

**Preston Manor, Lavenham Road,  
Preston St Mary, Suffolk**

**Planning application: B/13/00167**

**HER Ref: PSM 001**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report  
for New Greenhouse**

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

(July 2013)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Preston Manor, Lavenham Road, Preston St Mary, Suffolk, CO10 9LU

Client: Mr & Mrs T Coxon

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/13/00167

Development: Erection of greenhouse

Date of fieldwork: 9 July, 2013

HER Ref: PSM 001- moated site, 'Maisters Manor'

LBS Ref: 1037057/Grade II

OASIS: johnnewm1-154626

Grid ref: TL 9277 5072

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*Summary: Preston St Mary, Preston Manor, Lavenham Road (PSM 001, TL 9277 5072) monitoring of ground works for a new greenhouse revealed deposits of a recent depth to the full depth of 800mm in the foundation trenches apparently confirming that the site is located on the line of the now filled-in western arm of the moat. Examination of a shallow soil strip for an associated path recorded the probable inner edge of this arm of the moat just to the west of a recently constructed extension to the house (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs T Coxon).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs T Coxon 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 B/13/00167. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Ms S Poppy then 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 greenhouse at Preston Manor, Lavenham Road, Preston St Mary (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Preston St Mary parish is located to the south of Bury St Edmunds on the rolling Till plateau of south central Suffolk where settlement is generally characterised by small clusters of maybe a farm or two plus a few cottages close to the respective churches with the remainder of the parish containing further settlement dispersed along the roads and lanes. Preston Manor falls in the latter category being an isolated moated site some 1,800m west of the parish church and on the parish boundary with Lavenham parish and close to the 70m OD contour. Soils in the area are typically heavy being derived from the local chalky clay Till glaciofluvial deposits.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this small scale development was generated by its location towards the western side of a moated enclosure of medieval date (HER PSM 001). The site was formerly the medieval Maisters Manor held by the Master of the Commandery of the Knights Hospitallers at Battisford from the early 14<sup>th</sup> century until the Dissolution under Henry VIII in the earlier 16<sup>th</sup> century. The house, which is located towards the south-western quarter of the c3,000m<sup>2</sup> moated enclosure is Grade II listed and a recent historic assessment of the structure describes it as being of mid 17<sup>th</sup> century date but re-using numerous 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> century timbers. The assessment also notes that substantial remodelling and additions were undertaken to the house in the 19<sup>th</sup> century including the brick front, extensions to the rear and a range of garden related structures directly to the north-east. Recent archaeological monitoring for an extension and floor lowering works within the house recovered pottery of medieval and Post medieval date in addition to a single Iron Age sherd while a clay built oven of probable medieval date was recorded in a trench to the south-east of the house (Newman, 2011).

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site to observe the ground works for the greenhouse as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 500mm wide toothed bucket on a bright, sunny day with site visibility good at all times. 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. In addition the area stripped of topsoil for an associated path was also inspected. Finally the foundation trenches and new path 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 In total 15m of 500mm wide and 800mm deep foundation trench were excavated for the four sides of the new greenhouse (see Fig. 2) revealing a mixed deposit comprising re-deposited clay and building debris of recent date under a 250mm deep layer of topsoil to the full depth and across the base of all of the trenches.

3.2 The associated new path nearby ran on south-east to north-west alignment from the corner of the new extension to the house to a barn which is just outside the western side of the formerly moated area. The soil strip for the 1500mm wide path only went to a depth of 300mm but as it been undertaken using a flat bucket the exposed deposits were clear and adjacent to the house the first 5m revealed the locally occurring natural yellow clay with flints Till deposit (see Fig. 2). With the remainder of the stripped line of the path revealing a mixed deposit similar in character to the greenhouse foundation trenches it seems likely that the boundary between this material and the clean orange clay represents the inner edge of the filled-in western arm of the moat.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 Assessment of the location for the new greenhouse suggested that it would be located on the line of the filled-in western arm of the moat and the results from the monitoring supports this likelihood as a mixed deposit including material of a recent date was recorded to a depth of 800mm. To support this assessment regarding the original extent of the moat the probable line of its inner edge was also recorded close to the house.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the monitored foundation trenches have had no impact on archaeological deposits of any significance as the fill in the upper part of the filled-in western arm of the moat is clearly of recent date and at a maximum depth of 800mm the base of the trenches would have been well above any deposits of interest.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Anne Coxon and to everyone on site for their close cooperation and during the monitoring)*

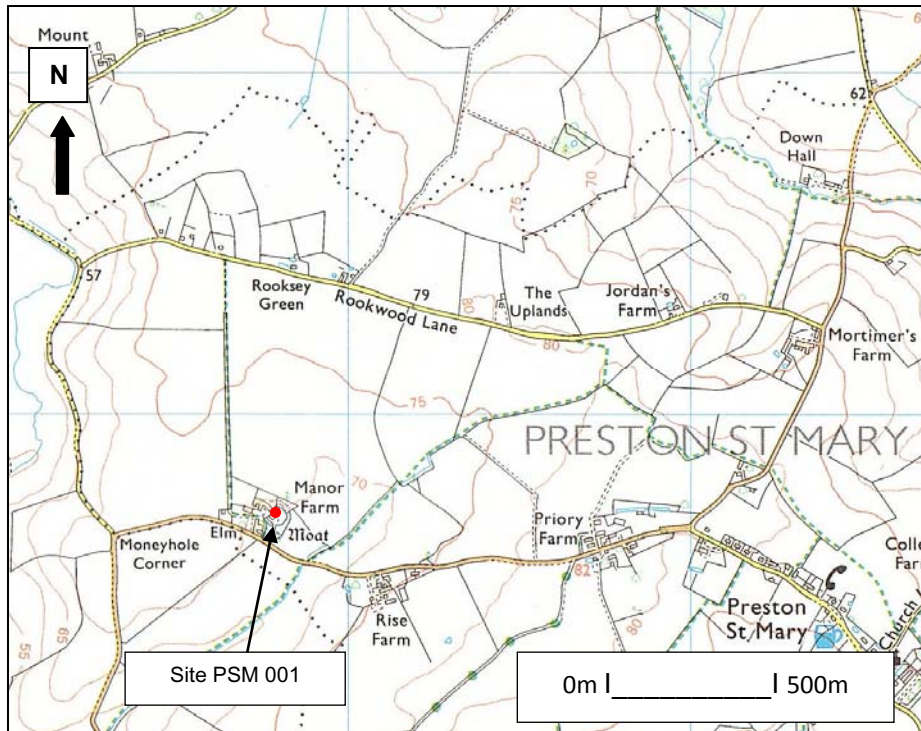


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
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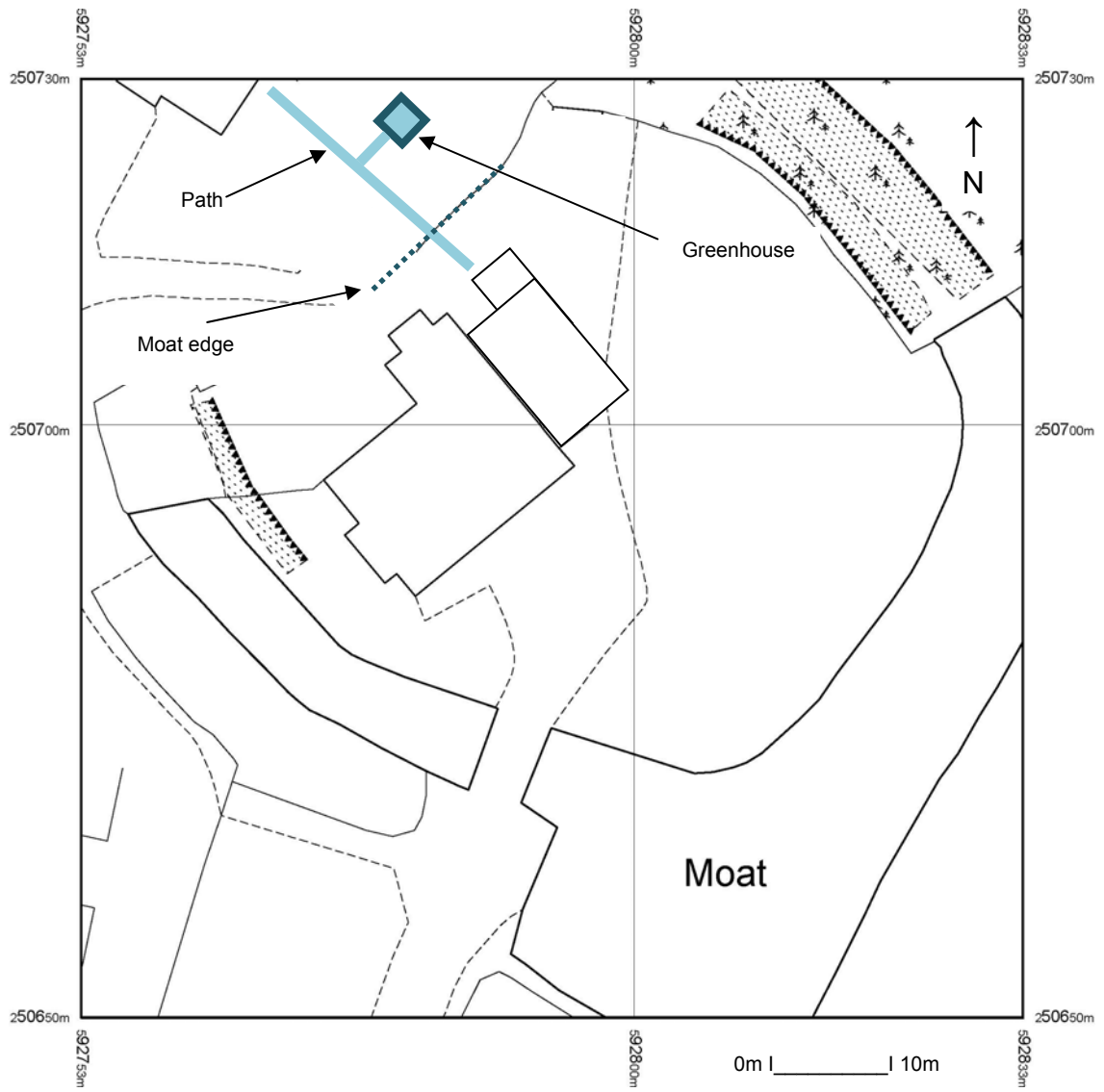


