

**Land to the Rear of No 31 High Street,  
Leiston, Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/11/1767 & C/12/1923**

**HER Ref: LCS 173**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(September 2013)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Land to the rear of No 31 High Street, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4EL

Client: Mr C Tilbrook

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/11/1767 & C/12/1923

Development: Erection of two semi-detached pairs of dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 7 June, 2013

HER Ref: LCS 173

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-152359

Grid ref: TM 4454 6258

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*Summary: Leiston, land to the rear of No 31 High Street (LCS 173, TM 4454 6258) monitoring of ground works for a small scale residential development at a site formerly used for various workshops to the east of the High Street, and close to the former site of the Leiston Works, recorded extensive evidence for 19<sup>th</sup> and earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century ground disturbance though earlier subsoil deposits showed little sign of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century activity (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr C Tilbrook).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr C Tilbrook 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 notices for applications C/11/1767 & C/12/1923. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation in order to gain conditional discharge and allow works to start. This development concerns the erection of four new dwellings in two semi-detached blocks on land to the rear of No 31 High Street, Leiston (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Leiston originally a small medieval market town and local centre, the market being established by 1312, close to the coast in east Suffolk saw substantial expansion in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century as the local engineering factory grew. Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk gives an idea of the layout of the medieval town with a church and hall complex in a somewhat isolated location some 500m west of the main settlement which is located in and around the square formed by Main Street, High Street, Cross Street and Park Hill. The proposed development site is located c40m to the east of this square of roads to the rear of No 31 High Street and therefore in all probability on the eastern fringe of the medieval town (HER LCS 143). It is also worthy of note that within this enclosed square between the roads noted above the large scale Leiston Works developed through the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the town grew and became a local industrial centre and today this past land use is reflected in street names such as Old Foundry Place and Platers Walk.

1.3 Local soils in the area are generally well drained as the deposits they are derived from are glaciofluvial sands and gravels with this site lying at c10m OD with a previous land use being a hardened yard surface surrounding various workshop type structures.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit were made to the site to monitor the excavation of the footing trenches which was undertaken using a 600mm toothed bucket on the back-arm of a 180<sup>o</sup> wheeled machine under dry and sunny conditions. As work progressed the upcast spoil was stockpiled nearby allowing for further investigation for stray finds. The excavated footing trenches where safe were entered as the ground works continued so the base and sides could be examined and trowelled clean where required to improve visibility. Finally the location of the new dwelling footprints was recorded in relation to the existing adjacent boundaries and a small number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 The footprint area for the new dwellings covers c160m<sup>2</sup> (see Fig. 2) and in total 104m of 600mm wide and, in general, 900mm to 1100mm deep footing trench were examined and this revealed 400mm of topsoil containing numerous 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> pottery, brick and tile fragments over 400/500mm of a clean mid brown silty sand subsoil with occasional flints. The local, naturally occurring glaciofluvial deposits at the site being loose yellow sand containing small and medium sized flints at a depth of 800/900mm. At various points deeper late Post medieval areas of disturbance were

identifiable and, in particular at the southern end of the southern dwelling footprint, a large pit of 2.80/3.00m in depth and at least 5m diameter was revealed. Elsewhere occasional later Post medieval pits of 1.0m to 1.50m depth were noted as were remnants of later 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century red brick foundations for the workshops that formerly occupied this site. No evidence was seen for any activity at the site of pre-1800 date.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 While the site of these new dwellings lies within the area of archaeological interest within the medieval town these ground works revealed little evidence for past activity of any intensity save some pits of recent date. That the lower subsoil deposit was very clean is of some interest however as evidence from this monitoring suggests that all the evidence for the late Post medieval industrially stimulated expansion of Leiston in this area lies within the upper top soil layer. With a clean subsoil deposit below this layer across the area monitored it can be suggested that the medieval and earlier Post medieval settlement was relatively small and confined to a restricted area and areas such as this one behind the High Street were in a low intensity agricultural use until at least 1800.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that this new small scale residential dwelling development has not impinged on any deposits of archaeological significance.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Chris & Shirley Tilbrook for their close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring)*

