

**Land To The Rear Of Millstone, Brent Mill
Drive, Brent Eleigh, Suffolk**

Planning application: B/13/01162/FUL/JD

HER Ref: BTE 034

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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(March 2014)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land to the rear of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive, Brent Eleigh, Suffolk CO10 9NU

Clients: Mrs R Coe

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/13/01162/FUL/JD

Development: Erection of one dwelling & outbuilding

Date of fieldwork: 3 March, 2014

HER Ref: BTE 034

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-172950

Grid ref: TL 9436 4782

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Summary: Brent Eleigh, Millstone, Brent Mill Drive (BTE 034, TL 9436 4782) evaluation trenching for a proposed single dwelling development on land between The Street and a tributary stream of the River Brett revealed a substantial depth of subsoil over an alluvial deposit. No archaeological features were revealed and the only finds of any age were occasional abraded fragments of earlier Post medieval brick within the subsoil (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mrs R Coe).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Thorntons Surveyors & Valuers on behalf of their client, Mrs R Coe, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a single dwelling and outbuilding development on land to the rear of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive, Brent Eleigh (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application B/13/01162/FUL/JD, set by Ms R Monk of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the footprint areas concerned. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to gain a conditional discharge and allow the trenching to go ahead before any other ground works were undertaken.

1.2 The parish of Brent Eleigh is located 5 miles to the north-east of Sudbury in south central Suffolk with a parish church somewhat isolated in an area of park that surrounds Brent Eleigh Hall. The proposed development site (PDS) is located c500m south of the parish church and 50m east of The Street which runs through the principal historic hamlet within the parish as evidenced by various listed buildings of late medieval and early Post medieval date along its western side (see Fig. 1). However there are no listed buildings on the eastern side of The Street and in this context it is interesting to note that Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk also depicts buildings only on the western side of The Street. The PDS is also c70m west of a tributary stream of the River Brett at c42m OD with the land dropping gently from 45m OD on the western side of The Street to 40m OD close to the nearby water course. At the time of the evaluation the PDS was soft ground having been part of the garden of Millstone, a house of mid 20th century date, until recently.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this planned development was in part generated by its proximity to a number of listed buildings of late medieval and early Post medieval date as outlined in section 1.2 above. In addition the topographic location of the PDS close to a water course gives the overall area potential to have attracted settlement and related activities from an early date leading to the possible presence of archaeological deposits.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed single dwelling development was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2) using a medium sized mini-digger 360 machine equipped with a 900mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity.

2.2 The glaciofluvial deposits at the site were only revealed in a small area in trench 2 when it was taken to the depth limit the mini-digger could achieve which, in part, was to facilitate an examination of the site for possible foundation design proposals. At this depth trench 2 could not be entered. The sides and base of the trench and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any finds and any indistinct areas or potential features were investigated by hand. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken on a dry and sunny day. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trenches was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the

evaluation progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works.

3. Results

3.1 In this case the results are most easily summarised as in the table below as little of archaeological interest was revealed though locally useful topographic information was recorded (see also Fig. 2 & Appendix I):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/natural features & finds
1	North-west/ south-east	8	500	700 of mid brown sandy subsoil	Not seen (below the overall 1200mm depth of the trench, a 400mm hand excavated sondage went into a grey sandy alluvial deposit)	No features & the only stray finds were of recent date in the topsoil and occasional frags of early Pmed brick in the subsoil
2	North-east/ south-west	4	500	700 (as T1)	Orange sand with flints seen at a depth of 2100mm	Below 1200mm top & subsoil were 300mm of grey silty sand with flints over 300mm grey very silty sand over a further 300mm grey silty sand with flints
		12 (21.6m ²)	500	700		

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above no archaeological features were revealed and the only finds of any date were occasional fragments of abraded early Post medieval brick in the substantial subsoil deposit which lay below a deep and well developed topsoil layer. At a depth of 1200mm a grey silty sand deposit was revealed in both trenches and in trench 2 it was possible to take a small area through alternate 300mm deposits of grey silty sand with flints over a similar largely stone free deposit before removal of another silty sand layer with flints revealed the locally occurring glaciofluvial orange sand with flints at an overall depth of 2100mm.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While little evidence for human activity was recorded during the evaluation the recorded deposits do provide some locally useful topographic information. The silty layers revealed in the lower 900mm of trench 2 suggest intermittent flooding in this area leading to the deposit of this alluvial material at this low lying area close to the nearby stream with medieval settlement being located on higher ground to the west on the opposite side of The Street.

4.2 To counter this potential for flooding it can be suggested that in the earlier Post medieval period, as evidenced by the occasional brick fragments seen in the upcast spoil, soil from elsewhere was re-deposited at this site leading to the creation of the substantial 700mm thick subsoil layer with this material raising the area east of The Street above the flood level. Finally the deep topsoil deposit points to agricultural activities in the area in the more recent past.



Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches (planned building footprints- light blue)

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Appendix I- Images



General view from east



Trench 1 from west



Trench 1 deposit profile with sondage in base



Trench 2 from north-west (depth 2100mm to natural sand with flints)

**Land To The Rear Of Millstone, Brent Mill
Drive, Brent Eleigh, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site details

Name: Land to the rear of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive, Brent Eleigh, Suffolk

Clients: Mrs R Coe

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/13/01162/FUL/JD

Proposed development: Erection of one dwelling & outbuilding

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: SCCAS_RM_Trenched Archaeological Evaluation_Brief_ Land rear of Millstone, Brent Eleigh

Grid ref: TL 9436 4782

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1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Evaluation
5. Methodology
6. Risk Assessment
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Proposed location of trial trench

1. Introduction

1.1 Dean Jay Pearce Architectural Design & Planning on behalf of their client, Mrs R Coe, has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed small scale residential development that has recently received consent to go ahead. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application B/13/01162/FUL/JD and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Ms R Monk of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the construction of a detached dwelling and outbuilding on land to the rear of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive, Brent Eleigh.

1.2 The evaluation 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)*, locally in *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver. 1.1 (Suffolk CC)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 The parish of Brent Eleigh is located 5 miles to the north-east of Sudbury in south central Suffolk with a parish church somewhat isolated in an area of park that surrounds Brent Eleigh Hall. The proposed development site (PDS) is located c500m south of the parish church and 50m east of The Street which runs through the principal historic hamlet within the parish as evidenced by various listed buildings of late medieval and early Post medieval date along its western side. However there are no listed buildings on the eastern side of The Street and in this context it is interesting to note that Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk also depicts buildings only on the western side of The Street. The PDS is also c70m west of a small tributary stream of the River Brett.

2.2 The PDS lies in an area of generally heavy soils derived from the Till deposits of central Suffolk with areas of lighter sands and gravels close to water courses and is just above the 35m OD contour in an area of gentle topography. At present the PDS is soft ground with an extensive cover of trees and bushes.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposed development site lies just behind a street fronted by listed medieval and post-medieval buildings and is also in a location which is topographically favourable for early settlement. As a result, there is potential for archaeological remains relating to early occupation to exist on the site. Groundworks have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological

remains which may exist on the site.' A site evaluation by trial trenching will therefore be required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost. The further recording of any archaeological deposits may involve excavation prior to ground works commencing or monitoring of the relevant ground works

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the main archaeological potential of the PDS relates to its location on the edge of a historic hamlet and therefore evidence for activity of medieval and earlier Post medieval may be present within the new build areas. In addition being close to a water source may have encouraged activity of an earlier date in this area. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the PDS with evaluation trenches under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed they can be sampled and characterised. With this information a strategy can then be formulated for their possible preservation in situ or, failing that, the systematic recording of these deposits and the associated working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for a detached dwelling and outbuilding on land to the rear of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive, Brent Eleigh. The evaluation trenching will be in an area that is currently garden.

5.2 The Brief requires 15m of 1.8m wide trenching to sample the footprint areas of the planned dwelling and outbuilding and the proposed location of the trenches is shown below. This will be undertaken using a 1.20m or 1.50m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench plan as set out below. The machine will be closely supervised by an experienced archaeologist as the overburden is removed in shallow spits to the top of any archaeological deposits that are present, where hand investigation will start,

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or to expose the underlying drift geology which will be further hand cleaned and examined. The spoil will be stored adjacent to the excavated trench with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. No trenches will be backfilled until the relevant officer at SCCAS has been consulted and should any modification to the trench layout be required due to any unforeseen circumstances, such as local services, then SCCAS will be contacted immediately. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the evaluation. The up cast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits.

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. Exposed archaeological features will be sampled at standard levels with care being taken to cause minimum disturbance to the site consistent with evaluation to a level adequate to properly form a subsequent mitigation strategy. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained (and during backfilling). Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%- possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCCAS Officer will be informed and the clear presumption must be to preserve such remains in situ with minimum disturbance during this evaluation stage. If this is not possible then a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on site recording (total 100% sampling if a cremation deposit) and removal of the remains 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 evaluation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial is assessed as being low at this location).