Fig. 2: Monitored greenhouse & path  
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



General view of greenhouse site from north-west



Western trench from north



Deposit profile



Soil strip from north-west with probable moat edge at mid-point (arrowed)



**Preston Manor, Lavenham Road,  
Preston St Mary, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Monitoring  
(Continuous observation of ground works)**

## **Site details**

Client: Mr & Mrs T Coxon

Name: Preston Manor, Lavenham Road, Preston St Mary, Suffolk, CO10 9LU

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/13/00167

Proposed development: Erection of greenhouse

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TL 9278 5069

HER Ref: PSM 001- moated site, 'Maisters Manor'

LBS Ref: 1037057/Grade II

## **Contents**

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

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Mr & Mrs T Coxon have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site monitoring by the continuous observation of the ground works for a proposed small scale development concerning the erection of a greenhouse on the western side of a moated site at Preston Manor, Lavenham Road, Preston St Mary. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements for Archaeological Monitoring set by Ms R Monk of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated.

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 Preston St Mary parish is located to the south of Bury St Edmunds on the rolling Till plateau of south central Suffolk where settlement is generally characterised by small clusters of maybe a farm or two plus a few cottages close to the respective churches with the remainder of the parish containing further settlement dispersed along the roads and lanes. Preston Manor falls in the latter category being an isolated moated site some 1,800m west of the parish church and on the parish boundary with Lavenham parish and close to the 70m OD contour. Soils in the area are typically heavy being derived from the local chalky clay Till glaciofluvial deposits.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 This application lies within an area of archaeological interest, defined in the County Historic Environment, being situated within a medieval moated enclosure on the site of the former medieval Maisters Manor (HER no. PSM 001). Therefore there is high potential for heritage assets of archaeological significance to be disturbed by this small scale development which is located to the north-west of the house and possibly over a now filled-in part of the moat. Aspects of the proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that may exist. It has therefore been specified that the main foundation ground works be continuously

monitored by an archaeologist with adequate time and resources allocated for full recording of any exposed archaeological deposits.

3.2 The site was formerly the medieval Maisters Manor held by the Master of the Commandery of the Knights Hospitallers at Battisford from the early 14<sup>th</sup> century until the Dissolution under Henry VIII in the earlier 16<sup>th</sup> century. The house, which is located towards the south-western quarter of the c3,000m<sup>2</sup> moated enclosure is Grade II listed and a recent historic assessment of the structure describes it as being of mid 17<sup>th</sup> century date but re-using numerous 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> century timbers. The assessment also notes that substantial remodelling and additions were undertaken to the house in the 19<sup>th</sup> century including the brick front, extensions to the rear and a range of garden related structures directly to the north-east. Recent archaeological monitoring for an extension and floor lowering works within the house recovered pottery of medieval and Post medieval date in addition to a single Iron Age sherd while a clay built oven of probable medieval date was recorded in a trench to the south-east of the house (Newman, 2011).

