

**Chiquita, Church Road, Theberton,  
Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/13/0675**

**HER Ref: THB 026**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(May 2014)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Chiquita, Church Road, Theberton, Suffolk, IP16 4SA

Client: Mr & Mrs N Dougall

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/13/0675

Development: Erection of replacement house

Date of fieldwork: 23 April, 2014

HER Ref: THB 026

OASIS: johnnewm1-177291

Grid ref: TM 4386 6598

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*Summary: Theberton, Chiquita, Church Road (THB 026, TM 4386 6598) monitoring of ground works for a new house 50m north-east of the parish church did not reveal any archaeological features though three sherds of early medieval, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century, pottery were recovered as stray finds from the stripped subsoil (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs N Dougall).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs N Dougall 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 C/13/0675. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Ms J Plouviez 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 replacement house at Chiquita, Church Road, Theberton (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Theberton parish is located 2 miles north of Leiston and 4 miles from the coast in east central Suffolk. The main settlement is a relatively small village that clusters around the junction of the main Leiston Road and Church Road which runs to the north-east. The parish church is located on the northern side of this junction with Chiquita being on the southern side of Church Road some 100m to the north-east of the church on the eastern side of the village. At the time of the monitoring the site for the new house was soft ground within the garden of Chiquita which will not be demolished until the new build has been completed. The site lies in an area of generally freely draining soils derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sands and gravels characteristic of The Sandlings c130m south-east of a small stream that flows in a north-easterly direction towards the Minsmere River at c10m OD in an area of generally flat topography.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this site was generated by its proximity to the parish church and the historic core of the village and its topographic location relatively close to a water source which would have encouraged settlement in earlier periods.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site to observe the stripping of the top and subsoil down to the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposit across the area of the planned new house. This operation was undertaken using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1200mm wide flat bucket under fine weather conditions with site visibility good at all times and indistinct areas were shovel cleaned where small pockets of subsoil remained in place. Upcast spoil was inspected visually as the work progressed and as it was stockpiled nearby. The stripped area was 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 stripped footprint area for the new house was c170m<sup>2</sup> (see Fig. 2) and a uniform deposit profile comprising 300mm of topsoil over 200mm of a mid brown sandy subsoil was revealed with the exposed locally occurring natural glaciofluvial material at a depth of 500mm being yellow sand with flints. The soil stripping did not reveal any archaeological features within the footprint area; however three sherds of pottery were recovered as single finds from the subsoil (0001) which in general was devoid of finds of any date except occasional small fragments of later Post medieval brick and tile.

## 4. The Finds (Sue Anderson)

4.1 Three pottery sherds (63g) were recovered as single unstratified finds (0001). Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes.

The pottery quantification is shown in Table 1

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	EMW	2	31	body sherds, one vessel, fine sandy micaceous grey-buff fabric, sooted	11th-12th c.
	YAR	1	3	body sherd, heavily sooted	11th-12th c.

Table 1. Pottery catalogue.

Key: EMW – early medieval ware; YAR – Yarmouth-type ware

4.2 Two sherds of early medieval ware, representing one thin-walled vessel, were in a fine sandy micaceous fabric. A third sherd was in a medium sandy fabric with sparse fine calcareous inclusions, similar to Yarmouth-type ware. Handmade wares of this type were made in East Anglia from the 11th to the 12th centuries.

4.3 The sherds from 0001 are unabraded and are likely to be evidence of early medieval activity in the vicinity, but the assemblage is too small for further interpretation.

## 5. Conclusion

5.1 While this site lies in an area of archaeological interest close to the parish church the findings of this monitoring suggest it is located towards the eastern edge of the historic core to the village. However the three stray sherds of early medieval, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pottery that were recovered from the subsoil are of interest and indicate that an archaeological input into any future developments in this area would be of value in the understanding of the origins of the village.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the monitored soil strip of the footprint area for the planned new house has not impacted on any deposits of archaeological significance.

Ref.

MPRG, 1998, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Mr & Mrs Dougall for their close cooperation during the monitoring and to Sue Anderson for her work on the finds)*

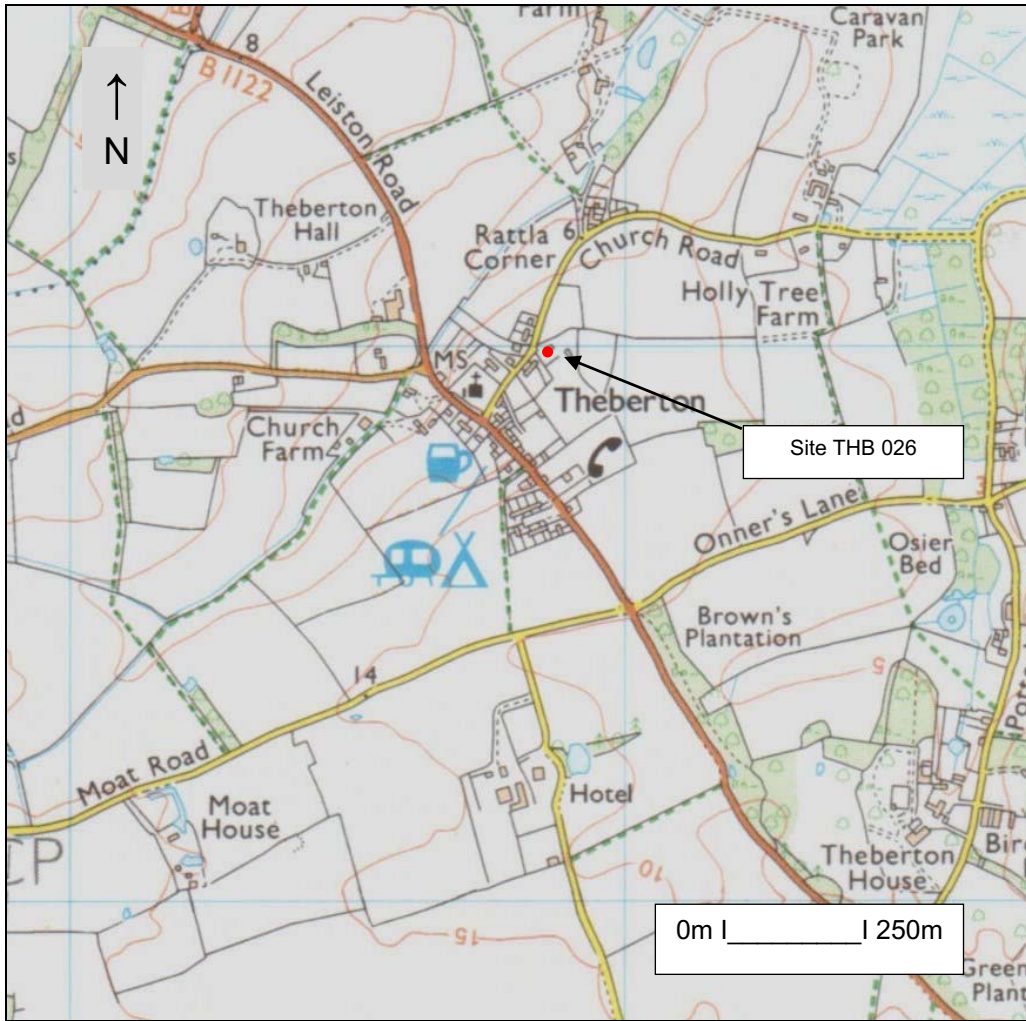


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
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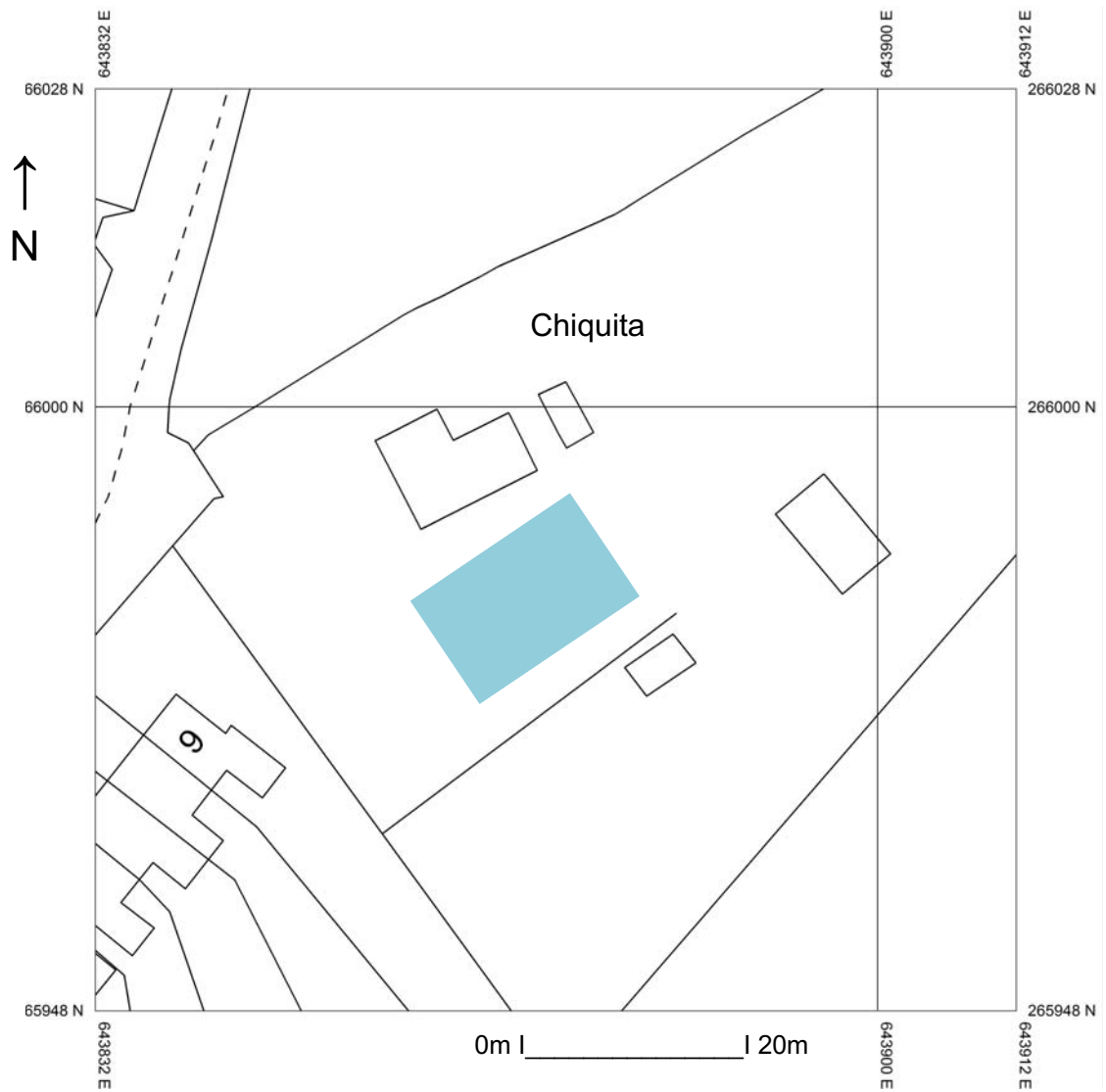


