The Old Manor, Pretty Road, Theberton, Suffolk

Planning application: DC/15/0229

HER Ref: THB 037

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(May 2015)

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details for HER

Name: Part garden The Old Manor, Pretty Road, Theberton, Suffolk, IP16 4RY

Clients: Mr P Tibbenham

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/14/1982/FUL

Development: Erection of single dwelling and garage

Date of fieldwork: 11 May, 2015

HER ref: THB 037

Event ref: ESF 23061

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-210670

LBS ref: 1228384 (The Old Manor, Grade II)

Grid ref: TM 4364 6592

Contents

Summary: Theberton, The Old Manor, Pretty Road (THB 037, TM 4364 6592) evaluation trenching for a single dwelling development in what was part of the garden of The Old Manor, which is a listed building of 16th and 17th century date, and close to the parish church did not reveal any archaeological features or finds. However it was noted that the site had a steep slope on its south-eastern boundary reminiscent of past terracing activities and it appears that the historic land surface of the site has been truncated (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr P Tibbenham).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr P Tibbenham commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a single dwelling development on land that was formerly part of the garden of The Old Manor, Pretty Road, Theberton (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application DC/15/0229, set by Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the area for the new dwelling and garage. 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 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 largely strung out along a north-west/south-east aligned Leiston Road with, historically, the remaining farms and cottages being dispersed around the rest of the parish. The proposed development site is located directly across the Leiston Road towards the northern edge of the village and some 40m south-west of the parish church and 12m west of the road frontage. The Old Manor is 30m to the west of the site and is a Grade II listed building described as being 'timber framed and of 16th and mid 17th century date.'

1.3 At the time of the evaluation the site was soft ground under a grass cover with evidence of large tree roots having been removed in the recent past. While the site is now flat at 8.60m to 8.90m OD it was noted that at its south-eastern side the ground level rose sharply to 10.60m OD along the boundary line giving a height difference of 1.70m to 2m (see Appendix I- Images) over short horizontal distance of 2m to 3m.

1.4 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location within the historic core of the village close to the parish church (HER THB 007) and near a scatter of medieval metalwork (HER THB 006- see Fig. 1) in addition to being within the former curtilage of a 16th to 17th listed building. Evidence of prehistoric activity close to the site has also been recorded in the form of a Bronze Age cinerary urn (HER THB 003) from an area on the northern side of Pretty Road.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed residential development was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2), using a wheeled 180 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 1.80m wide trenches 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 under dry sunny and conditions. 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 nothing of archaeological interest was revealed (see also Fig. 2 & Appendix I):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/ natural features & finds
1	Northwest-southeast	10m	200	300 of mid brown sandy subsoil under 100 of re-deposited clean sand	Orange sand with small flints and pockets of very silty dark orange sand	No features and only finds a few late Pmed brick and coal fragments
2	Southwest-northeast	5	200	300 of mid brown sandy subsoil	As T1	No features or finds
Total		15 ($27m^2$)	200	300		Trench depth minimum at 500 & maximum at 600

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above no archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation with the trenches being 500mm to 600mm to the locally occurring glaciofluvial orange sand natural. While trench 2 had a straightforward deposit profile of topsoil above mid brown sandy subsoil trench 1 was more complex as a 100mm thick layer of re-deposited yellow sand was revealed below the topsoil and above the subsoil.

3.3 The only finds seen in the upcast spoil proved to be small fragments of later Post medieval brick and a few small fragments of coal.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site by location has a high archaeological potential being within the historic core of the village close to the parish church and within the curtilage of a listed building of early Post medieval date in addition to being near recorded evidence for past activity this potential in all probability has been severely decreased due to an episode of terracing. The extent of this terracing work in the past across the site is uncertain but is very likely to have removed up to 0.50m to 1.50m from the central and south-eastern parts respectively thereby causing truncation to any archaeological deposits that might have been present.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out at this planned single dwelling and garage development in what was the eastern part of the garden of The Old Manor House, Pretty Road, Theberton.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. THB 037.

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 **to Peter Tibbenham for his close cooperation and to Roy for his skilled machine operation)**

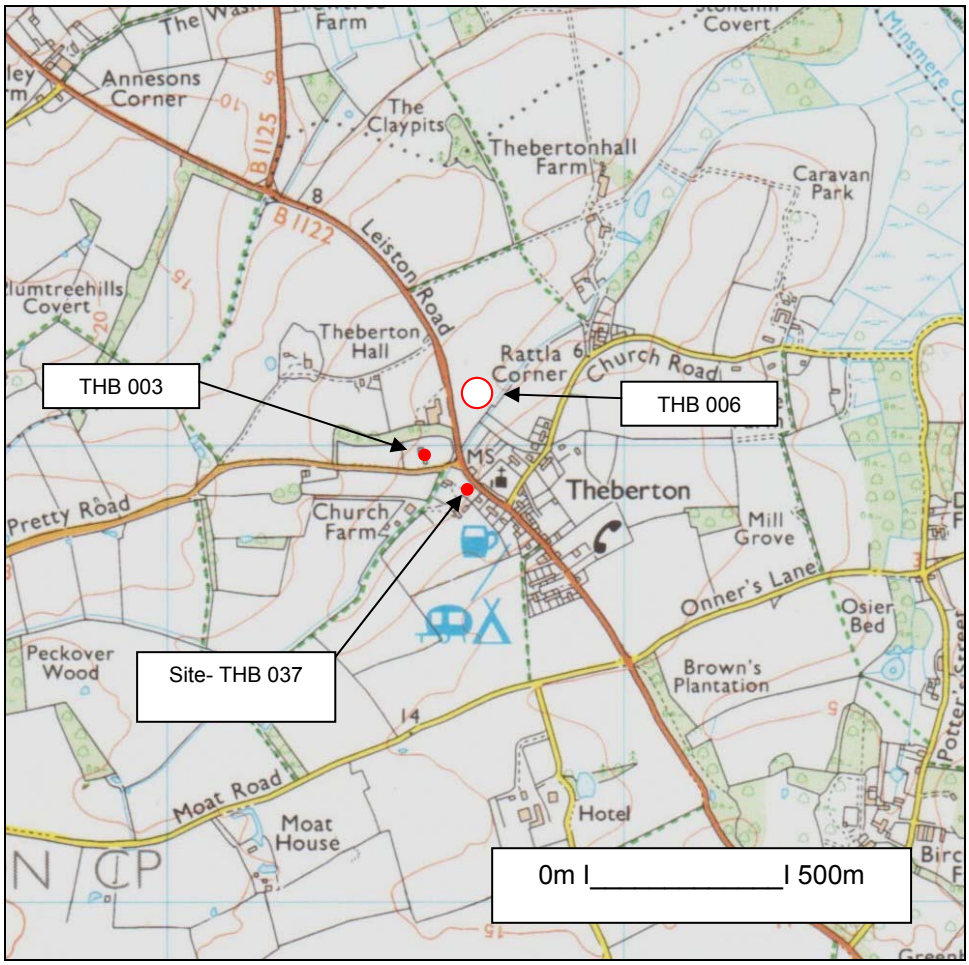

Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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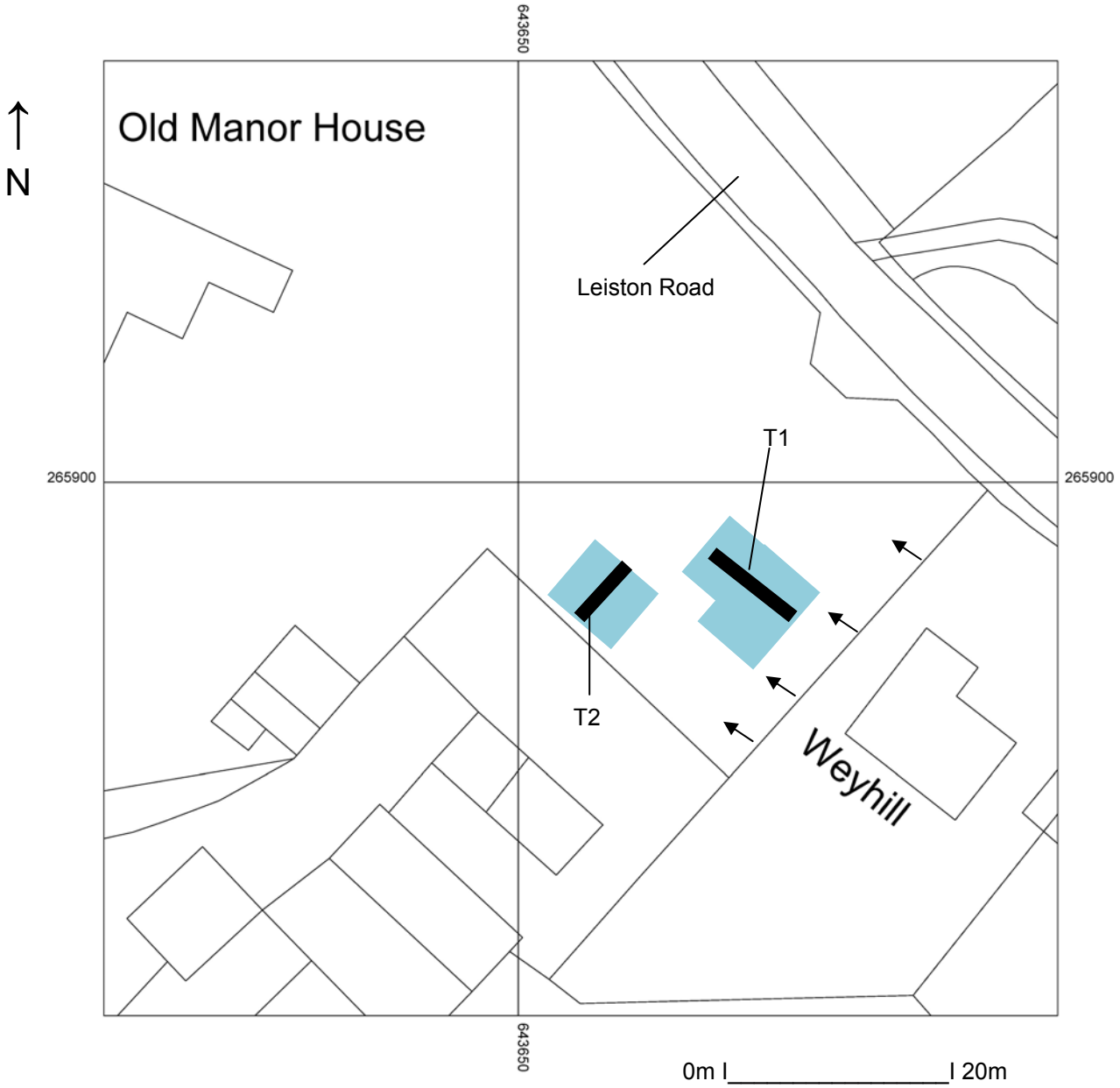


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches (blue- new build footprints, arrows- slope down)

Appendix I- Images

General view from west

Slope on south-eastern side from west

Trench 1 from west

Trench 1 deposit profile with re-deposited sand

Trench 2 from south-east

Trench 2 deposit profile

The Old Manor, Pretty Road, Theberton, Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

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

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details

Name: Part garden of The Old Manor, Pretty Road, Theberton, Suffolk

Client: Mr P Tibbenham

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/15/0229

Proposed development: Erection of a single dwelling and garage

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: SCCAS_RA_Trenched Archaeological Evaluation Brief_ The Old Manor, Theberton_0229

Grid ref: TM 4364 6592

LBS ref: 1228384 (The Old Manor, Grade II)

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr P Tibbenham has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed single dwelling 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 DC/15/0229 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 and garage on part of what was part of the garden of The Old Manor, Pretty Road, Theberton.

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 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 largely strung out along a north-west/south-east aligned Leiston Road with, historically, remaining farms and cottages being dispersed around the rest of the parish. The proposed development site (PDS) is located directly across the Leiston Road towards the northern edge of the village and some 40m south-west of the parish church and 12m west of the road frontage. The Old Manor is 30m to the west of the PDS and is a Grade II listed building described as being 'timber framed and of 16th and mid 17th century date.'

2.2 The PDS lies in an area of generally freely draining soils derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sands and gravels characteristic of The Sandlings at c10m OD in an area of generally flat topography. At present the PDS is soft ground.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The application lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The development site is situated opposite a medieval church

(THB 007), close to a scatter of medieval metalwork (THB 006) and a Bronze Age cinerary urn (THB 003). As a result there is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest in this area.' 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 close to the parish church and a listed building of earlier Post medieval date, in addition to recorded artefactual evidence for medieval activity, and therefore further evidence for later Saxon, medieval and earlier Post medieval period settlement and related activities in particular may exist. In addition the PDS is close to recorded evidence for burial evidence of Bronze Age date and therefore further evidence for activity of this date may be present at the site. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed development area with evaluation trenches across the planned new build areas 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 and garage on what is soft ground on land to be detached from the garden of The Old Manor, Pretty Road, Theberton.

5.2 The Brief requires 15m of 1.80m wide trenches. The trenching will be undertaken using a 1.2/1.5m 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 to medium given nearby archaeological records).

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 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.