#### 4. Aims of the Site Monitoring by Continuous Observation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the key importance of the site is that it is a moated, manorial site with clear potential to contain further evidence of medieval and earlier Post medieval archaeological deposits. The main aim of the monitoring of ground works is therefore to enable a record to be made of any archaeological features or finds that might be revealed by the greenhouse foundations in order to gain potentially valuable information relating to past activity at the site and in particular any detail relating to the moat circuit.

#### 5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed greenhouse foundations will be constructed using traditional trench foundations and this will be done using a machine. Close liaison with the clients and the relevant contractor will enable this work to be monitored as it progresses so a full investigation and any recording work can be completed before concrete is poured. The upcast spoil will be examined for archaeological finds as work progresses. The relevant SCCAS Officer will be kept informed of progress and of the results of the continuously observed ground work operations as soon as any conclusions can be reached concerning the potential of the site.

5.2 As necessary sub soil levels and trench sides exposed during the ground works will be hand cleaned to help in the identification of

archaeological features as will the natural drift geological surface as this is exposed in the trench base. The upcast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in former rural areas is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits. Where upcast finds can be identified with particular areas of mechanical excavation they will be allocated a unique site context number referenced to the overall site plan. Full archaeological excavation will start as soon as features or deposits are identified and clearly defined so no delay is caused to the development and adequate time will be allowed for any such investigations.

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 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 appropriate hand investigation and recording. Any possible structural features, such as building slots or post holes, will be examined in section and then fully excavated and sampled within the foundation trenches, soak aways and any service trenches. Fabricated surfaces will be fully exposed, cleaned and recorded. Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, excavation, with appropriate soil sampling, will be complete within the foundation trenches and other ground works. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCCAS Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full onsite recording and removal of the remains, if preservation *in situ* is not possible, 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 archaeological works. (In this case the likelihood of finding human burials is assessed as being very low.)

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 plus X-

radiography of metal finds as appropriate to their date. 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. 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 EH Regional Scientific Advisor, or 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 site works 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 site results)- in this case possibly related to the operation of a Roman period kiln
- What is the concentration of macro-remains

- 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 site 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 (in this case water logged deposits are very unlikely given the limited extent of the ground works.)

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 6 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). The archive will be sufficiently detailed to allow full understanding and further interpretation of the site results should the project not proceed to detailed analysis and final report preparation.

5.8 The 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 site monitoring and any follow-up excavation work will be clearly separated from the objective and the results will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process (within 4 weeks to agree a post-excavation strategy and final outcome regarding the level of reporting required following reporting at the time of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site works 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). A draft pdf copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS initially, once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER. As required the site works 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 machine operator for controlled trenching and examination of the upcast 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. The potential issue of overhead or underground services will be dealt with by the client beforehand and has already been discussed at a site meeting. Similarly ground contamination is seen as a low risk in a former garden area. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the monitoring 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.



## John Newman Archaeological Services

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6.5 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)
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (NAU/NPS)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period SF:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman pot/cbm:	S. Benfield, CAT
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-154626**

### Project details

Project name	Preston Manor, Lavenham Road, Preston St Mary, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Preston St Mary, Preston Manor, Lavenham Road (PSM 001, TL 9277 5072) monitoring of ground works for a new greenhouse revealed deposits of a recent depth to the full depth of 800mm in the foundation trenches apparently confirming that the site is located on the line of the now filled-in western arm of the moat. Examination of a shallow soil strip for an associated path recorded the probable inner edge of this arm of the moat just to the west of a recently constructed extension to the house.
Project dates	Start: 09-07-2013 End: 09-07-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PSM 001 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	1037057 - LBS No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	MOAT Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH PRESTON ST MARY PRESTON MANOR, LAVENHAM ROAD
Postcode	CO10 9LU
Study area	20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9277 5072 52 0 52 07 14 N 000 48 58 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 69.00m Max: 70.00m

### 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 Preston Manor, Lavenham Road, Preston St Mary, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Newman, J

Date 2013

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Entered by John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

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