

**Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath,  
Groton, Suffolk**

**Planning application: B/13/00492/FHA**

**HER Ref: GRT 015**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(March 2014)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath, Groton, Suffolk

Client: Mrs D H McCorkell

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/13/00492/FHA

Development: Erection of extensions

Date of fieldwork: 19 & 25 February, 2014

HER Ref: GRT 015

LBS Ref: 1037291

OASIS: johnnewm1-171401

Grid ref: TL 96211 43411

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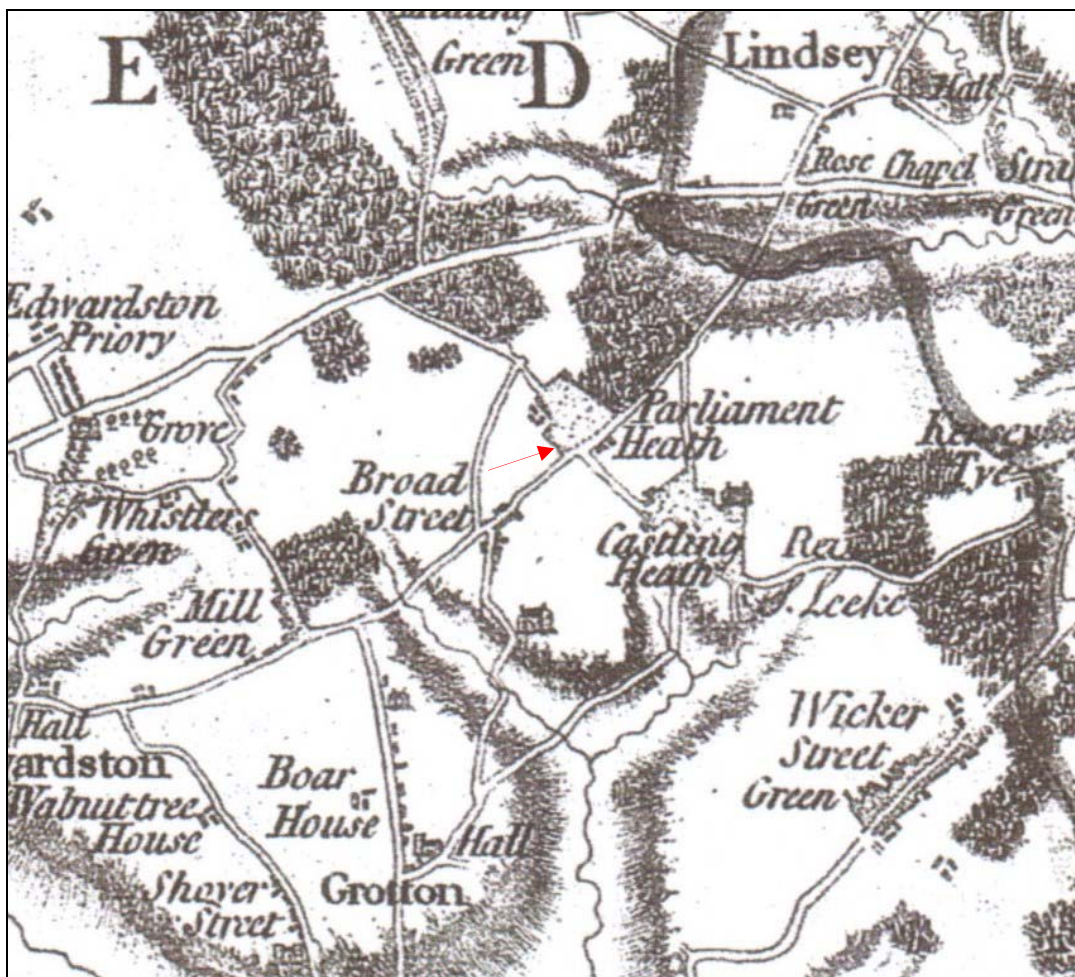
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Summary: Groton, Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath (GRT 015, TL 96211 43411) monitoring of ground works for side and rear extensions to a listed building located on the edge of a historic heath and of probable 18<sup>th</sup> to earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century date did not reveal any evidence for pre 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century activity. Examination of the parish tithe map and apportionment revealed that this plot appears to have been a farm yard in 1838 with no domestic occupation though a note adds 'Old House Farm' to its entry (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mrs D H McCorkell).