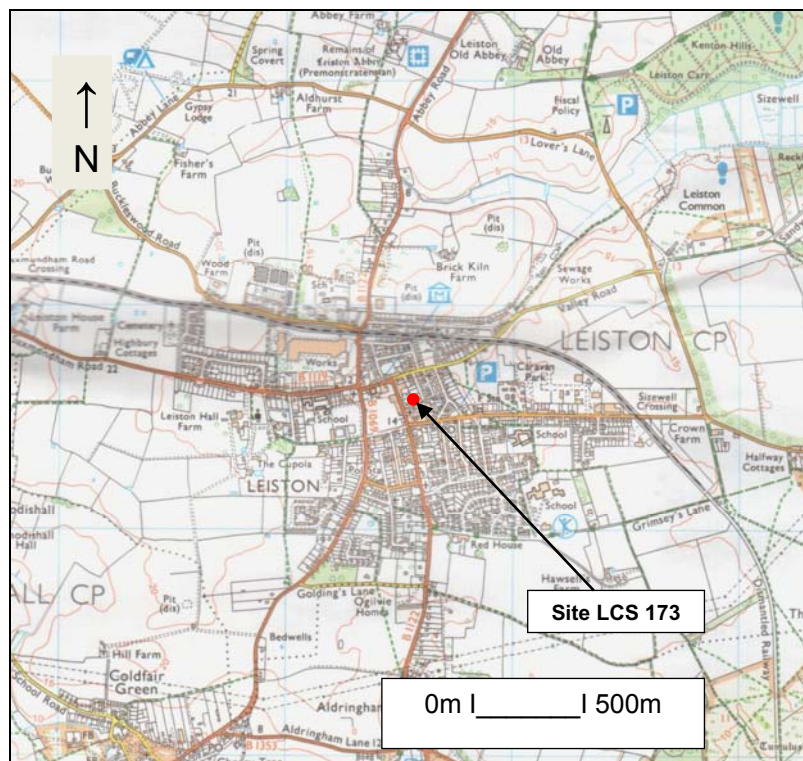


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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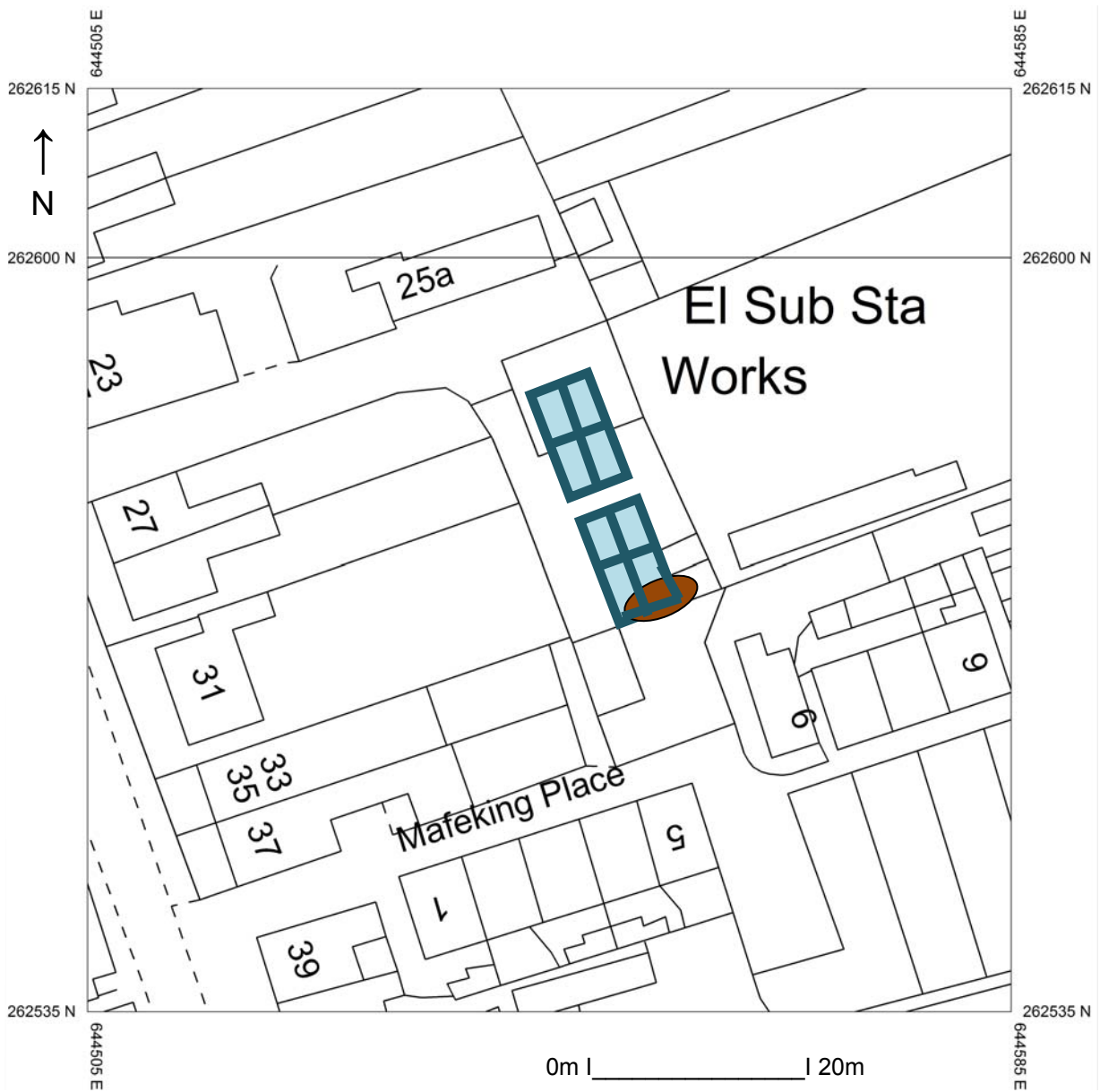


