

**Stargazer, St Michael's Way,  
Wenhaston, Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/13/0134**

**HER Ref: WMH 039**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(July 2013)

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

## **Site details for HER**

Name: Stargazer (formerly Tastards), St Michael's Way, Wenhaston, Suffolk, IP19 9EH

Client: Ms J Rumsey & Mr K Canham

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/13/0134

Development: Erection of front & rear extensions

Date of fieldwork: 8 June, 2013

HER Ref: WMH 039

OASIS: johnnewm1-152125

Grid ref: TM 4274 7520

## **Contents**

Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Monitoring methodology
3. Results
4. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Monitored extension areas

List of appendices

Appendix I - Images

Appendix II- Written scheme for monitoring

Appendix III- OASIS data collection form

*Summary: Wenhaston, Stargazer, St Michael's Way (WMH 039, TM 4274 7520) monitoring of ground works for a rear extension and a small front extension did not reveal any features or finds of archaeological interest as the former works only required a shallow raft foundations and the latter exposed just a small area below the subsoil at the site (John Newman Archaeological Services for Ms J Rumsey & Mr K Canham).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Ms J Rumsey and Mr K Canham 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 C/13/0134. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Ms J Plouviez 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 a rear and a small front extension to Stargazer (formerly Tastards), St Michael's Way, Wenhaston (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet parish is located between Halesworth and Blythburgh on the southern side of the River Blyth in north-east Suffolk. The village of Wenhaston lies close to the 20m OD contour on the crest of the slope above the floodplain of the river whose now canalised channel runs 750m to the north. The Street forms the main road the village both now and historically and Stargazer, a house of recent date, is located c90m to the east of this and nearly 400m south-west of the parish church with the land dropping away gently to the south-east towards a tributary stream to the River Blyth. Soils in the area are generally light and well drained being derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this small scale development was generated by its proximity to a major Roman and early Saxon site (HER WMH 004 & 005) to the south-east that is largely known via a considerable number of metal detected finds.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site to observe the ground works for the front and rear extensions as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 600mm wide toothed bucket on a bright, sunny day with site visibility good at all times. The two areas of work 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. The foundations were recorded in relation to the house and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 The foundation for the larger rear extension, with a footprint area of some 24m<sup>2</sup>, was designed as a simple raft at a depth of 300mm below the level of the back garden with a toe going to a further depth of 300mm around the external edges. At these depths the overall soil strip for the raft exposed the top of the mid brown sandy subsoil at the site while excavation work for the toe around the edges remained within this subsoil layer. Therefore due to the relatively superficial nature of the ground works for the rear extension the underlying glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits, where archaeological features would have been seen if present in this area, were not exposed and the only finds seen in the upcast spoil were of recent date.

3.2 The small front extension, which has a footprint area of some 8m<sup>2</sup>, is to be founded on trench footings and inspection of the relevant 600mm wide trench revealed 250mm of topsoil over 250mm of mid brown sandy subsoil with the maximum depth of the foundation at 500mm exposing the locally occurring glaciofluvial yellow sands still mixed with the lower part of the subsoil above. The upcast spoil did not contain any finds of any age and within the small area excavated no features of archaeological interest were revealed.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 As ground works for the rear extension were not deep enough to reach a level where archaeological features, if present at the site, would have been exposed and the front extension was very small it is impossible to conclude whether the nearby major Roman period site extends into the area along the southern side of St Michael's Way. However it should be noted that no finds of any antiquity were seen in the upcast spoil and Roman period sites are typically productive in terms of stray pottery and tile finds.

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

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Julie Rumsey & Kevin Canham for their close cooperation and hospitality during the monitoring)*

