

**Hill View, The Street, Barnham,
Suffolk**

Planning Status: Pre-application

HER Ref: BNH 111

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(May 2015)

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Site details for HER

Name: Part garden Hill View, The Street, Barnham, Suffolk, IP24 2NJ

Clients: Mr & Mrs R Aitken

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: pre-application

Development: Erection of new dwelling

Date of fieldwork: 8 May, 2015

HER ref: BNH 111

Event ref: ESF 23060

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-210669

Grid ref: TL 8706 7914

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Summary: Barnham, Hill View, The Street (BNH 111, TL 8706 7914) evaluation trenching for a planned single dwelling development revealed a single large quarry type pit of recent date and a few stray finds in the upcast similarly of recent, later 19th to 20th century, date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs R Aitken).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr R I Aitken commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a single residential dwelling development, which has yet to be submitted as a planning application, on land in the western part of the garden of Hill View, The Street, Barnham (see Fig. 1). The relevant evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief by Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the planned footprint area. In response to this a Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS and approved by SCCAS in order to allow the trenching to go ahead.

1.2 Barnham parish is located in north western Suffolk on the county boundary with Norfolk in the area traditionally known as Breckland. Historically Breckland had a very dispersed settlement pattern with the location of the scattered villages, hamlets and farms being dictated by the availability of water sources in an area of very light and dry sandy soils with one of the lowest rainfall regimes in the country. Hodkinson's small scale map of Suffolk of 1783 shows a compact village with two churches though only St Gregory's on the south-eastern side of the historic village core is still standing. This map also shows a number of buildings on the southern side of The Street with the proposed development site being c100m south-west of St Gregory's church and 25m south of the frontage onto The Street with Walnut Tree Cottage 40m to the west being a listed building of 17th century date. The site is just below the 30m OD contour on gentle slope with a northerly aspect with the Little Ouse River being c400m to the north. At the time of the evaluation the planned new dwelling site was soft ground with a grass cover.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its relatively close proximity to St Gregory's church (HER BNH 046) to the north-east putting it towards the southern edge of the historic core (HER BHN 068) as defined in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER).

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The footprint area of the planned dwelling was trenched to an agreed linear, east-west aligned, plan with an additional north-south arm to the trench also being opened to create a T shape and allow more flexibility in finalising the development area that will be submitted as a planning application. The trenching was carried out using a wheeled 360 machine equipped with a 1200mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity.

2.2 The sides and base of the trench and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any finds as the work progressed and any indistinct areas were investigated by hand. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under dry and sunny conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trench 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 very little of archaeological interest was revealed (see also Fig. 2 & Appendix I):

Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/ natural features & finds
15m (T shaped, 5m north-south & 10m east-west)	400	500 of mid brown sandy subsoil	Orange sand with flints and an area of degraded chalk at the eastern end of the main arm of the trench	The only feature revealed was a large pit in the north-eastern corner of the east-west arm of the trench whose fill contained two fragments of brick of late 19 th /early 20 th century date. The only finds seen in the upcast spoil were two small pottery sherds of later 19 th /20 th century date and small fragments of later Post medieval brick and tile

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 The glaciofluvial deposit exposed in the base of the trench proved to be orange sand with flints with an area of degraded chalk at the eastern end of the main, east-west arm. As indicated in the table above the depth of overburden was substantial at 900mm thick with 400mm of topsoil over 500mm of mid brown sandy subsoil and the only archaeological feature revealed was a steep sided and potentially deep pit in the north-eastern corner of the main arm of the trench (see Fig 2 & Appendix I) whose mid brown sandy fill contained two fragments (80g) of later 19th/early 20th century common red brick that were 4.25 inches wide and 2.50 inches thick (114mm x 64mm). Similarly the only finds seen in the upcast spoil were two small sherds (10g) of blue and white transfer printed pottery also of later 19th/early 20th century date and small fragments of later Post medieval brick and tile.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The later 19th/early 20th century pit revealed in the north-eastern corner of the east-west arm of the T shaped trench cut through the only area of degraded chalk exposed in the trench and it is therefore suggested that it represents a hand excavated quarry pit excavated c100 years ago to extract chalk for building purposes. Previous to this pit excavation episode at the site the lack of earlier finds and features indicates that this area on the southern side of The Street was purely in agricultural use.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out on the proposed site of the new dwelling on land in the western part of the garden to Hill Side, The Street, Barnham.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. BNH 111.

Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological work in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful Mr & Mrs R Aitken for their close cooperation with regard to this evaluation and to Roy Taylor for his skilled machine operation)

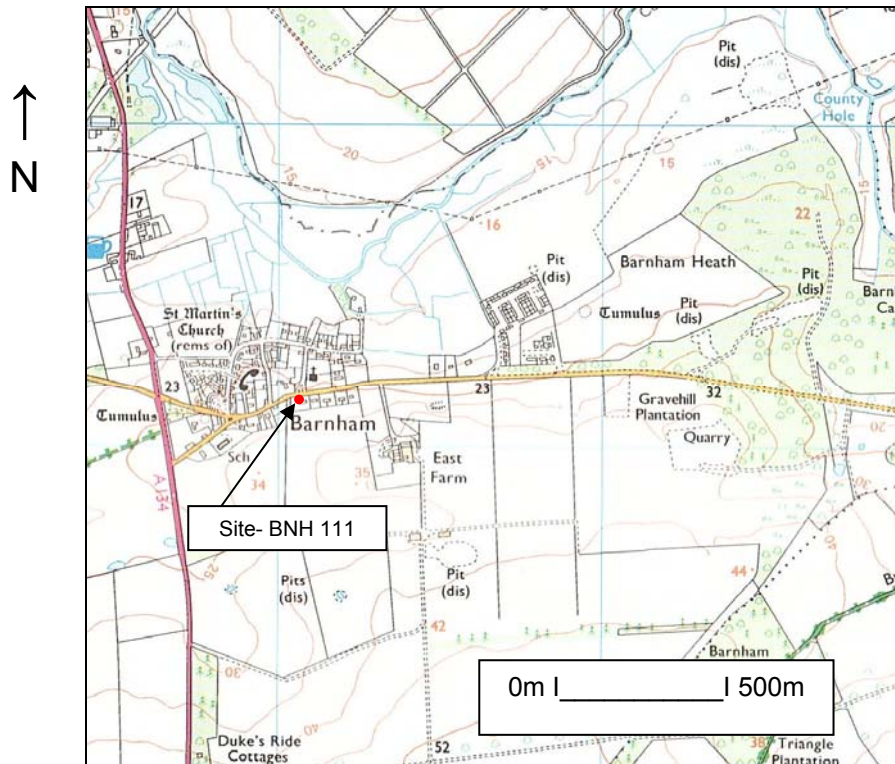


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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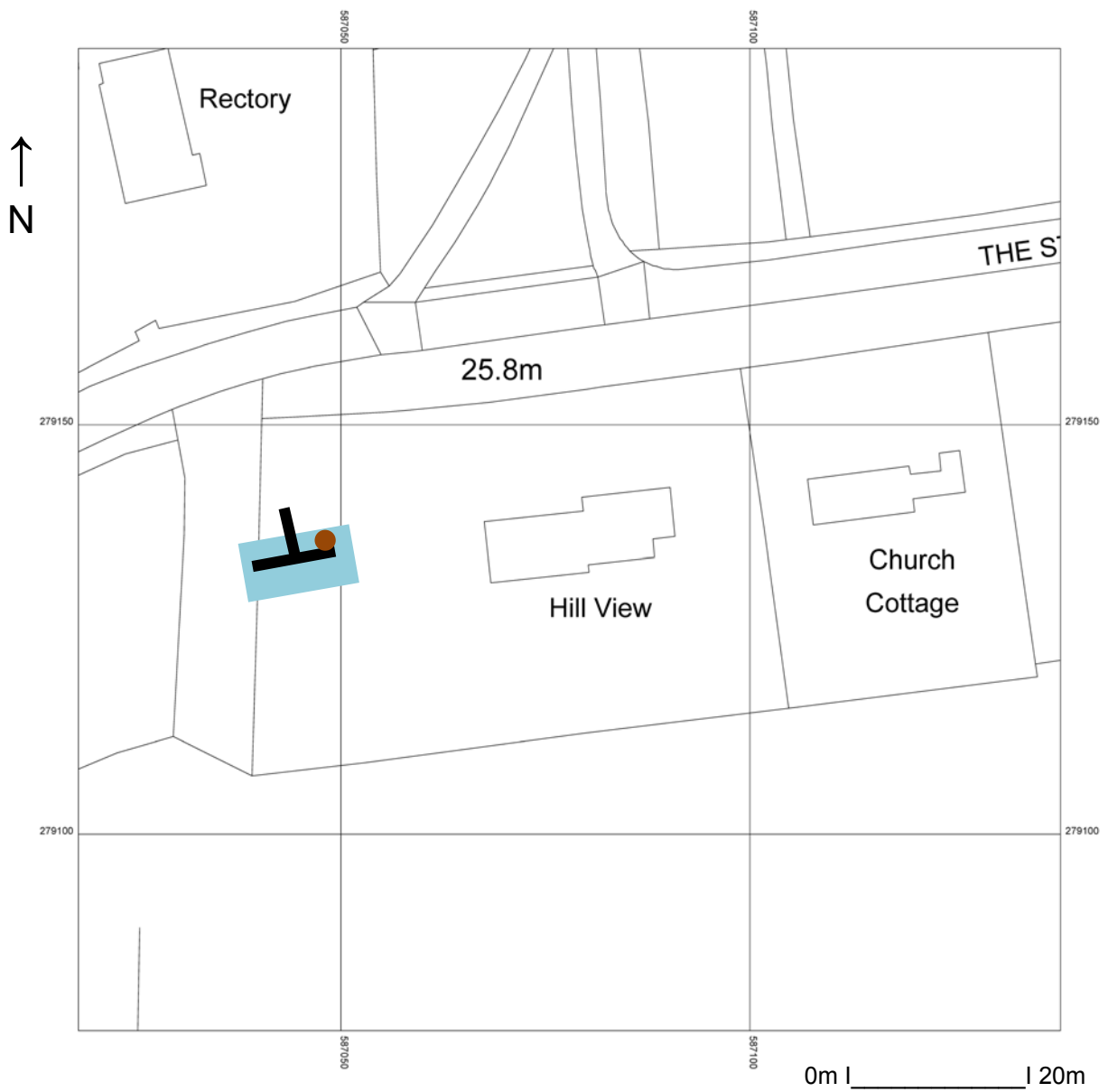


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trench (light blue- proposed footprint area, brown- quarry type pit)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from west



Main arm of trench from west



Short arm of trench from north



Quarry type pit at north-eastern corner of main trench arm from south cutting degraded chalk deposit plus deposit profile

**Hill View, The Street, Barnham,
Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site details

Name: Hill View, The Street, Barnham, Suffolk, IP24 2NJ

Client: Mr R I Aitkens

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: tbc

Proposed development: Erection of a single dwelling

Proposed date for evaluation: Friday, 8 May, 2015

Brief ref: SCCAS_RA_Trenched Archaeological Evaluation Brief_Hill View, The Street, Barnham

Grid ref: TL 8704 7912

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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
7. Specialists

Proposed location of trial trench

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr R Aitken has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed single dwelling development that will shortly be submitted as a planning application. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for this proposed development and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Mrs R Abraham 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 single detached dwelling on land that is currently part of the garden of Hill View, The Street, Barnham.

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 (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001, reissued 2014)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Barnham parish is located in north western Suffolk on the county boundary with Norfolk in the area traditionally known as Breckland. Historically Breckland had a very dispersed settlement pattern with the location of the scattered villages, hamlets and farms being dictated by the availability of water sources in an area of very light and dry sandy soils with one of the lowest rainfall regimes in the country. Hodkinson's small scale map of Suffolk of 1783 shows a compact village with two churches though only St Gregory's on the south-eastern side of the historic village core is still standing. This map also shows a number of buildings on the southern side of The Street with the proposed development site (PDS) being c100m south-west of St Gregory's church and 25m south of the frontage onto The Street with Walnut Tree Cottage 40m to the west being a listed building of 17th century date. The PDS is just below the 30m OD contour with the Little Ouse River being c400m to the north.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposed development site is situated within the medieval village core of Barnham, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record as BNH 068, opposite the medieval parish church (BNH 046). As such, there is high potential for

encountering medieval settlement evidence at this location, which may be damaged by any groundworks associated with the proposal.'

A site evaluation by trial trenching is therefore required

- 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.

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the main archaeological potential relates to the site's location in a historic village settlement where evidence for medieval and earlier Post medieval period settlement and related activities in particular may exist. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed development area with an evaluation trench across the proposed new build area 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 single residential dwelling on what is soft ground currently part of the garden of Hill View, The Street, Barnham.

5.2 The Brief requires 10m of 1.80m wide trenches. The trenching will be undertaken using a 1/1.2m 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, 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 overall site event and HER numbers 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 in 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).

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 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 features containing suitable material but no easily dateable finds then this will incur an additional cost though this is a rare occurrence on small scale evaluations).

- 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)
- 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 (should RC dating be required in the evaluation on such deposits this will be covered within the resources agreed for the first date but will take time to obtain, examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is unlikely unless particularly deep features are present).
- 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 be 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 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. As appropriate a vector plan of the trench location 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's agent has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the discovery of underground services is unlikely. 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
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)

John Newman Archaeological Services

Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (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 trial trench

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-210669

Project details

Project name	Hill View, The Street, Barnham, Suffolk-Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Barnham, Hill View, The Street (BNH 111, TL 8706 7914) evaluation trenching for a planned single dwelling development revealed a single large quarry type pit of recent date and a few stray finds in the upcast similarly of recent, later 19th to 20th century, date.
Project dates	Start: 08-05-2015 End: 08-05-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23060 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BNH 111 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BARNHAM HILL VIEW, THE STREET
Postcode	IP24 2NJ
Study area	120.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	

TL 8706 7914 52.3778533604 0.748549528575 52 22 40 N 000 44 54 E
Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 29.00m Max: 30.00m

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)

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Date 2015

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Description Loose bound client report and pdf

Entered by John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

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