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. 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

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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 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 evaluation 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 evaluation results and to aid the planning of any further field work- if any RC dates are required on should features containing suitable material but no easily dateable finds then this will incur an additional cost.
- What is the concentration of macro-remains (to inform sampling strategy in any further field work), in particular how might bulk sampling inform the interpretation of burial deposits.
- 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 evaluation results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)

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- 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 (examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is only likely if deep features are revealed).
- Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the evaluation the relevant SCCAS Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling and assessment by the relevant evaluation specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged)

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 3 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). As necessary the site digital archive will deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.8 The evaluation 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 evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results and the results will be discussed with the

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relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site evaluation 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). There will be no further work on site until the evaluation results have been assessed and the SCCAS Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required if this application receives consent. The report may give an opinion regarding the necessity for further evaluation work as appropriate. A draft copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS following completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER with a digital version on disc. As required the site evaluation 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 vector plan of the trench locations will be provided in .dxf format for inclusion in the County HER.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, and ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the machine operator for excavation of the trenches and examination of the 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 Discussion with the client has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination. No overhead services impinge on the trench locations. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the evaluation 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.

6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

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.

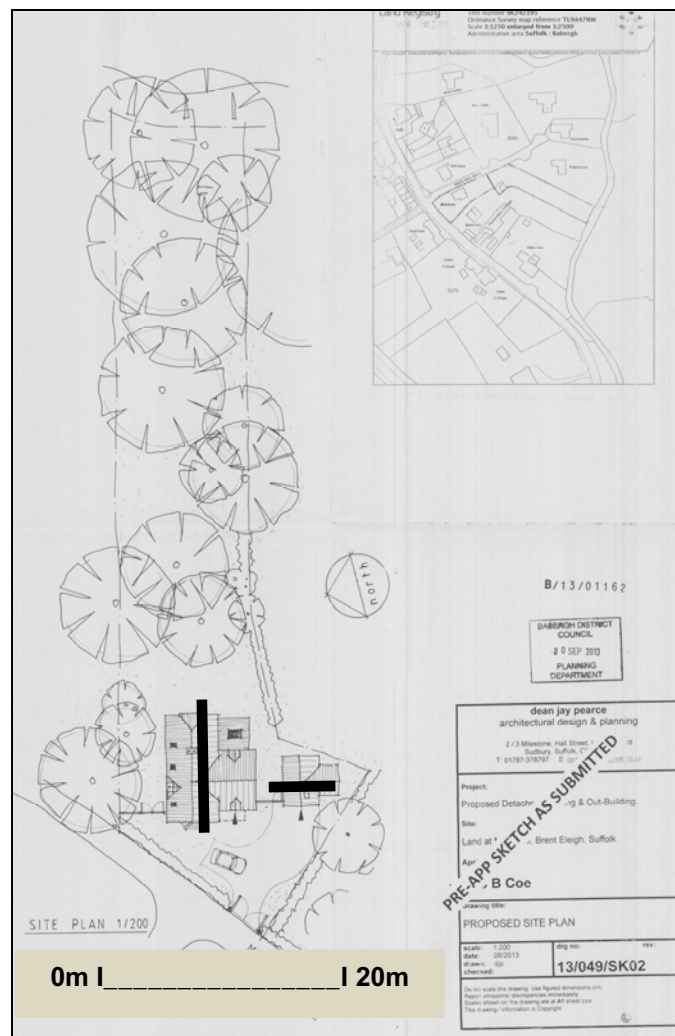
7. Specialists

Conservation:

Conservation Services

John Newman Archaeological Services

Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic flint:	C Pendleton (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics:	S Benfield (CAT)
Medieval coins:	M Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



Proposed location of trenches (some redesign may be required on site dependant on existing trees)

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-172950

Project details

Project name	Land To The Rear Of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive, Brent Eleigh, Suffolk-Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Brent Eleigh, Millstone, Brent Mill Drive (BTE 034, TL 9436 4782) evaluation trenching for a proposed single dwelling development on land between The Street and a tributary stream of the River Brett revealed a substantial depth of subsoil over an alluvial deposit. No archaeological features were revealed and the only finds of any age were occasional abraded fragments of earlier Post medieval brick within the subsoil.
Project dates	Start: 03-03-2014 End: 03-03-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BTE 034 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	B/13/01162/FUL/JD - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH BRENT ELEIGH LAND TO THE REAR OF MILLSTONE, BRENT MILL DRIVE

Postcode	CO10 9NU
Study area	160.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9436 4782 52.0940406411 0.837662151142 52 05 38 N 000 50 15 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 41.00m Max: 42.00m

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	Land To The Rear Of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive, Brent Eleigh, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
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