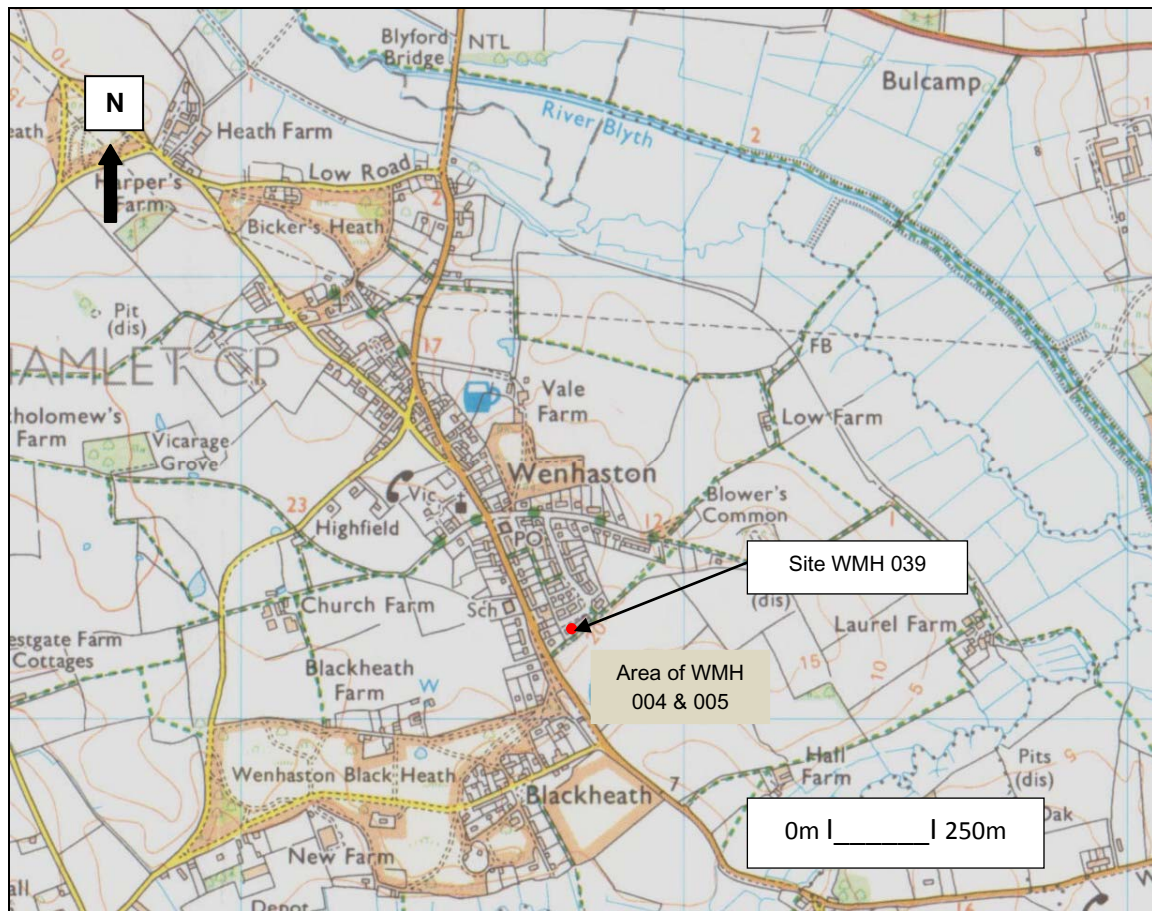


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

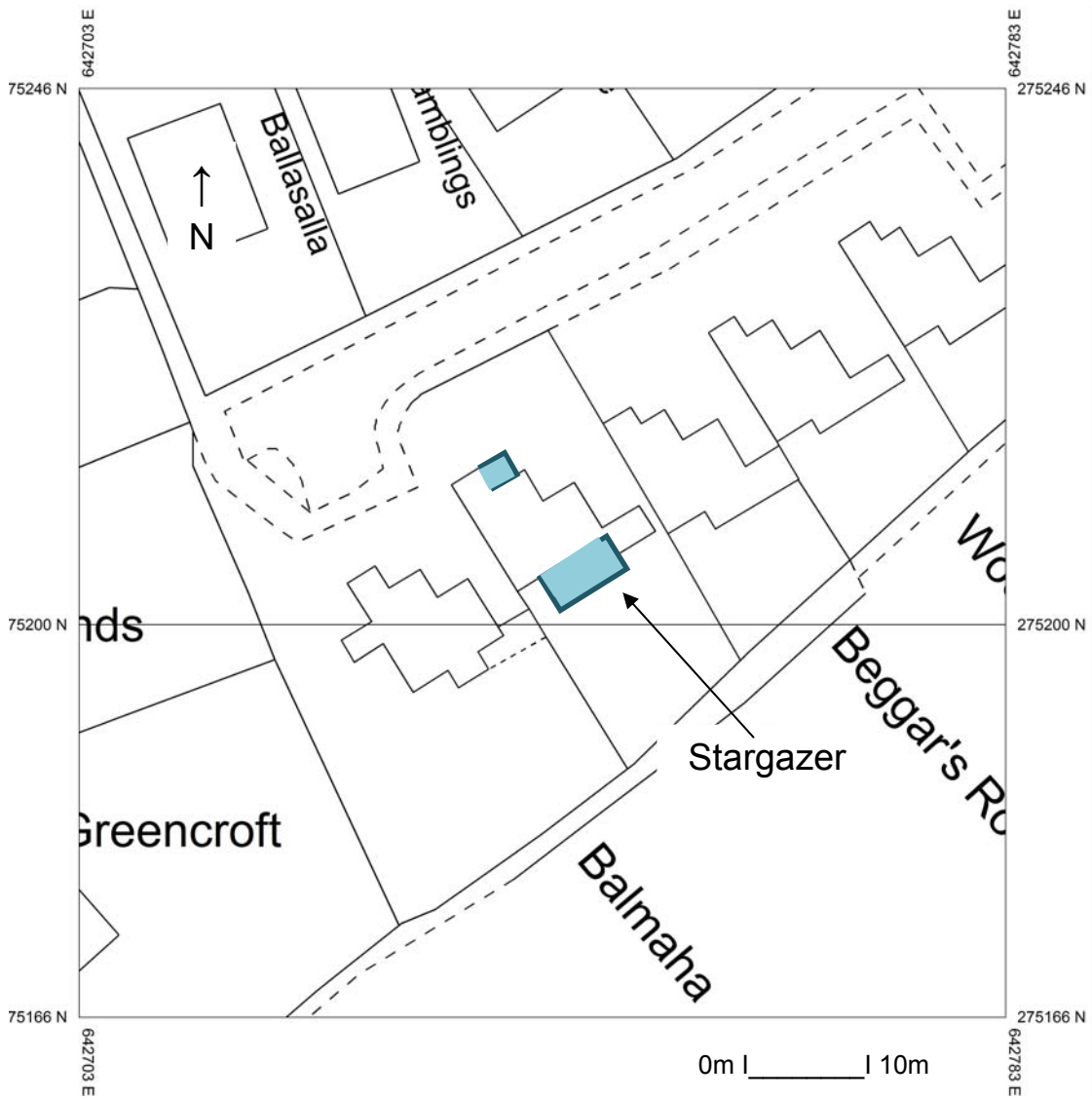


Fig. 2: Monitored extension areas (toe to rear & trenches to front- darker blue)  
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



House from rear



Rear extension raft excavation & toe round edge within subsoil



Front extension footing max depth to top of natural sand

**Erection of Extensions to Stargazer,  
St Michael's Way, Wenhaston, Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/13/0134**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Monitoring**

## **Site details**

Name: Stargazer (was Tastards), St Michael's Way, Wenhaston, Suffolk, IP19 9EH

Client: Mr K Canham

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/13/0134

Proposed development: Erection of front & rear extensions

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TM 4275 7522

## **Contents**

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



## 1. Introduction

1.1 Mr K Canham 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 C/13/0134. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements set by Ms J Plouviez of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of front and rear extensions to Stargazer (was Tastards) St Michael's Way, Wenhaston.

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 Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet parish is located between Halesworth and Blythburgh on the southern side of the River Blyth in north-east Suffolk. The village of Wenhaston lies close to the 20m OD contour on the crest of the slope above the floodplain of the river whose now canalised channel runs 750m to the north. The Street forms the main road the village both now and historically and Stargazer, a house of recent date, is located c90m to the east of this and nearly 400m south-west of the parish church. Soils in the area are generally light and well drained being derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological interest in this small scale development has been generated by its close proximity to a major Roman and early Saxon period site (HER WMH 004 & 005) which extends across the fields to the south and south-east of St Michael's Way and which is mainly through numerous metal detector finds. In the Roman period it is likely that this large site acted as local centre in all probability connected to its world via a Roman road running up from the south and through port facilities on the river to the north.

3.2 Advice from SCCAS has 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 monitoring of ground works as they progress by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting.

### 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 Roman and Early Saxon period deposits might be revealed and continuous 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 land use in this location close to major site of Roman and Saxon date.

### 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. 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 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.

5.3 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).

5.4 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.

5.5 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.

5.6 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.

### 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)

## John Newman Archaeological Services

---

Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Roman period small finds	N Crummy (Freelance)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

# 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: johnnewm1-152125**

### Project details

Project name	Stargazer, St Michael's Way, Wenhaston, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Wenhaston, Stargazer, St Michael's Way (WMH 039, TM 4274 7520) monitoring of ground works for a rear extension and a small front extension did not reveal any features or finds of archaeological interest as the former works only required a shallow raft foundations and the latter exposed just a small area below the subsoil at the site.
Project dates	Start: 08-06-2013 End: 08-06-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WMH 039 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET STARGAZER, St MICHAEL'S WAY
Postcode	IP19 9EH
Study area	30.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4274 7520 52 1 52 19 13 N 001 33 44 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 19.00m Max: 20.00m

### 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 Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Stargazer, St Michael's Way, Wenhaston, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring 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	18 July 2013

# OASIS: