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr A Fraser).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr A Fraser commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application F/2012/0054/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the erection of ancillary bedroom accommodation to the rear of The Bell Inn, High Street, Brandon (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Brandon is a small town, where a market was established by 1319, on the north western edge of Suffolk which historically grew on the southern side of a bridging point on the Little Ouse River which has seen extensive development in recent years. Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 depicts a relatively small cluster of buildings close to the bridging point in an area of very dispersed and sparse settlement as the area to the south of the town, which is now dominated by extensive coniferous forestry plantations, comprises the very sandy and dry tracts of Breckland where pre-modern land use has largely been sheep grazing and rabbit warrening. In such an environment water sources are rare and past settlement in both the prehistoric and historic eras has concentrated near what sources are available. The Bell Inn is located c250m south of the bridging point across the Little Ouse on the eastern side of the High Street at c8m OD.

1.3 While The Bell Inn is not listed a number of other buildings to the north and south on the High Street are listed and are variously described as being of 16th to 18th/19th century date confirming that this part of Brandon forms part of its historic core. Archaeological interest was therefore generated by the proposal to erect ancillary bedroom accommodation to the rear of the public house within a townscape that still preserves property boundaries that in all likelihood represent historic tenement divisions. Within such a historic settlement core archaeological deposits of medieval and earlier Post medieval date have a high potential to survive and, if present at this site, would be extensively disturbed. The location of the new bedroom block is 10m from the rear wall of The Bell Inn which fronts onto the High Street with the southern edge of the new build footprint backing directly onto the southern boundary of the plot containing the public house. Until the ground works started the site formed part of the car park behind the public house with a rammed cinder type surface in this area (see Fig. 2).

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single, day long, visit was made to the site to observe the ground works for the new bedroom block as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 700mm wide flat bucket on a bright, sunny day with site visibility good at all times. Where safe the foundation trenches were entered to allow for a closer inspection of the exposed soil profiles and hand cleaning of indistinct areas and the upcast spoil was inspected for stray finds during the visit though the greater part of the overall trench length could only be inspected from above due to their depth being well in excess of 1300mm. The foundations were recorded in relation to

local mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 The overall footprint area of the new build area is 90m² and in total 55m of 700mm wide trench were excavated (see Fig. 2). The southern foundation trench was 900mm deep with a deposit profile comprising 200mm of packed cinder type material, which had formed the car park surface, over 400-500mm of a pale to mid brown sandy subsoil which in turn lay over the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial orange sand with flints. Apart from a few whiteware and blue and white transfer printed sherds of 19th century date in the upper part of the subsoil deposit no other finds were revealed save occasional stray animal bone fragments and this trench did not reveal any archaeological features.

3.2 The remainder of the foundation trenches revealed extensive disturbance with a number of later Post medieval pits being revealed in the western, eastern, northern and internal trenches. These pits were at least 1500mm to 1600mm deep from the modern ground level and generally contained a loose, dark brown sandy fill with a varying density of 19th to earlier 20th century finds made up of occasional pottery sherds and more numerous brick and tile fragments plus occasional animal bones. Below the packed cinder car park surface and above this pit fill in the internal trenches a 200-250mm thick chalk layer was noted and local information indicates that this part of the area behind and along the southern boundary wall in relatively recent times was in use for stabling under a structure with superficial foundations and a chalk floor.

3.3 Apart from the extensive later Post medieval pitting across the central and northern parts of the footprint for the new structure only one feature of more interest was revealed. This was a square brick lined cesspit in the south-eastern of the footings. With an internal width of 1400mm and a depth from modern ground level of 2500mm the bricks were all whites measuring 9x4.25x2.5 inches (228x108x64mm) of 19th century date (see Appendix I- Images). While of a relatively recent date the fill of the cesspit proved to be partially of a classic inn/pub clearance type containing bottles and wine glass fragments in addition to whiteware and blue and white transfer printed sherds of plates, cups and saucers. One bottle was labelled 'BEDWELL THETFORD' and the date for the final filling of the cesspit can be given as to the late 19th to early 20th century period and perhaps was due to a change of landlord or ownership at The Bell Inn.

4. Conclusion

4.1 As outlined above in section 3 much of the new build area had been extensively disturbed by pitting in the later Post medieval period so it is difficult to assess whether there is any evidence for earlier activity at this site. However no finds of pre 18th to 19th century date were recovered as stray, residual finds from the upcast spoil with the single feature of moderate interest being the 19th century brick lined cesspit in the south-eastern corner of the footings.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the monitored footings have had no impact on any significant archaeological deposits.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Alan Fraser and everyone on site for their close cooperation during the monitoring)



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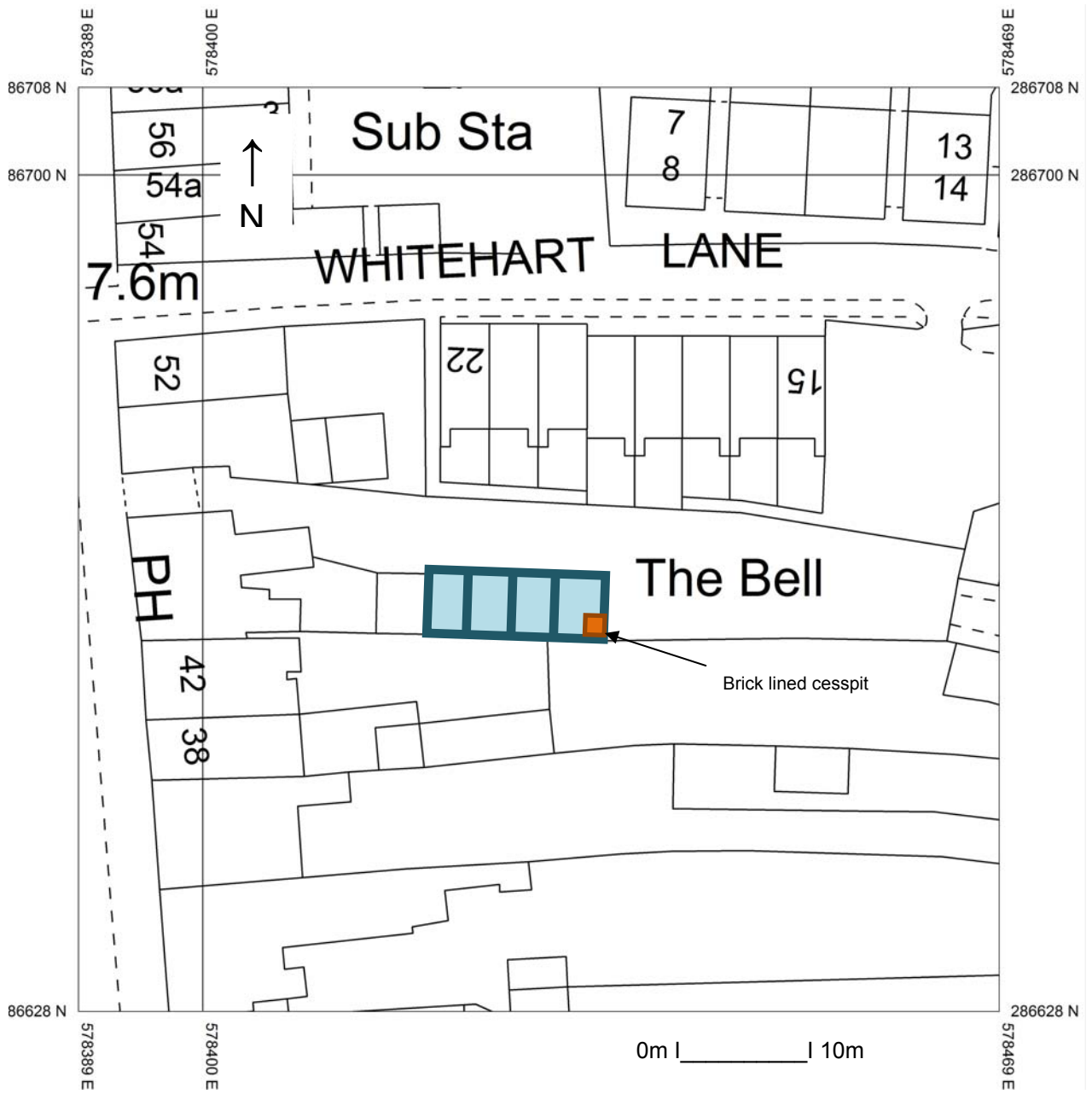


Fig. 2: Monitored extension area (foundation trenches- dark blue)

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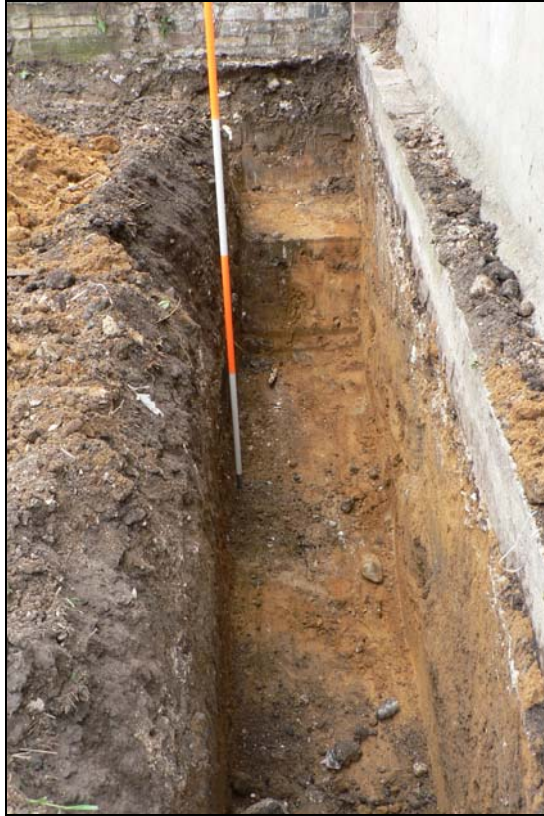
Appendix I- Images



General view from east looking towards The Bell Inn



Southern foundation trench from east



Western foundation trench from north with late Pmed pitting in foreground



Internal foundation trench from south dropping into late Pmed pitting & with chalk surface in left to section



Eastern foundation trench from north with brick lined cesspit at far end



Brick lined cesspit in eastern trench

**The Bell Inn PH, High Street,
Brandon, Suffolk**

Planning application: F/2012/0054/FUL

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

Site details

Name: Land to the rear of The Bell Inn, High Street, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0AQ

Client: Mr A Fraser

Local planning authority: Forest Heath DC

Planning application ref: F/2012/0054/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of ancillary bedroom accommodation

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief ref: tbc

Grid ref: TL 78401 86665

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

1.1 Mr A Fraser has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application F/2012/0054/FUL. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy the condition through a process of controlled monitoring, full archaeological investigation/recording and subsequent reporting. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of ancillary bedroom accommodation to the rear of The Bell Inn, High Street, Brandon.

1.2 The monitoring will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Brandon is a small town, where a market was established by 1319, on the north western edge of Suffolk which historically grew on the southern side of a bridging point on the Little Ouse River which has seen extensive development in recent years. Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 depicts a relatively small cluster of buildings close to the bridging point in an area of very dispersed and sparse settlement as the area to the south of the town, which is now dominated by extensive coniferous forestry plantations, comprises the very sandy and dry tracts of Breckland where pre-modern land use has largely been sheep grazing and rabbit warrening. In such an environment water sources are rare and past settlement in both the prehistoric and historic eras has concentrated near what sources are available. The proposed development site (PDS) is located c250m south of the bridging point across the Little Ouse on the eastern side of the High Street at c8m OD. While The Bell Inn is not listed a number of other buildings to the north and south on the High Street are listed and are variously described as being of 16th to 18th/19th century date confirming that this part of Brandon forms its historic core.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Advice from SCCAS suggests that the plot of land fronted onto the High Street by The Bell Inn is a probable tenement with the property boundaries in all likelihood preserving historic land divisions. Later Saxon and medieval archaeological deposits and finds are recorded in the vicinity and, as noted above, standing structures of 16th and later date are located nearby. Therefore the PDS lies in an area of high archaeological potential where heritage assets (archaeological features and finds) may exist at a relatively shallow depth below the car park that currently the area behind The Bell Inn.

3.2 SCCAS have also confirmed that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording during continuous and controlled monitoring of ground works by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting. The monitoring of the trenches in addition giving information with regard to the depth of overburden over the level where archaeological deposits will be exposed at the site below the planned formation level for the flooring (see especially section 5.2 below).

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential where evidence for later Saxon, medieval and earlier Post medieval period deposits might be revealed and continuous and controlled monitoring of ground works as they progress can best investigate and record what may be revealed. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to depth of overburden and any evidence for the character and date of any past activity within the exposed deposits. The primary aim being to gain more information relating to past activity and land use in this location within the historic settlement core of the town.

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be strip foundations. The excavation of the strip foundations, and related ground works such as for soakaways and service trenches, will be observed as they are excavated and any up cast spoil examined for finds. To facilitate controlled monitoring it is proposed that a toothless bucket will be used for the strip foundations once the top surface has been broken (width tbc- 500mm-700mm as required). Notice of ground works starting and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant

Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to hand clean sections as necessary and investigate any possible archaeological deposits within the foundation trenches.

5.2 During this process the relevant machinery is to be under archaeological supervision with regard to the rate of excavation of the foundation trenches as they progress so archaeological features can be fully investigated and recorded. The monitoring of the foundation trenches will also act as an evaluation with regard to the depth at which archaeological deposits exist and if the formation level for the floor area within the planned building is impinged upon by ground lowering within the trenches, or if less than a 250/300mm buffer zone protecting any archaeology exists below the planned base of the formation level, then the relevant officer at SCCAS will be consulted with regard to the degree of archaeological monitoring and investigation required on the site following the completion of the foundation trenches.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under an overall site HER number supplied by Suffolk CC. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover with the monitored footings shown. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the trench foundations with sections recorded related to the trench sides, if possible, and with levels OD. Even if no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land use and topography in the town. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains which would incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will

also be examined (the potential of this site to contain burials is assessed as being low).

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

5.6 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2) and particularly Appendix 3 and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.7 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 4) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 2 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). An unbound draft copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided plus another for the County HER, a copy will be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up. As appropriate a dxf type vector

plan of the area examined will be supplied for inclusion into the County HER map base.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots & ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and any ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

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

6.5 Deep holes/trenches going below c1.30m will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

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

7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)

John Newman Archaeological Services

Roman period ceramics

S Benfield (CAT)

Post Roman small finds:

JNAS

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-152122

Project details

Project name	The Bell Inn, High Street, Brandon, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Brandon, The Bell Inn, High Street (BRD 225, TL 7842 8667) monitoring of ground works for ancillary bedroom accommodation to the rear of the public house revealed extensive evidence for 19th and early 20th century pitting and the chalk floor for stabling of later Post medieval date that formerly stood on the site. In the eastern footing trench, making it at the most distant part of the foundations from the Public house building, a square, brick lined cesspit of 19th century date was revealed. While only of late 19th to early 20th century the fill of this brick lined pit was of a classic pub/inn clearance type containing bottles, fragments of wine glasses in addition to sherds of late 19th/early 20th century transfer printed pottery.
Project dates	Start: 10-06-2013 End: 10-06-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BRD 225 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	CESSPIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BOTTLES Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH BRANDON THE BELL INN, HIGH STREET

Postcode IP27 0AQ
 Study area 70.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 7842 8667 52 0 52 26 54 N 000 37 32 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 7.00m Max: 8.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation John Newman Archaeological Services
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator John Newman
 Project director/manager John Newman
 Project supervisor John Newman
 Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

Project archives

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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 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
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 Entered on 9 August 2013