Frontispiece: extract from Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk (red arrow- location of Primrose Cottage)

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Wiston Design Partnership on behalf of his client, Mrs D H McCorkell, 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/13/00492/FHA. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Ms R Monk 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 side and rear extensions to Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath, Groton (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Groton parish is located in south central Suffolk 5 miles east of Sudbury and the main settlement is focused around the church though a number of farms and cottages are scattered around the parish in a dispersed pattern typical of East Anglia. This dispersed settlement pattern reflects the historic landscape with the farms and cottages along well established lanes and roads and around past areas of communal grazing known as greens, tyes and heaths. Primrose Cottage is located in the northern part of the parish c1700m north of the church where Hodkinson's small scale 1783 map of Suffolk shows Parliament Heath as an open area directly to the north of the cottage (see Frontispiece). The cottage is a historic structure, listed with a Grade II status and described as being 'small timber framed and plastered with an impressive chimney stack.' While the listing description does not ascribe a date to the building Malting Farm to the south is noted as being of 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date and it seems likely that Primrose Cottage is broadly contemporary. The drift geology of south Suffolk varies between heavy clay Till over the interfluves to areas of lighter sand and flint in areas and the historic presence of Parliament Heath in this area may indicate an area of land with a lower agricultural potential left as open grazing land until the enclosure movement of the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. Topographically the area around Primrose Cottage lies just above the 70m OD contour with a gentle south-westerly aspect.

1.3 Therefore as a listed building located on the edge of what was until c1800 an area of historic heath Primrose Cottage and its curtilage has the potential to contain archaeological deposits of medieval and earlier Post medieval date which might be revealed and disturbed during ground works.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to the site to observe the excavation of the foundations for the extension as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 700mm wide toothed bucket under fine weather conditions with site visibility good at all times. The foundation trenches were entered to allow for closer inspection of the exposed soil profiles and hand cleaning of indistinct areas. Upcast spoil was inspected visually and scanned with a metal detector as the work progressed. Finally the foundations were recorded in relation to nearby 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 is c130m<sup>2</sup> and in total some 58m of 700mm wide and 1000/1200mm foundation trench were excavated (see Fig. 2). Prior to the main ground works a former garage or outbuilding, which had an adjacent area of hard standing, had been demolished though the related concrete footings were left in situ and were exposed at various points in the new foundations. The deposit profile exposed in the foundation trenches was consistent across all but the south-western corner of the new build area and comprised a 200 to 350mm thick layer of mixed demolition debris and mid brown clay subsoil which in turn lay over the locally occurring Till deposit which proved to be a stiff pale brown clay with flints that interleaved at a depth of 800/900mm with bands of light grey stone-free clay. The trenches did not reveal any archaeological features.

3.2 As noted above the only variation in the exposed deposit profile was in the south-corner corner where a 700mm deep dark brown clay deposit containing sherds of later 19<sup>th</sup>/earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century blue and white transfer printed pottery filled a large, shallow, pit or filled-in formerly low area between the cottage and a pond to the west.

3.3 Apart from the late Post medieval pottery sherds seen in the deposit described in section 3.2 above the only stray finds in the upcast spoil were small fragments of brick and tile and occasional clay tobacco pipe stem fragments of a similar date.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 While the area for the new extensions is adjacent to a listed building and in an area of archaeological potential on the edge of an area of historic heathland no evidence was revealed for activity at the site pre-dating the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century at earliest.

4.2 As Primrose Cottage has a rather vague listing description with no date assigned to its construction the Groton parish tithe map was examined at the County Record office. This map and its associated apportionment dating to 1838 (see Fig. 3) is of interest for the site which it numbers as plot 173 and names as '*Site of buildings, yards etc*' and owned by John Mumford with a further note for the plot adding '*Old House Farm*.' The owner lived elsewhere in the parish and with a description of 'buildings, yards etc' for plot 173 rather than house or cottage it appears likely that it was not in domestic use in the 1830s though the reference to '*Old House Farm*' is intriguing and suggests an earlier farm site on or close to this plot of land. In this context it is also noteworthy that Hodkinon's 1783 map of Suffolk appears to show buildings to the north-west of what is now Primrose Cottage and the parish tithe map names this field, which is plot 178, as '*Lodge Field*' and it therefore can be suggested that this is also an area of historic settlement. Finally the tithe map names plot 303 to the north of Primrose Cottage as '*Parliament Heath*.'

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the monitored footings have not impacted on any deposits of archaeological significance.

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



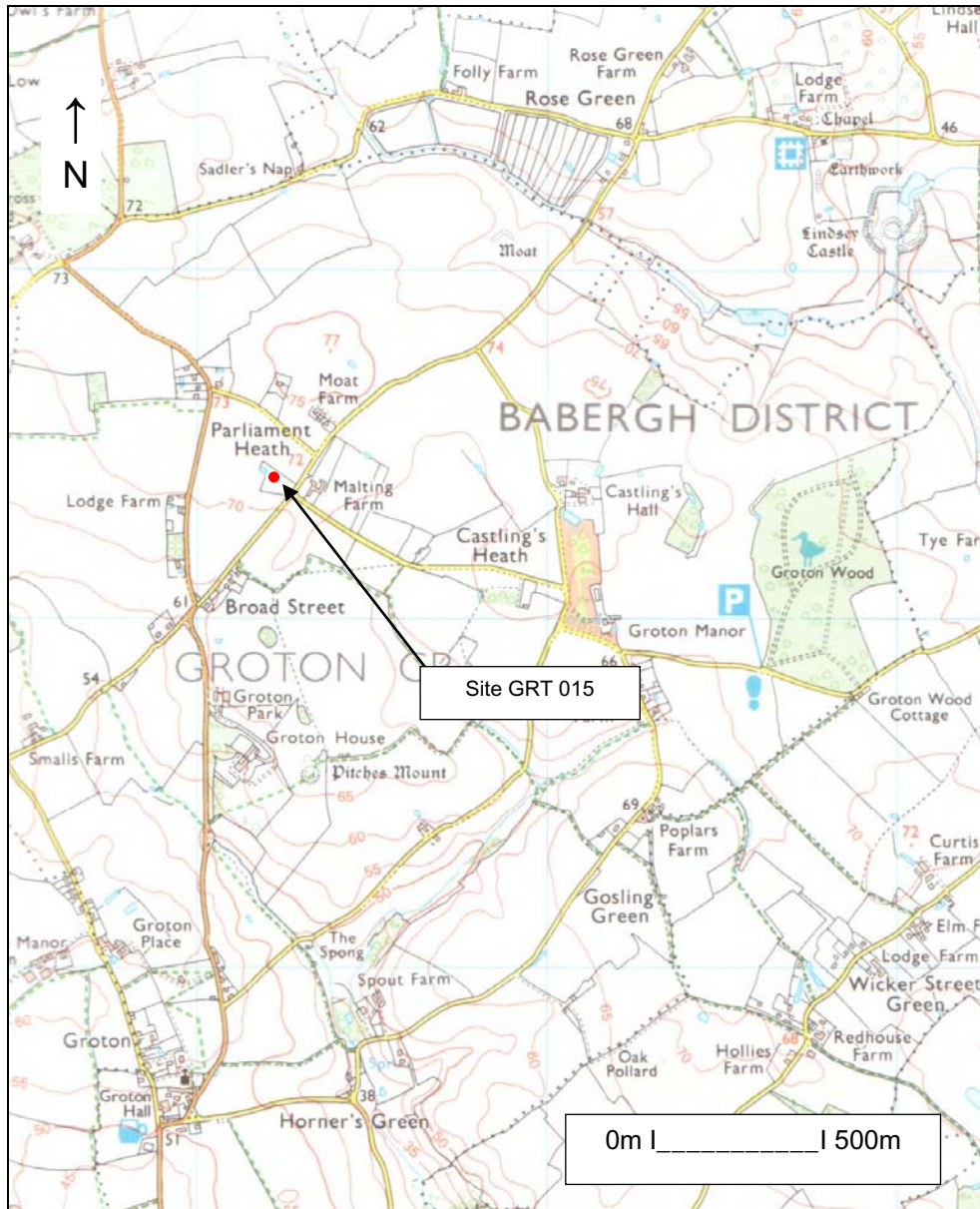


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
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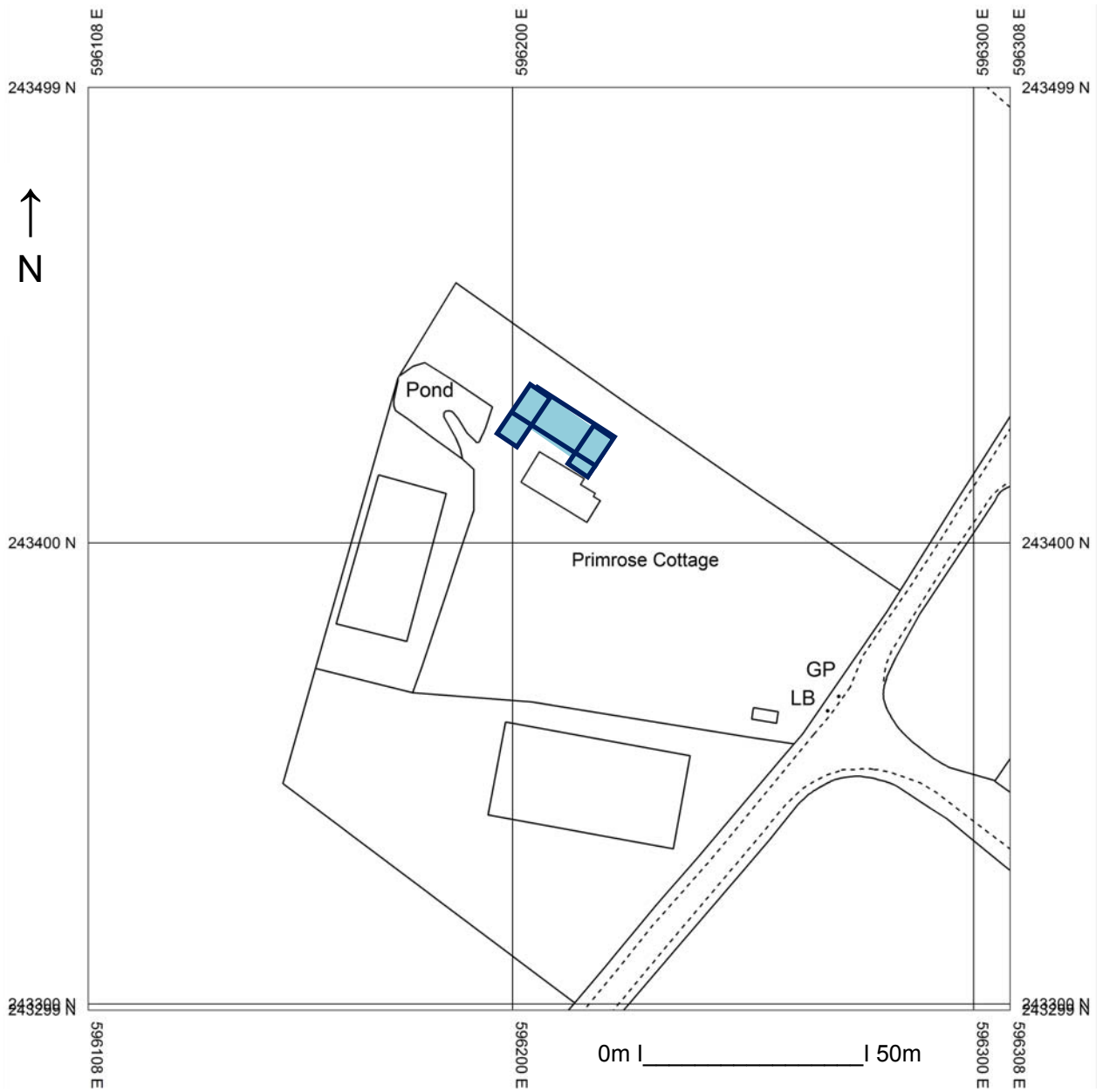


Fig.2: Monitored extension areas (foundation trenches- dark blue)  
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2014 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

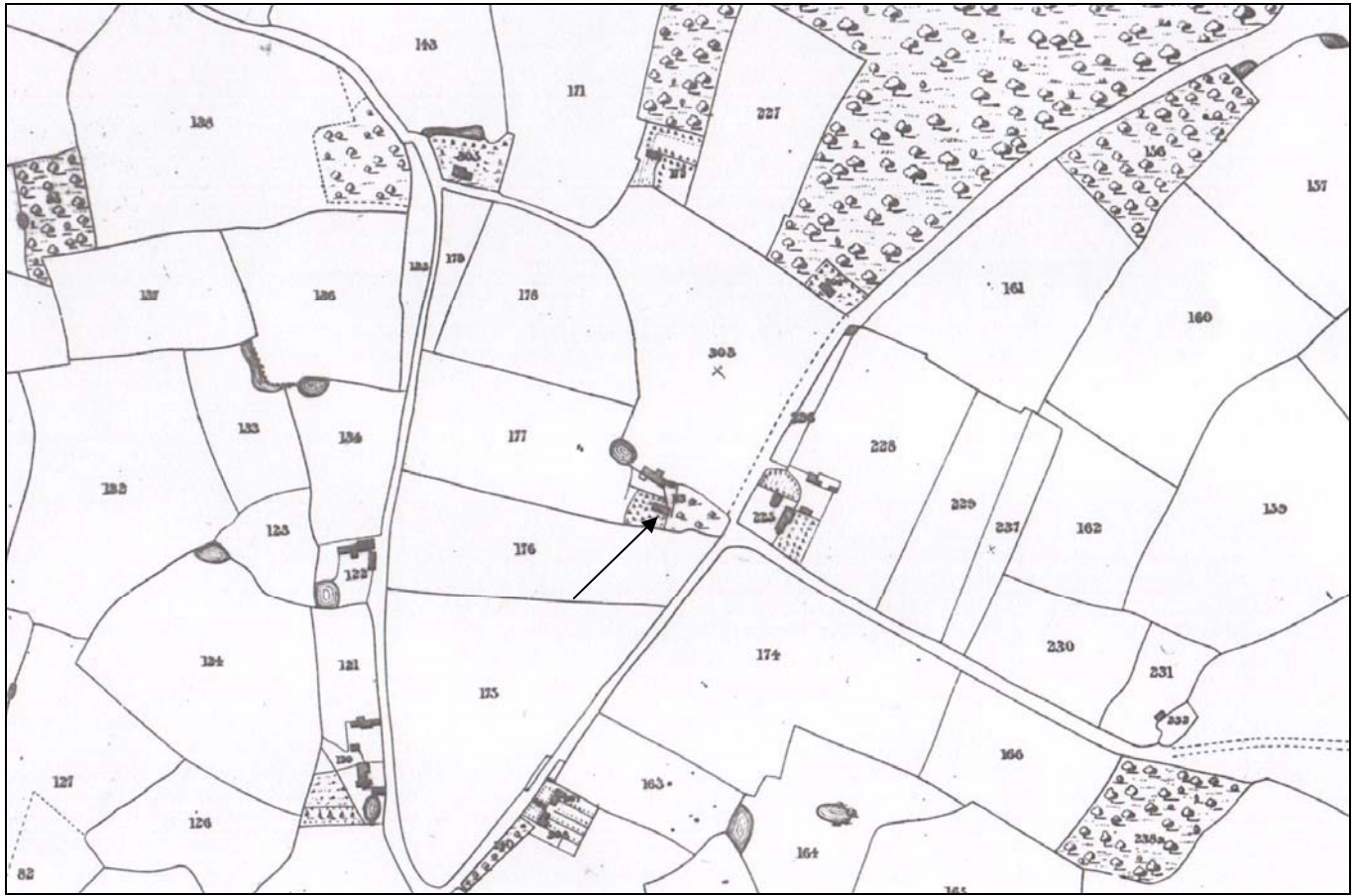


Fig. 3: Extract from Groton tithe map of 1838 (Suffolk RO ref. T85/2)  
(Plot 173 arrowed, north to top)