Fig. 2: Monitored footprint areas  
 (foundation trenches- dark blue, large late 19<sup>th</sup> C pit- brown)  
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



General view from north-east



Large late Post medieval pit at southern end of site



Typical foundation trench



Typical deposit profile with clean subsoil below topsoil with 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> C debris



Remnant of mid/late 19<sup>th</sup> C brick foundation in foundations



**Land to rear of No 31 High Street,  
Leiston, Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/12/1923**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Monitoring**

## **Site details**

Name: Land to the rear of No 31 High Street, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4EL

Clients: Mr & Mrs C Tilbrook

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/12/1923

Proposed development: Erection of two dwellings

Brief ref.: 2013\_04\_03\_SCCAS\_ArchMonBrief\_C\_12\_1923\_Leiston

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TM 4455 6260

Conservation area

## **Contents**

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

1.1 Mr & Mrs C Tilbrook have 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/12/1923. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of a two dwellings on land to the rear of No 31 High Street, Leiston.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Leiston originally a small medieval market town and local centre, the market being established by 1312, close to the coast in east Suffolk saw substantial expansion in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century as the local engineering factory grew. Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk gives an idea of the layout of the medieval town with a church and hall complex in a somewhat isolated location some 500m west of the main settlement which is located in and around the square formed by Main Street, High Street, Cross Street and Park Hill. The proposed development site is located c40m to the east of this square of roads to the rear of No 31 High Street and therefore in all probability on the eastern fringe of the medieval town. Local soils in the area are generally well drained as the deposits they are derived from are glaciofluvial sands and gravels with this site lying at c10m OD with a current land use being a hardened yard surface.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'This proposal lies within the area defined as the medieval urban core of Leiston, as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (LCS143). There is high potential for encountering occupation deposits at this location.' As foundations will be of a standard trench type however this disturbance will be limited and can therefore be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation by the building contractor.

## 4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential, in this case to reveal evidence for medieval and

earlier Post medieval activity within the area of the historic town. Site monitoring arrangements with the relevant ground works contractor will allow for unimpeded access to the foundation and service trenches before other works progress to allow for detailed investigation and recording work. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details to the exposed overburden and depth of deposit as revealed within the ground works and evidence for the character and date of any past activity that is revealed.

### 5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be trench foundations plus service trenches. These ground works will be monitored during and after excavation and the upcast spoil will be examined for finds. Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office as will notice of when the site works are scheduled to start.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of 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 related to the proposed development, 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 of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and any 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 at appropriate points. 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. 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. Any such work will incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (in this case the possibility of finding 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 and pdf version will be sent to the County HER in addition to a pdf version for the client for submission to the relevant LPA. The site monitoring 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 and, if appropriate, a vector plan in .dxf format will be provided showing the area examined. The reporting will be commensurate with the findings from the monitoring and at its most

basic level will detail the location, circumstances and characteristics of the deposits exposed and any finds that are revealed.

### 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 contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil. 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's agent and 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 Close liaison will be maintained with the contractor on site with regard to the depth and stability of the footing trenches and any potential health and safety considerations.

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)
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 small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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Roman pottery & CBM

S Benfield (CAT)

Post Roman small finds:

JNAS

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-152359**

### Project details

Project name	Land to the Rear of No 31 High Street, Leiston, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Leiston, land to the rear of No 31 High Street (LCS 173, TM 4454 6258) monitoring of ground works for a small scale residential development at a site formerly used for various workshops to the east of the High Street, and close to the former site of the Leiston Works, recorded extensive evidence for 19th and earlier 20th century ground disturbance.
Project dates	Start: 07-06-2013 End: 07-06-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LCS 173 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL LEISTON LAND TO REAR OF No 31 HIGH STREET
Postcode	IP16 4EL
Study area	160.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4454 6258 52 1 52 12 23 N 001 34 46 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.00m Max: 12.00m



**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 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	"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	Land to the rear of No 31 High Street, Leiston, 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	3 September 2013

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