Fig. 2: Monitored stripped area for new house footprint (light blue)  
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## Appendix I- Images



General view from southeast



Stripped area from southeast



Deposit profile of northern section



**Chiquita, Church Road,  
Theberton, Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/13/0675**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Monitoring**

## **Site details**

Name: Chiquita, Church Road, Theberton, Suffolk

Clients: Mr & Mrs Dougall

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/13/0675

Proposed development: Erection of replacement house

Brief ref: 2013-07-08\_Archaeological Monitoring Brief Church Rd Theberton\_JP

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TM 4386 6600

## **Contents**

1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Monitoring
5. Methodology
6. Risk Assessment
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Hollins Architects & Surveyors on behalf of their clients, Mr & Mrs Dougall, 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 C/13/0675. 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 J Plouviez of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of a replacement dwelling at Chiquita, Church Road, Theberton.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Theberton parish is located 2 miles north of Leiston and 4 miles from the coast in east, central, Suffolk. The main settlement is a relatively small village which clusters around the junction of the main Leiston Road and Church Road which runs to the north-east. The parish church is located on the northern side of this junction with the proposed development site (PDS) at Chiquita on the southern side of Church Road being some 50m north-east of the church on the eastern side of the village. At present the PDS is soft ground within the garden of Chiquita which will not be demolished until the new build has been completed. The PDS lies in an area of generally freely draining soils derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sands and gravels characteristic of The Sandlings c130m south-east of a small stream that flows in a north-easterly direction towards the Minsmere River at c10m OD in an area of generally flat topography.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The site is located at 10m OD within the medieval or earlier settlement core, within 50 m of the medieval church (Historic Environment Record THB 007), on the south-east side of a tributary draining into the Minsmere river. There is potential for archaeological deposits of medieval or earlier date to be disturbed by this development.'

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 PDS lies in a location with high archaeological potential, in this case to reveal evidence for later Saxon, medieval and earlier Post medieval activity, as it is located close to the historic core of the village. In addition the topographic location of the PDS gives rise to potential for past activity being close to a water source on easily worked soils. Site monitoring arrangements with the relevant ground works contractor will allow for unimpeded access to the foundation and service trenches before other works progress to allow for detailed investigation and recording work. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details to the exposed overburden and depth of deposit as revealed within the ground works and evidence for the character and date of any past activity that is revealed.

### 5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be trench foundations plus service trenches. These ground works and any related landscaping will be monitored during and after excavation and the upcast spoil will be examined both visually and with a metal detector for archaeological finds. Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office as will notice of when the site works are scheduled to start.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of 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 related to the proposed development, 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 any 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 at appropriate points. 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. 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. Any such work will incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (in this case the possibility of finding 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 and pdf version will be sent to the County HER in addition to a pdf version for the client for submission to the relevant LPA. The site monitoring will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before field work starts 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 and, if appropriate, a vector plan in .dxf format will be provided showing the area examined. The reporting will be commensurate with the findings from the monitoring and at its most basic level will detail the location, circumstances and characteristics of the deposits exposed and any finds that are revealed.

### 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 contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil. 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 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 Close liaison will be maintained with the contractor on site with regard to the depth and stability of the footing trenches and any potential health and safety considerations.

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)

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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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 small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman pottery & CBM	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-177291**

### Project details

Project name	Chiquita, Church Road, Theberton, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Theberton, Chiquita, Church Road (THB 026, TM 4386 6598) monitoring of ground works for a new house 50m north-east of the parish church did not reveal any archaeological features though three sherds of early medieval, 11th-12th century, pottery were recovered as stray finds from the stripped subsoil.
Project dates	Start: 23-04-2014 End: 23-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	THB 026 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	C/13/0675 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL THEBERTON CHIQUITA, CHURCH ROAD
Postcode	IP16 4SA
Study area	170.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4386 6598 52.2372997487 1.57204707747 52 14 14 N 001 34 19 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.00m Max: 10.00m



**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)
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