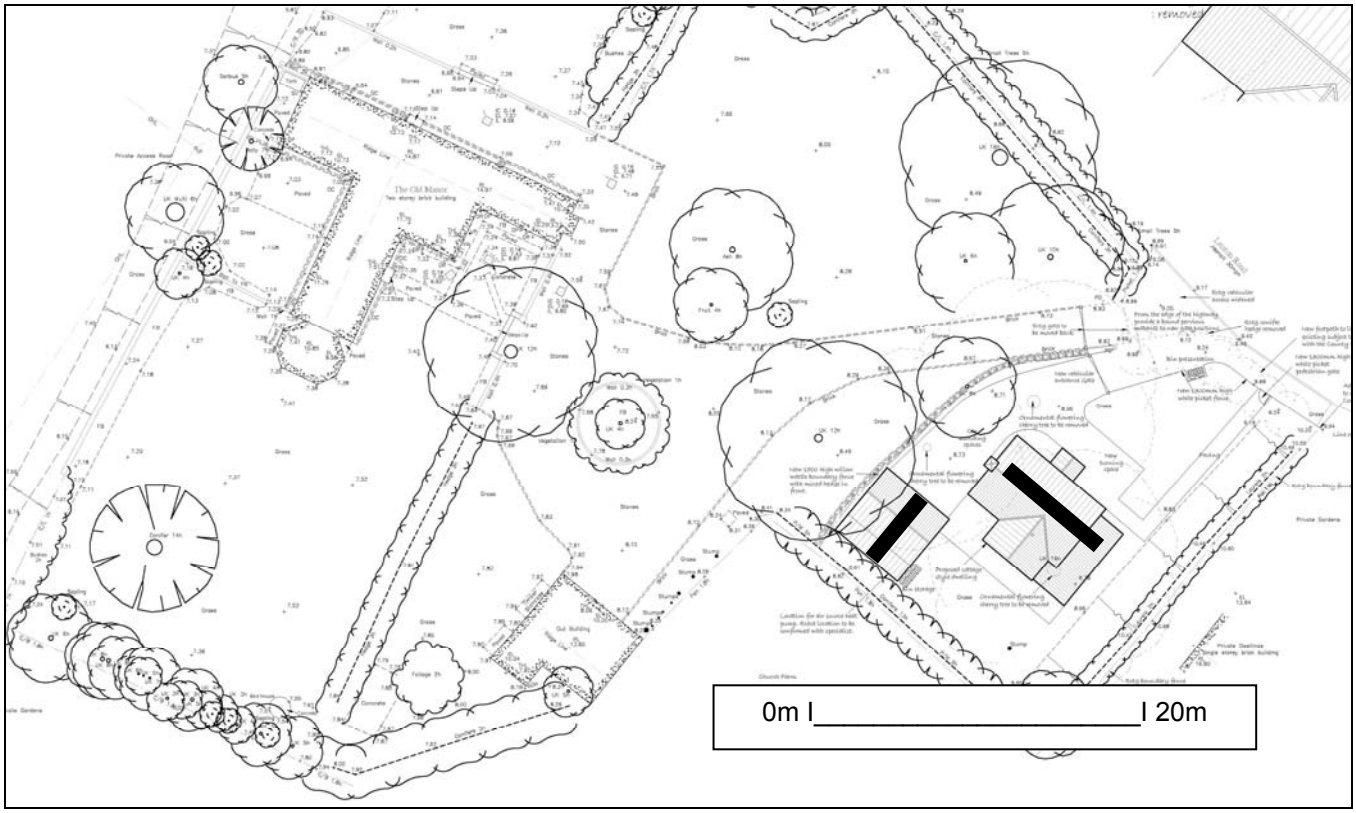
6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

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)
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 trenches

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-210670

Project details

Project name	The Old Manor, Pretty Road, Theberton, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Theberton, The Old Manor, Pretty Road (THB 037, TM 4364 6592) evaluation trenching for a single dwelling development in what was part of The Old Manor which is a listed building of 16th and 17th century date and close to the parish church did not reveal any archaeological features or finds. However it was noted that the site had a steep slope on its south-western edge reminiscent of past terracing activities and it appears that the historic land surface of the site has been truncated.
Project dates	Start: 11-05-2015 End: 11-05-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23061 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	THB 037 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/15/0229 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
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 SUFFOLK COASTAL THEBERTON THE OLD MANOR, PRETTY ROAD
Postcode	IP16 4RY
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4364 6592 52.2368594234 1.56878805894 52 14 12 N 001 34 07 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.00m Max: 8.00m

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	Developer

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	The Old Manor House, Pretty Road, Theberton, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henley, Suffolk
Description	Loose bound client report and pdf

Entered by	John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)
Entered on	27 May 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice