

**Brook House, Quay Street,
Halesworth, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/12/0505/FUL

HER Ref: HWT 038

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(July 2013)

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Site details for HER

Name: Brook House, Quay Street, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 9ET

Client: Mr & Mrs J Bainer

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/12/0505/FUL

Development: Construction of single storey side extension & a frameless glass link

Date of fieldwork: 23 & 25 October, 2012 (May, 2013- extension screw piled)

HER Ref: HWT 038

LBS Ref: 1223437

OASIS: johnnewm1-155277

Grid ref: TM 38789 77707

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Summary: Halesworth, Brook House, Quay Street (HWT 038, TM 38789 77707) while ground works for a side extension were limited to screw piles and construction on these from ground level monitoring of the excavation of a treatment plant pit to the rear of the house recorded a substantial deposit of alluvial material above an organic silty layer. In this context it is worthwhile noting that the 70m long garden to the rear of the house backs onto the River Blyth so the alluvial deposits are likely to have been caused by past flood events and Quay Street to the front of the house probably runs along the northern edge of what was the floodplain. The only stray find from the upcast spoil of any note was a very worn and corroded Nuremberg token of earlier 16th century date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs J Bainer).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs J Bainer 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 DC/12/0505/FUL. 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 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 construction of a single storey side extension with frameless glass link and associated works to install a new treatment plant and related trench work at Brook House, Quay Street, Halesworth (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Halesworth is a small market town on the River Blyth in the north-eastern part of Suffolk that had, in all probability been established by the late Saxon period at least, and flourished through the medieval period with the market being recorded from 1223. The historic core of the town is focused on the area around the parish church on the southern side of the river. A substantial historic suburb also exists on the northern side of the River Blyth and Brook House is located in this area some 400m north-east of the parish church and to the east of the main bridging point. Brook House is a Grade II listed building with No 8 Quay Street and described as being 'late 18th or early 19th century, three storey, painted brick.' It is also noteworthy that all the nearby listed buildings are of 18th or 19th century date and the expansion of Halesworth on the northern side of the river is likely to be related to the Post medieval prosperity enjoyed by the town as local malting thrived and river traffic increased considerably. The house fronts onto Quay Street at c12m OD with a rear garden that slopes down to part of the river called the New Reach some 70m away. Close to the river the local drift geology is likely to be mainly glaciofluvial sands and gravels.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was therefore generated by it's location within the area defined as the historic core of Halesworth.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to the site to observe the ground works for the installation of a new treatment plant and related trench work running south to the river as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 500mm wide toothed bucket on under generally dull conditions but with site visibility good at all times. While the trench could be entered to enable a close examination of the exposed deposits the pit for the treatment plant was too deep and had to be observed from above. Throughout the monitoring the upcast spoil was inspected for stray finds. 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). Due to the deep nature of the overburden at the site the extension was constructed on screw piles inserted from ground level with a foundation beam at this level and therefore these works were not monitored as the level where archaeological deposits, if present, would not be exposed.

3. Results

3.1 The pit for the treatment plant (Fig. 2) was located some 15m to the rear of the house and was 2.20m square. Below 350mm of topsoil a 350mm of mid brown silty subsoil lay over a 250mm layer which comprised a mixture of dumped mortar and small brick and tile fragments of later Post medieval date. Under this mixed material a 1000mm thick layer made up of a pale to mid grey silty deposit which was largely stone-free but did exhibit some iron staining was revealed and this in turn lay over a 350mm thick black organically rich silty peat deposit (see Appendix I). Finally at the base of the pit at a depth of 2300mm the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposit comprising a pale grey sand with flints was exposed. The only finds in the upcast spoil came from the top and subsoil and mixed mortar deposit in the upper part of the pit and in addition to the small fragments of later Post medieval brick and tile was made up of a few sherds of 19th century to earlier 20th century pottery and glass. The silty deposit below the mixed mortar deposit and the silty organic layer at the base of the pit was very clean and did not contain any finds or any evidence for human activity such as charcoal fragments.

3.2 The pipe trench from the pit to the river was 400mm wide and 500mm deep and therefore only penetrated into the top of the subsoil at the site and the only finds seen in the upcast spoil were of recent date save a very worn and corroded copper alloy Nuremberg token of earlier 16th century date (such tokens were imported in large numbers and used for counting on chequer boards their though informal use as small change has also been suggested).

4. Conclusion

4.1 While only the ground works for the relatively small treatment plant pit went to a sufficient depth to reveal past deposits of any interest and no significant finds were revealed during the monitoring some useful topographic information was recorded. The upper 950mm in the exposed pit profile is clearly of recent date and it seems likely that the mixed mortar and brick/tile layer at a depth of 700mm to 950mm was deposited deliberately to raise the level of the garden to the rear of Brook House in the later 18th to 19th century period when the house was constructed. Below the mixed mortar and brick/tile layer the 1000mm thick stone-free silty deposit can be interpreted as alluvial material in all probability deposited gradually during numerous flood episodes by the nearby River Blyth. Finally the basal organically rich silty layer can be concluded as being the result of a long period when standing water hindered the full decay of plant material at some point in the distant past before deposit of the alluvial material above gradually raised the floodplain. From this overall interpretation it can therefore be concluded that the line of Quay Street to the north in front of Brook House in all probability represents the northern edge of the floodplain.

4.2 As noted in section 2.1 the foundations for the extension did not disturb the ground to any significant extent as screw piles were used and this is a method that has only minimal impact on deposits below the footprint area.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to John & Susan Bainer for their close cooperation during the monitoring)

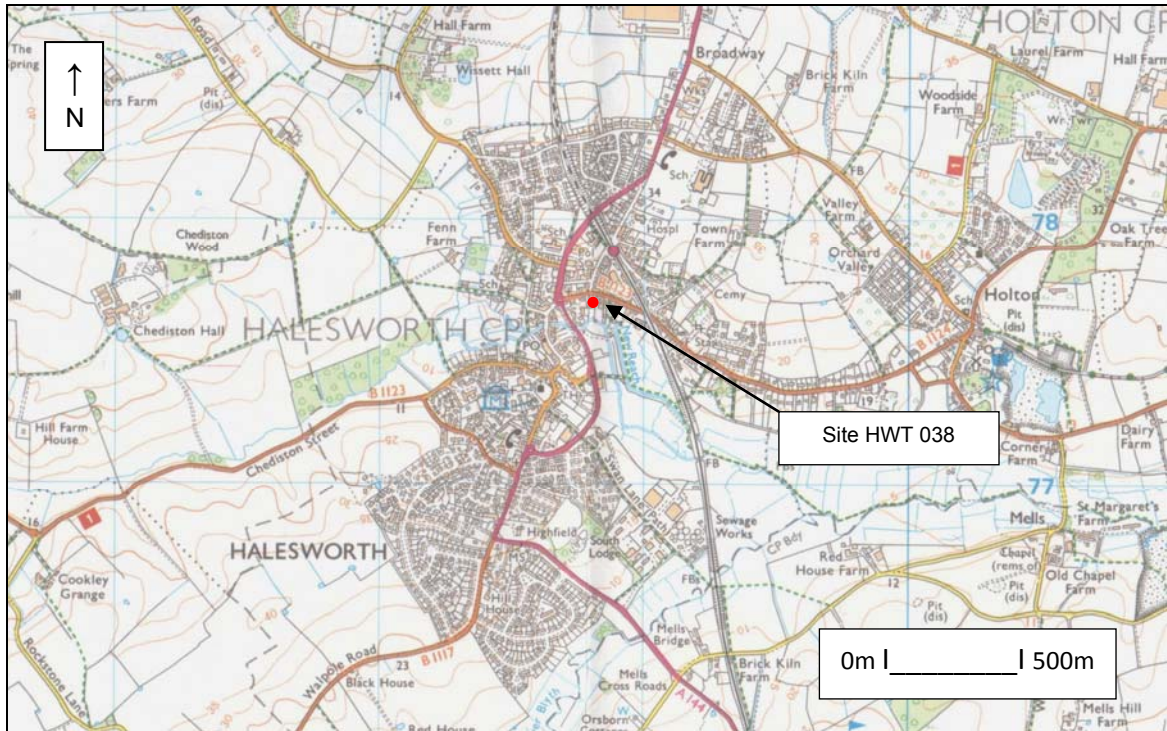


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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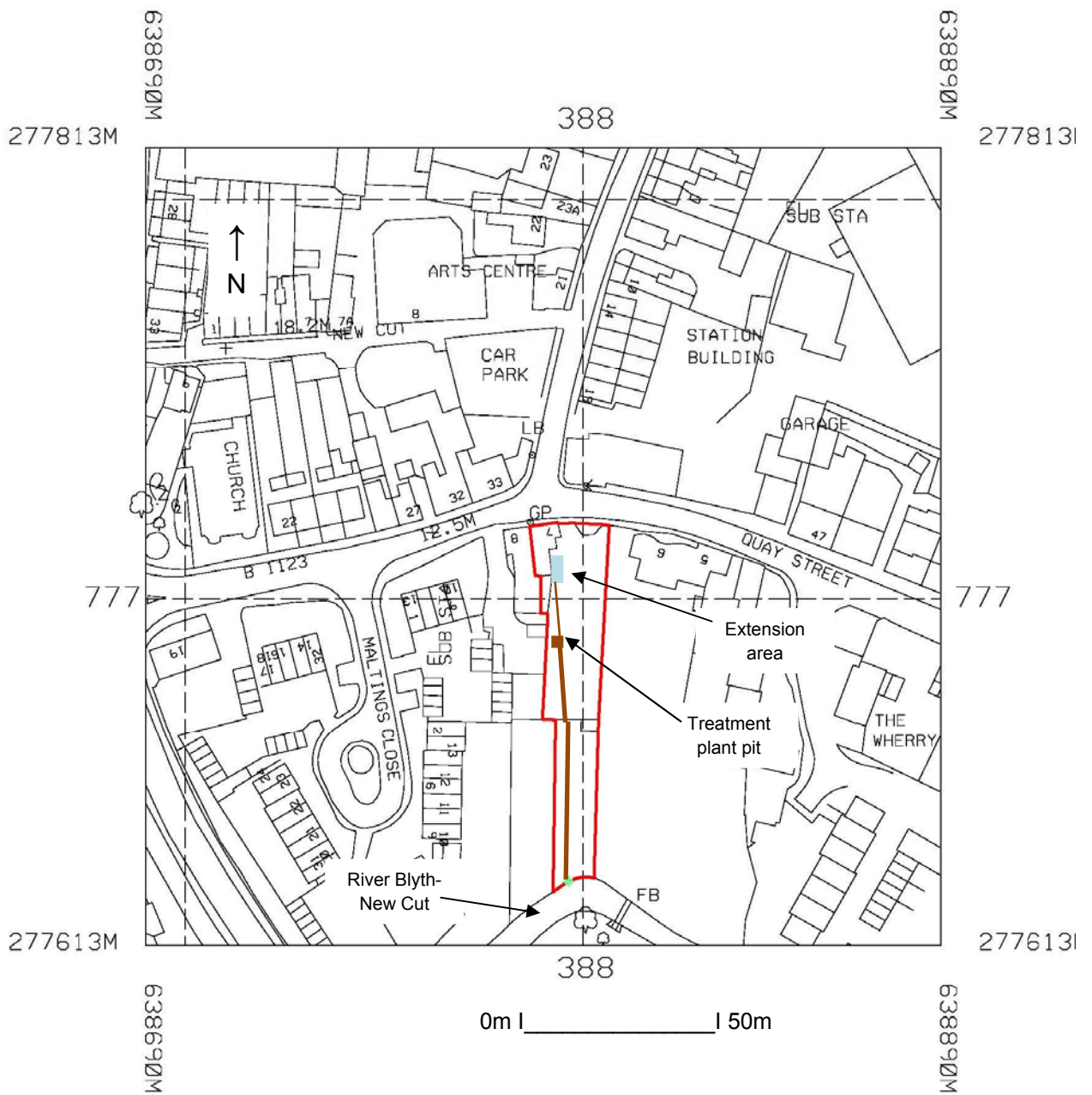


Fig. 2: Monitored works (Pit & trenches- brown)
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2012 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



House from back garden



Treatment pit- top & subsoil over mixed mortar/cbm layer then alluvial deposit over black organic rich silty basal layer

**Brook House, 7 Quay Street,
Halesworth, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/12/0505/FUL

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

Site details

Name: Brook House, 7 Quay Street, Halesworth, Suffolk,

Client: Mr & Mrs J Baines

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/12/0505/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of side extension & frameless glass link

Proposed date for ground works: 23 & 24 October, 2012

Brief & Specification ref: 2012_09_24_SCCAS_Archaeological Monitoring
Brief_Brook House Halesworth

Grid ref: TM 38785 77705

Listed building ref. 1223437, Grade II

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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 J Baines 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 DC/12/0505/FUL. 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 to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of a side extension with glass link to Brook House, 7 Quay Street, Halesworth.

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 Halesworth is a small market town on the River Blyth in the north-eastern part of Suffolk that had, in all probability been established by the late Saxon period at least, and flourished through the medieval period with the market being recorded from 1223. The historic core of the town is focused on the area around the parish church on the southern side of the river. A substantial historic suburb also exists on the northern side of the River Blyth and Brook House is located in this area some 400m north-east of the parish church and to the east of the main bridging point. Brook House is a Grade II listed building with No 8 Quay Street and described as being 'late 18th or early 19th century, three storey, painted brick.' It is also noteworthy that all the nearby listed buildings are of 18th or 19th century date and the expansion of Halesworth on the northern side of the river is likely to be related to the Post medieval prosperity enjoyed by the town as local malting thrived and river traffic increased considerably. The house fronts onto Quay Street at c12m OD with a rear garden that slopes down to part of the river called the New Reach some 80m away. Close to the river the local drift geology is likely to be mainly glaciofluvial sands and gravels.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The site is on the edge of the extent of the Middle Saxon, Medieval and Historic settlement of the town

(County Historic Environment Record HWT 015). Given this situation, any ground works associated with the proposed development could potentially cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying archaeological deposits'

3.2 The Brief then confirms 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 as ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring 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 later Saxon, medieval and early Post medieval deposits in particular might be found and continuous monitoring of ground works as they progress can best record what may be revealed. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to depth of overburden and evidence, character and date of any past activity that is revealed with the primary aim of gaining more information relating to past activity in this location close to the historic 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 works for a new treatment plant plus any service trenches, soakaways or landscaping works will be observed as they are undertaken and any upcast 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 by hand any possible archaeological deposits within the foundation trenches and related ground works.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of identifiable 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 in relation 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 at the PDS. 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 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. 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.

John Newman Archaeological Services

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)
Roman period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-155277

Project details

Project name	Brook House, Quay Street, Halesworth, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Halesworth, Brook House, Quay Street (HWT 038, TM 38789 77707) while ground works for a side extension were limited to screw piles and construction on these from ground level monitoring of the excavation of a treatment plant pit to the rear of the house recorded a substantial deposit of alluvial material above an organic silty layer. In this context it is worthwhile noting that the 70m long garden to the rear of the house backs onto the River Blyth so the alluvial deposits are likely to have been caused by past flood events and Quay Street to the front of the house probably runs along the northern edge of what was the floodplain. The only stray find from the upcast spoil of any note was a very worn and corroded Nuremberg token of earlier 16th century date.
Project dates	Start: 23-10-2012 End: 16-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HWT 038 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	1223437 - LBS No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PEAT LAYER Uncertain
Significant Finds	NUREMBERG TOKEN Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY HALESWORTH BROOK HOUSE, QUAY STREET
Postcode	IP19 9EH

Study area 20.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TM 38789 77707 52 1 52 20 41 N 001 30 22 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 director/manager John Newman
 Project supervisor John Newman
 Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

Project archives

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Brook House, Quay Street, Halesworth, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Newman, J
 Date 2013
 Issuer or publisher John Newman Archaeological Services
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