

**Piper's Vale, Ipswich,
Suffolk**

Planning application: N/A

HER Ref: IPS 734

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

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Site details for HER

Name: Pipers Vale, Ipswich, Suffolk

Client: Butterfly Conservation

Local planning authority: Ipswich BC

Planning application ref: N/A (voluntary agreement)

Development: Heathland restoration works

Date of fieldwork: 10 & 18 December, 2013

HER Ref: IPS 734

OASIS: johnnewm1-165631

Grid ref: TM 1772 4170

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Summary: Ipswich, land at Pipers Vale (IPS 734, TM 1772 4170) monitoring of works to recreate heathland by the excavation of two deep trenches followed by the burying of adjacent humic rich topsoil before spreading the upcast glaciofluvial sand did not reveal any features or finds of archaeological interest. A small depression close to the area of the works and which may be a WW II period bomb crater was left in situ (John Newman Archaeological Services for Butterfly Conservation).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Butterfly Conservation commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required for a proposed area of heathland restoration at Piper's Vale, Ipswich following consultation with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service. A written scheme of investigation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in response to the relevant Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of SCCAS.

1.2 Piper's Vale is an area designated as a country park overlooking the River Orwell on the south-eastern edge of Ipswich. Currently under a mix of grass and scrub cover the Piper's Vale area historically would have been heathland type grass maintained by regular use as a sheepwalk. The area for the planned heathland restoration is located on the northern, southern and western edges of an area of restoration carried out in 2007. Topographically the site has a westerly aspect on a moderately steep slope at 27m OD in an area of light, well drained soils derived from the local naturally occurring glaciofluvial sand with flints.

1.3 Archaeological interest in these works was generated by its close proximity to a recorded WW II military site (HER IPS 434) and the reported find spot of a Roman period brooch (HER IPS 088). In addition recent fieldwork has recorded evidence for an Iron Age settlement c200m to the east (HER IPS 617) in a similar topographic location and further evidence for prehistoric activity is recorded to the south (HER IPS 007 & 069).

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The methodology to be used to recreate heathland over an area of c900m² adjacent to the works carried out in 2007 entailed the mechanical excavation of two trenches using a 1500mm wide flat bucket to a depth of 2400mm followed by the burial of the adjacent humic topsoil and leaf brash before the upcast glaciofluvial sand was spread over the same area. This methodology replacing the humic rich topsoil with natural sand which is nutrient poor and therefore suitable for heathland plants to flourish and thereby encouraging the local butterfly population to grow.

2.2 As the trenches had to be excavated to their full depth in a continuous process short lengths were stripped to the level of the locally occurring glaciofluvial yellow sand so each part could be examined for archaeological features before excavation to the full depth of 2400mm. During this process the upcast spoil was inspected for stray finds. Finally the trenches were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring as the work progressed (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 Trench 1 was 22m long and trench 2 was 20m in length with the former being on an alignment close to east-west while the latter was north-south (see Fig. 2). The deposit profile in each trench was similar with 250mm of topsoil over 100mm to 200mm of a mid brown sandy subsoil which in turn lay over the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial yellow sand with flints.

3.2 The trenching works did not reveal any features of interest and while a few heavily burnt, white crazed flints appeared to indicate some level of prehistoric activity at first it soon became clear they were associated with a bonfire site of recent date.

3.3 While no archaeological features were revealed in the trenches on the eastern edge of the work area a shallow depression with a 150mm high surrounding ridge was noted (see Fig. 2). This depression is nearly 4m in diameter and is locally interpreted as a bomb crater from the WW II period; this feature was left in situ and undisturbed.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site lies in a topographically attractive location with regard to potential prehistoric settlement in particular the trenching works for this heathland restoration did not reveal any evidence for past activity save a probable bomb crater of mid 20th century date.

4.2 Therefore in conclusion it is clear that the monitored works have not impacted on any deposits of archaeological significance.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Sharon Hearle from Butterfly Conservation and to everyone from Ipswich BC for their close cooperation during the monitoring)

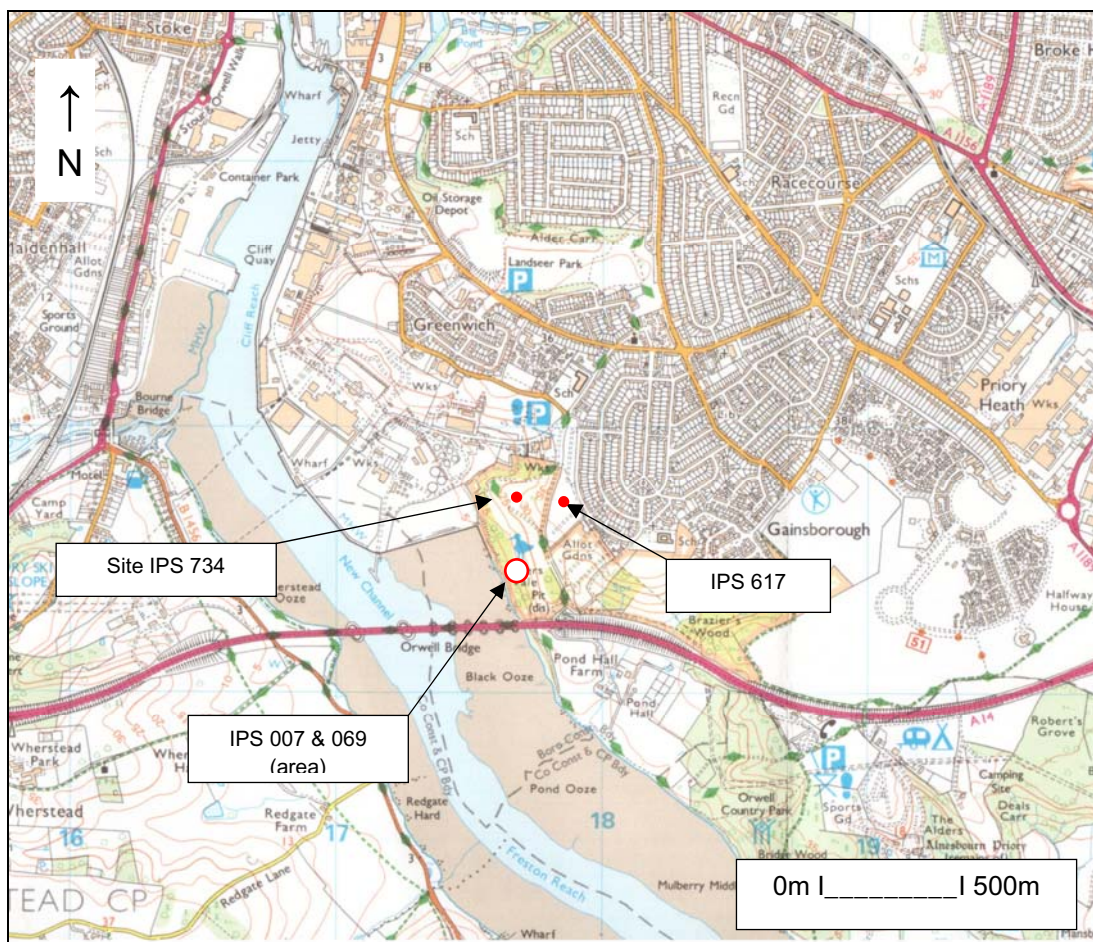


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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TM 17700

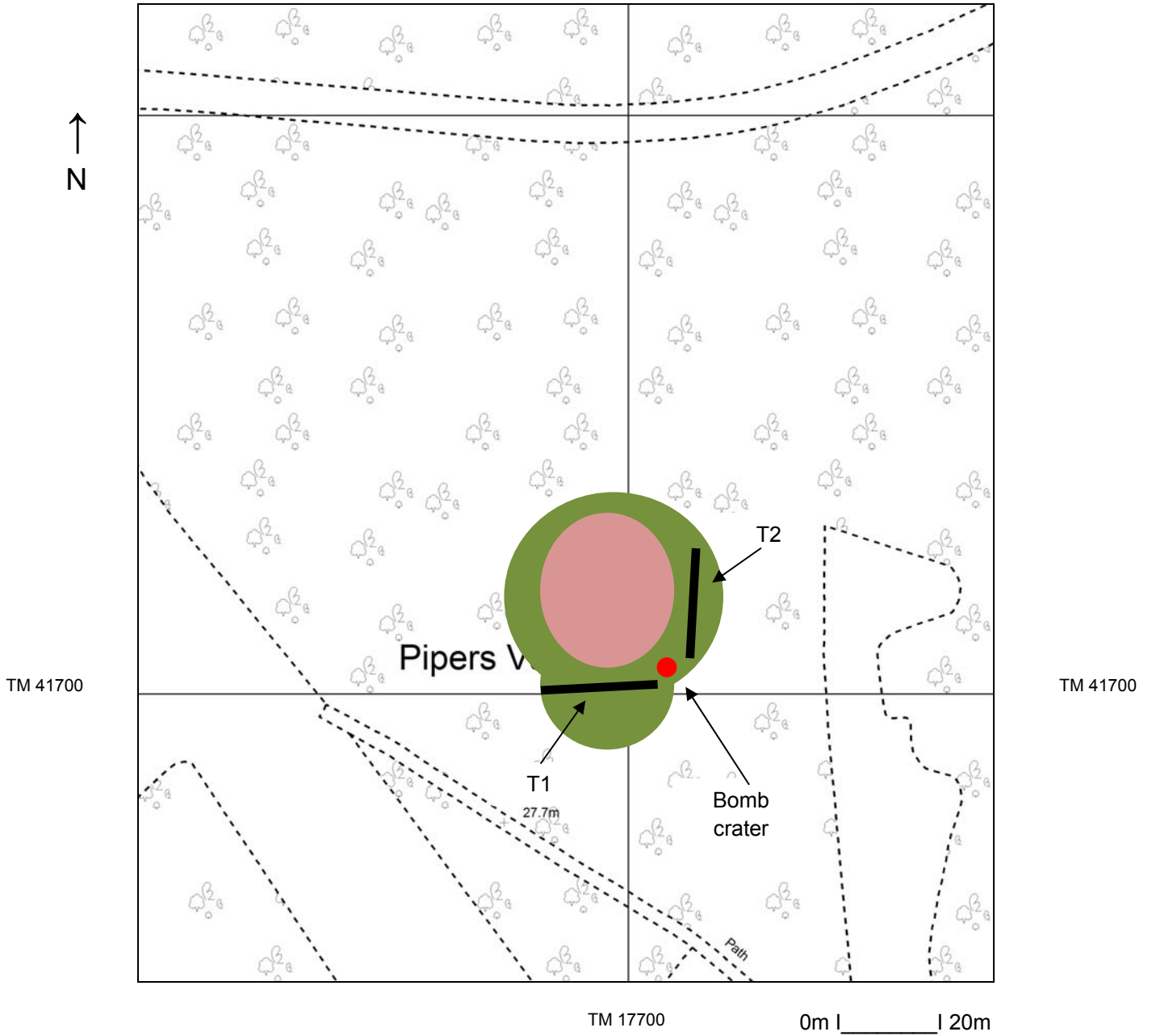


Fig. 2: Located of monitored trenches (pink- 2007 area, 2013 area- green)
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013 All rights reserved Licence No 10049722)

Appendix I- Images



General view from north-west



Trench 1 removal of topsoil for next length



Trench 1 fully excavated



Trench deposit profile & removal of topsoil for next length



Trench 2 from east with bomb crater in foreground

**Piper's Vale, Ipswich,
Suffolk**

Planning application: tbc

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

Site details

Name: Piper's Vale, Ipswich, Suffolk

Client: Butterfly Conservation

Local planning authority: Ipswich BC

Planning application ref: tbc

Proposed development: Topsoil for heathland restoration

Proposed date for ground works: early December, 2013

Brief & Specification ref: 2013_11_13_MonBrief_PipersVale_SCCAS_Final

Grid ref: TM 1772 4171

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1. Introduction

1.1 Butterfly Conservation has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required for a proposed area of heathland restoration at Piper's Vale, Ipswich following consultation with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the scheme and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service. 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 Piper's Vale is an area designated as a country park overlooking the River Orwell on the south-eastern edge of Ipswich. Currently under a mix of grass and scrub cover the Piper's Vale area historically would have been heathland type grass maintained by regular use as a sheepwalk. The area for the planned heathland restoration is located on the northern, southern and western edges of an area of restoration carried out in 2007. Topographically the site has a westerly aspect on a moderately steep slope at c25m OD in an area of light, well drained soils derived from the local naturally occurring glaciofluvial sand with flints.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The intended extension strip for heathland regeneration is in an area of high archaeological potential, as recorded by information held on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). It is situated within a known WWII military site (HER no. IPS 434), and is on top of a find spot of a Roman brooch (IPS 088). This find is indicative of further occupation activity in the area, and in general, the site occupies a topographic position (overlooking the River Orwell) favourable for settlement in all periods. Around the same contour, recent excavations c.200m to the east have identified an Iron Age settlement (IPS 617), and in the area immediately south of the site, there have been further finds of Prehistoric artefacts (e.g. IPS 007, 069).'

3.2 The Brief then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance and 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 multi-period activity 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 the character and date of any past activity that is revealed with the primary aim of gaining more information relating to past activity in this topographically favourable location and to leave any deposits in situ with minimal disturbance.

5. Methodology

5.1 For this scheme ground works will consist of a top soil strip which will remain at a shallow depth and it is probable that any archaeological deposits that are revealed can be recorded and left in situ with a topsoil cover for continued protection. Notice of ground works starting and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of 'observable phenomena' (OPs) 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 or shovelled clean before recording and, as noted in section 5.1 above, where possible exposed archaeological deposits of any complexity will be left in situ with a topsoil cover and a modification to the area to be stripped. However isolated archaeological features will be fully investigated and recorded in plan and section 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 site. 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 and have to be disturbed. 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 be the primary objective (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 full discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots & ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client's agent 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 will not form any part of the planned works.

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)

John Newman Archaeological Services

Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-165631

Project details

Project name	Pipers Vale, Ipswich, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Ipswich, land at Pipers Vale (IPS 734, TM 1772 4170) monitoring of works to recreate heathland by the excavation of two deep trenches followed by the burying of adjacent humic rich topsoil before spreading the upcast glaciofluvial sand did not reveal any features or finds of archaeological interest. A small depression close to the area of the works and which may be a WW II period bomb crater was left in situ.
Project dates	Start: 10-12-2013 End: 18-12-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	IPS 734 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	BOMB CRATER Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Environmental (unspecified schedule)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK IPSWICH IPSWICH PIPERS VALE
Study area	800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1772 4170 52.0303560797 1.17428125423 52 01 49 N 001 10 27 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 27.00m Max: 28.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Newman Archaeological Services
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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	Other Charitable Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images vector", "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	Pipers Vale, Ipswich, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2014
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	26 February 2014

OASIS:

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