## Appendix I- Images



General view from north-west



Detail of chimneys



Eastern trench from south



Deposit profile of eastern trench



Northern trench from east



Later Post medieval pit/filled in hollow area to west of cottage

**Erection of Extensions to Primrose Cottage,  
Parliament Heath Groton, Suffolk**

**Planning application: B/13/00492/FHA**

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

## **Site details**

Name: Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath, Groton, Suffolk

Client: Mrs D H McCorkell

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/13/00492/FHA

Proposed development: Erection of extensions

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief & Specification ref: 2013\_SCCAS\_Archaeological Monitoring Brief\_Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath

Grid ref: TL96211 43411

LBS 1037291- Grade II

## **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 Wiston Design Partnership on behalf of their client, Mrs D H McCorkell, has 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/13/00492/FHA. 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 Ms R Monk 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 new extension to Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath, Groton.

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 Groton parish is located in south central Suffolk 5 miles east of Sudbury and the main settlement is focused around the church though a number of farms and cottages are scattered around the parish in a dispersed pattern typical of East Anglia. This dispersed settlement pattern reflects the historic landscape with the farms and cottages along well established lanes and roads and around past areas of communal grazing known as greens, tyes and heaths. Primrose Cottage is located in the northern part of the parish c1700m north of the church where Hodkinson's small scale 1783 map of Suffolk shows Parliament Heath as an open area directly to the north-east of the cottage. The cottage is a historic structure, listed with a Grade II status and described as being 'small timber framed and plastered with an impressive chimney stack.' While the listing description does not ascribe a date to the building Malting Farm to the south is noted as being of 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date and it seems likely that Primrose Cottage is broadly contemporary. The drift geology of south Suffolk varies between heavy clay Till over the interfluvial areas to areas of lighter sand and flint in areas and the historic presence of Parliament Heath in this area may indicate an area of land with a lower agricultural potential left as open grazing land. Topographically the area around Primrose Cottage lies just above the 70m OD contour with a gentle south-westerly aspect.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The proposed extension is located in an area of archaeological potential, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. It is located on the edge of Parliament Heath, a former medieval common, depicted on Hodkinson's map of 1793, and which was a focus for settlement during the



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medieval and early-post medieval periods (HER ref GRT 006). As a result there is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location.'

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 medieval and earlier Post medieval period 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 on the south-eastern edge of what, historically, was Parliament Heath.

## 5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be strip foundations. The excavation of the strip foundations and any service trenches, soakaways or landscaping works will be observed as they are undertaken and any up cast 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.

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 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 site. Where

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appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken from exposed archaeological deposits 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 very 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 before ground works start 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 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 (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 period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-171401**

### Project details

Project name	Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath, Groton, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Groton, Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath (GRT 015, TL 96211 43411) monitoring of ground works for side and rear extensions to a listed building located on the edge of a historic heath and of probable 18th to earlier 19th century date did not reveal any evidence for pre 19th/early 20th century activity. Examination of the parish tithe map and apportionment revealed that this plot appears to have been a farm yard in 1838 with no domestic occupation though a note adds 'Old House Farm' to its entry.
Project dates	Start: 19-02-2014 End: 25-02-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	1037291 - LBS No.
Any associated project reference codes	GRT 015 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	B/13/00492/FHA - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH GROTON PRIMROSE COTTAGE, PARLIAMENT HEATH

Postcode	CO10 5ER
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 96211 43411 52.0537902127 0.862115356815 52 03 13 N 000 51 43 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 71.00m Max: 72.00m

### 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	Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath, Groton, 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
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Entered by	John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)
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