

**No 1 Chediston Street, Halesworth,
Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/09/1058/FUL

HER Ref: HWT 040

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(September 2013)

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

Site details for HER

Name: No 1 Chediston Street, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8BE

Client: Mr & Mrs R Hurren

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/09/1058/FUL

Development: Erection of side extension

Date of fieldwork: 31 July, 2013

HER Ref: HWT 040

OASIS: johnnewm1-156108

Grid ref: TM 3852 7744

Contents

Summary

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

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Monitored extension area

List of appendices

Appendix I - Images

Appendix II- Written scheme for monitoring

Appendix III- The Finds (Sue Anderson)

Appendix IV- OASIS data collection form

Summary: Halesworth, No 1 Chediston Street (HWT 040, TM 3852 7744) monitoring of ground works for a side extension recovered evidence for medieval activity at this site close to the town centre. However as the foundations were piled only relatively shallow ground beam trenches were opened and these did not disturb an area of medieval period pitting whose upper surface was exposed though a few sherds of 12th-14th century pottery were recovered from this area within the foundations (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs R Hurren).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr A Stannard on behalf of his clients, Mr & Mrs R Hurren, 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/09/1058/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 a side extension to No 1 Chediston 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 and a substantial historic suburb also exists on the northern side of the River Blyth. The site at No 1 Chediston Street is located at the western end of the now in-filled Market Place some 60m north of the parish church at a height of c16m OD in an area with generally free draining soils derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sands and gravels with the area for the new extension fronting onto the street.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 At this site the main foundations were piled, following the demolition of a small existing extension to ground level, in order not to disturb the ground close to existing walls. These works were not monitored as very little exposure of deposits would be caused by the piling with the site attendance commencing during the excavation of the ground beam trenches. A single visit was made to the site to observe the works for the ground beam trenches as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 600mm wide bucket on a bright, sunny day with site visibility good at all times. The 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. 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 was 28m² and in total 25m of 800mm wide and 600mm deep ground beam trench were excavated (see Fig. 2). Over the greater part of the footprint area the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial orange sand with flints was exposed at a depth of 500mm below a sandy subsoil deposit which contained numerous fragments of later Post medieval brick and tile. However in the north-western corner of the beam trenches an area of disturbance was apparent which comprised a mid brown sandy deposit with occasional oyster shells and medieval pottery sherds on its surface. This area of probable pitting, which covered an area of c9m², was left in situ.

4. The Finds

4.1 In total four sherds (wt 99g) of medieval pottery were recovered from the area of probable pitting and the full report by Sue Anderson on these finds is included as Appendix III below. In summary this small group of sherds has a date range of 12th-14th century and comprises wares that are common to east Suffolk though one red ware jug rim could be an import from the Low Countries and could extend the date range to the late medieval period. The few oyster shells seen at the site were not collected and are common finds on sites across the social spectrum in the medieval period.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While the extent of serious disturbance for this extension was relatively shallow at a maximum of 600mm the monitoring has been able to record interesting evidence for medieval activity in the form of an area of pitting on a historic street frontage close to the town centre. These results demonstrate the value of archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance in the core of historic settlements, even if this is on a small scale, and in this case adds valuable information relating to Halesworth.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the monitored footings have had a minimal impact on the archaeological deposits that were exposed as the recorded area of medieval pitting has been left in situ.

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

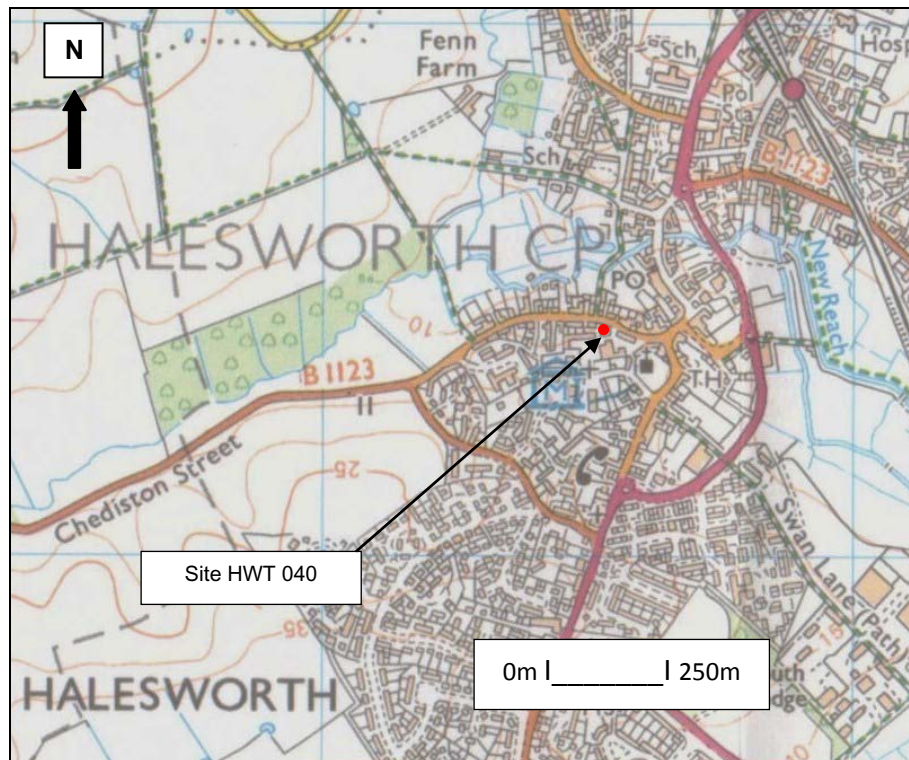


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

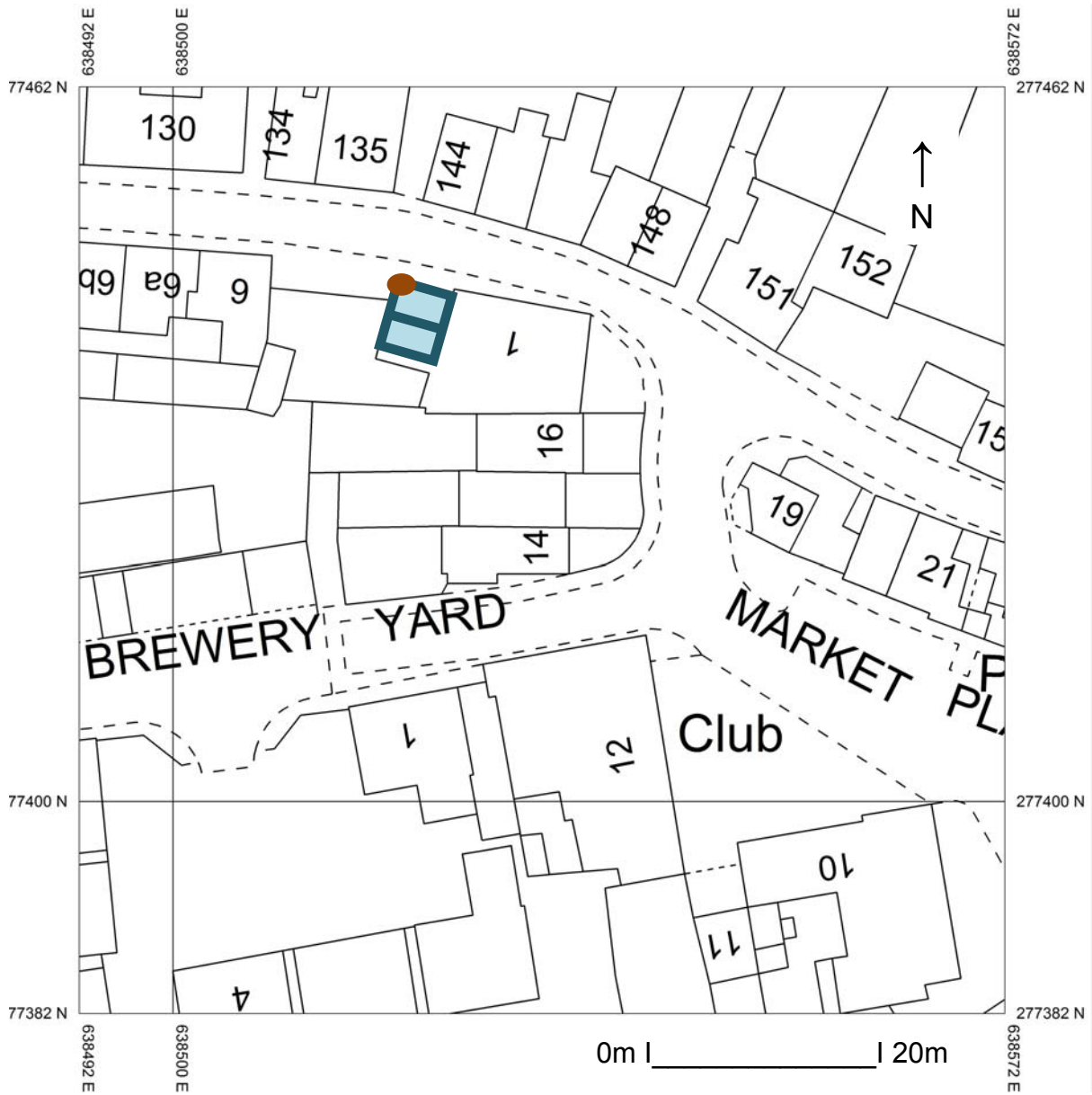


Fig. 2: Monitored extension area
 (Ground beam trenches- dark blue, area of pitting- brown)
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



General view from south-west



Ground beam trenches from west



Area of pitting in north-west corner

**No 1 Chediston Street, Halesworth,
Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/09/1058/FUL

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

Site details

Name: No 1 Chediston Street, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8BE

Client: Mr & Mrs R Hurren

Local planning authority: Waveney DC

Planning application ref: DC/09/1058/FUL

Proposed development: Erection extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief & Specification ref: 2012_12_11_SCCAS_MonitoringDC09_1058

Grid ref: TM 3853 7744

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 A Stannard on behalf of his clients, Mr & Mrs R Hurren 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/09/1058/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 small extension at No 1 Chediston 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 and a substantial historic suburb also exists on the northern side of the River Blyth. The proposed development site (PDS) at No 1 Chediston is located at the western end of the now in-filled Market Place some 60m north of the parish church at a height of c16m OD in an area with generally free draining soils derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sands and gravels.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The above proposal lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance defined in the Waveney Local Plan for medieval Halesworth and recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HWT 015). There is potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development.'

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 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 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. As appropriate for the results 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)

John Newman Archaeological Services

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

Appendix III- The Finds

No 1 Chediston St, Halesworth (HWT 040): pottery
Sue Anderson, August 2013.

Four pottery sherds (99g) were recovered as unstratified finds. The pottery quantification is shown in Table 1.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	MCWM	1	10	fine pale grey sherd, sooted, moderate mica, sparse flint & haematite	12th-14th c
	MCWM	1	31	fine graye body sherd, black internally, brown externally, abundant mica, sparse flint and haematite	12th-14th c
	HOLG?	1	6	undecorated fine sandy ware with sparse chalk, oxidised externally	13th/14th c?
	UPG	1	52	red ware jug rim, 100mm diameter (17%), collared, strap handle with deep thumb impressions either side, medium sandy with occasional chalk, partial orange glaze	med/lmed

Table 1. Pottery catalogue.

Key: MCWM – medieval coarseware micaceous; HOLG – Hollesley-type glazed ware.

Two medieval coarseware sherds were in micaceous fabrics with haematite inclusions. Similar pottery has been found at Leiston (Anderson 2009) and the production site may be somewhere nearby. An unglazed sherd with external oxidation is likely to be a Hollesley-type product, the colouration suggesting that it was part of a glazed ware, although no glaze is present on the fragment. A large fragment of jug rim/handle is in a similar, though slightly coarser, fabric and may also be Hollesley ware or possibly a Low Countries import.

Reference

Anderson, S., 2009, *Leiston Substation 132kv Cable Route, Sizewell, Leiston (LCS 150): post-Roman pottery assessment*. Archive report for SCCAS.

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: johnnewm1-156108

Project details

Project name	Erection of Extension to No 1 Chediston Street, Halesworth, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Halesworth, No 1 Chediston Street (HWT 040, TM 3852 7744) monitoring of ground works for a side extension recovered evidence for medieval activity at this site close to the town centre. However as the foundations were piled only relatively shallow ground beam trenches were opened and these did not disturb an area of medieval period pitting whose upper surface was exposed though a few sherds of 12th-14th century pottery were recovered from this area within the foundations.
Project dates	Start: 31-07-2013 End: 31-07-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HWT 040 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY HALESWORTH No 1 CHEDISTON STREET
Postcode	IP19 8BE
Study area	28.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 3852 7744 52 1 52 20 33 N 001 30 07 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	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	No 1 Chediston Street, Halesworth, 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	2 September 2013