

**No 51 Church Lane, Sproughton,  
Suffolk**

**Planning application: B/14/01361/FHA**

**HER Ref: SPT 052**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(September 2015)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: No 51 Church Lane, Sproughton, Suffolk, IP8 3AY

Client: Mrs M Jackson

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/14/01361/FHA

Development: Erection of side and rear extensions and detached garage

Date of fieldwork: 17 & 22 April & 24 June, 2015

HER ref: SPT 052

Event ref: ESF 23049

OASIS: johnnewm1-209505

Grid ref: TM 1272 4470

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*Summary: Sproughton, No 51 Church Lane (SPT 052, TM 1272 4470) monitoring of ground works for new side and rear extensions and a new detached garage close to the find spot of cinerary urns of Bronze Age date did not reveal any archaeological features and the only stray finds were of recent date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mrs M Jackson).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mrs M Jackson 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/14/01361/FHA. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Mrs R Abraham 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 new side and rear extensions and a new detached garage at No 51 Church Lane, Sproughton.

1.2 Sproughton parish is located 2.5 miles west of the historic centre of Ipswich on the western side of the River Gipping whose valley forms the major route way across Suffolk from the coast towards Bury St Edmunds and the Fens to the west. While the modern village of Sproughton is much enlarged and changed as it forms a dormitory settlement for Ipswich it was formerly a relatively small village focused on the area between the parish church and the staggered crossroads to the west where Lower Street and Burstall Lane meet High Street/Loraine Way. The development site at No 51 Church Lane is located some 650m south of the church and c250m west of the River Gipping in an area shown as open agricultural land on Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk (see Fig 1). The house is of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date and is just above 5m OD in an area characterised by a gently undulating landscape where relatively light and well drained local soils can be anticipated being derived from the underlying sand and gravel river terrace material.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by the proximity of No 51 Church Lane to the recorded find spot of cinerary urns of Bronze Age date (HER SPT 005) when works were being carried out to a field drain to the south-east in c1920 (see Fig. 1).

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Three visits were made to the site to monitor ground works for the respective new extensions and detached garage. Due to the confined space to the rear of the house the trenches for the small rear extension were hand excavated while the foundation trenches for the side extension and new garage were undertaken using a small 360 machine. Apart from the hand excavated trenching works all ground works were under continuous archaeological supervision with weather conditions being dry and sunny giving good site visibility during all three visits. Upcast spoil was inspected closely as the work progressed. 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 To the rear of the house 4m of 500mm wide and 800mm foundation trenches (see Fig. 2) revealed a deposit profile of 450mm of re-deposited material comprising small fragments of 20<sup>th</sup> century building debris in a mid brown sandy matrix above 350mm of clean mid brown sandy subsoil. As anticipated the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposit was orange sand with flints and no archaeological features or finds were revealed.

3.2 On the eastern side of the house 12m of 500mm wide and 800mm deep foundation trench revealed a deposit profile of 300mm of mixed topsoil and road planing type material over 200mm of clean mid brown sandy subsoil with the natural again being orange sand with flints. As with the rear extension no features were revealed except a disused water pipe and the only stray finds were of recent date.

3.3 For the new garage 20m of 500mm wide and 800mm deep foundation trench were excavated and being in the garden to the front of the house (see Fig. 2) this revealed 400mm to 500mm of topsoil which contained some modern building debris above 300mm of clean mid brown sandy subsoil above clean orange sand with flints. No archaeological features or finds were revealed in the trenches.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 While this monitoring did not reveal any archaeological features or finds the scale of the works was relatively small and apart from the nearby find spot of Bronze Age cinerary urns (HER SPT 005) further evidence for prehistoric activity is recorded (<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/simplesearch> accessed 15 September, 2015) on the well drained sand and gravel terraces along the sides of the lower Gipping valley in the form of ring ditch crop marks (e.g. HER SPT 019, see Fig. 1) suggestive of burial mound sites and stray finds of pottery sherds and flints (e.g. HER SPT 008). Therefore continued observation and investigation during future ground works in the area would be of potential archaeological value in a landscape that has seen several thousand years of intensive use.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Mrs M Jackson and to Nick and everyone on site for their close cooperation during the monitoring)*

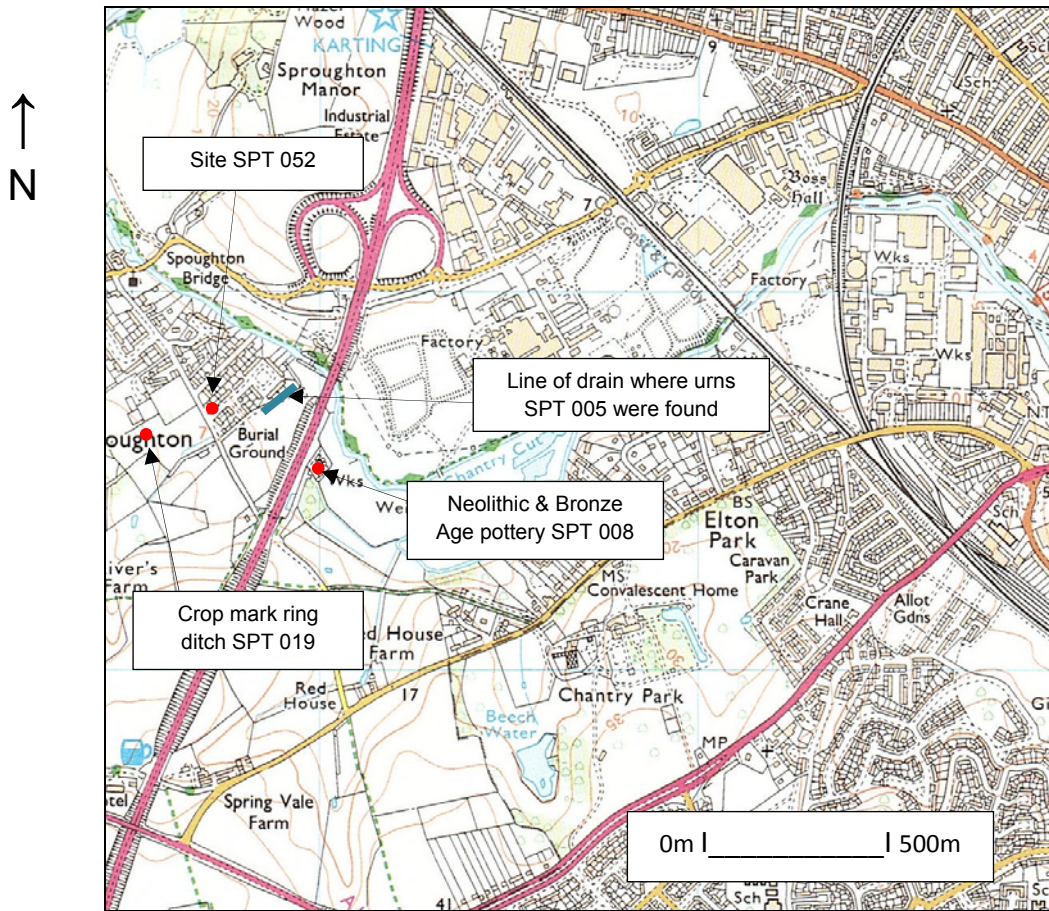


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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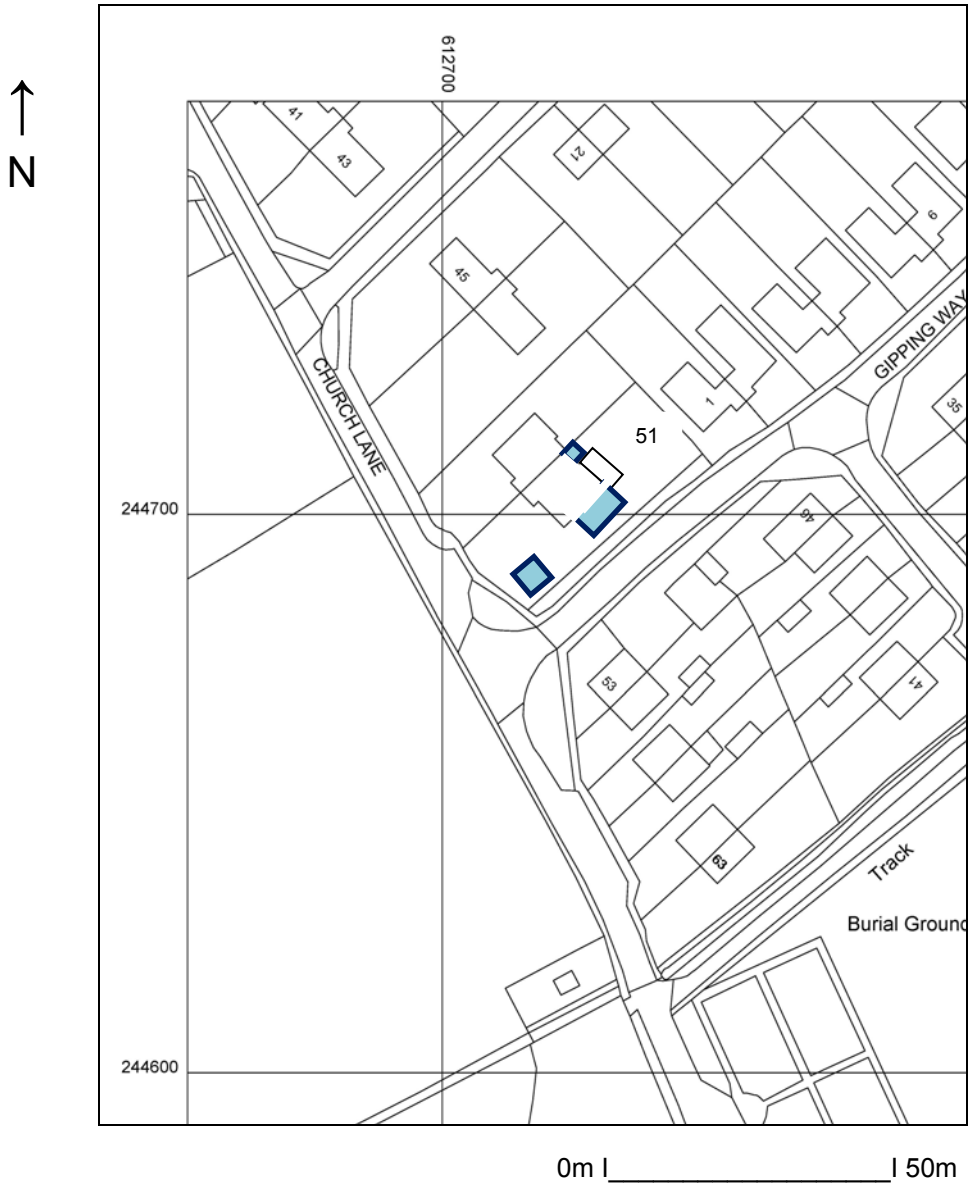


Fig. 2: Location of monitored extensions and garage (dark blue- trenches)  
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## Appendix I- Images



Small rear extension footings from south



Rear extension footing deposit profile



Side extension footings from south



Side extension footing deposit profile





Garage eastern footing trench from south



Garage northern footing trench from west

**No 51 Church Lane, Sproughton,  
Suffolk**

**Planning application: B/14/01361/FHA**

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

## **Site details**

Name: No 51 Church Lane, Sproughton, Suffolk, IP8 3AY

Client: Mrs M Jackson

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/14/01361/FHA

Proposed development: Erection of extensions and new garage

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TM 1272 4462

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

1.1 MP Associates on behalf of their client Mrs M Jackson 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 B/14/01361/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 Mrs R Abraham 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 extensions and a new garage at No 51 Church Lane, Sproughton.

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 Sproughton parish is located 2.5 miles west of the historic centre of Ipswich on the western side of the River Gipping whose valley forms the major route way across Suffolk from the coast towards Bury St Edmunds and the Fens to the west. While the modern village of Sproughton is much enlarged and changed as it forms a dormitory settlement for Ipswich it was formerly a relatively small village focused on the area between the parish church and the staggered crossroads to the west where Lower Street and Burstall Lane meet High Street/Lorraine Way. The proposed development site (PDS) at No 51 Church Lane is located some 650m south of the church and c250m west of the River Gipping which is shown as open agricultural land on Hopkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk. The PDS is just above the 5m OD in an area characterised by a gently undulating landscape where relatively light local soils can be anticipated as the underlying drift geology is made up of riverside gravel terraces.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposed development is situated close to a Bronze Age cinerary urn, discovered within a field drainage ditch and recorded in the County Historic Environment Record as SPT 005. As a result, there is high potential for encountering heritage assets at this location. The proposed works will cause significant ground



disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.'

3.2 The Brief then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording as ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting.

#### 4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential where evidence for activity of earlier prehistoric date; and in particular further Bronze Age period burial evidence in a riverine zone where other such discoveries have been made along the lower River Gipping, might be found and close monitoring of ground works can best record what may be revealed. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to the 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 of prehistoric date.

#### 5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be trench foundations. The excavation of the trench footings and any related service trenches will be observed once they are underway and then through to completion and any up cast spoil examined for finds (the extension and new garage works may be undertaken a two separate phases of site work). 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 any possible archaeological deposits.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under overall site event and HER numbers 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 related 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 in the town. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litre if possible) 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. 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 medium based on previous findings nearby and medium to low based on the scale of the planned works).

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 deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.6 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 4) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the

underlying natural deposits. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 2 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). An unbound draft copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided plus another for the County HER, a copy will be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up.

### 6. Risk Assessment

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

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

6.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and any ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 Deep holes/trenches 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.

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

### 7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Roman period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-209505**

### Project details

Project name	No 51 Church Lane, Sproughton, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Sproughton, No 51 Church Lane (SPT 052, TM 1272 4470) monitoring of ground works for new side and rear extensions and a new detached garage close to the find spot of cinerary urns of Bronze Age date did not reveal any archaeological features and the only stray finds were of recent.
Project dates	Start: 17-04-2015 End: 24-06-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23049 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SPT 052 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	B/14/01361/FHA - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
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 SPROUGHTON No 51 CHURCH LANE
Postcode	IP8 3AY
Study area	150 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1272 4470 52.059242190766 1.103366711621 52 03 33 N 001 06 12 E Point

Height OD / Depth    Min: 5m Max: 6m

### 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    No 51 Church Lane, Sproughton, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report

Author(s)/Editor(s)    Newman, J

Date    2015

Issuer or publisher    John Newman Archaeological Services

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